

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Brady S4271

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

The State of Ohio, Highland County ss

On this fifth day of April 1824 personally appeared in open court it being a court of record for the seventh judicial district in the State of Ohio Thomas Brady resident in said county, aged sixty two years 5 months who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 that he the said Thomas Brady enlisted for the Term of one year on the third day of November in the year of 1780 in the State of Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain John Williams in the regiment commanded by Colonel Dick [sic: Major Alexander Dick] in the line of the state of Virginia on the continental establishment; that he continued to served in the said corps untill the twenieth December 1781 when he was discharged from said service, in York Town in the of Virginia

That he was in the battles of Guilford N. Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] and of york town virginia [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] at the taking of Wallis [sic: Cornwallis] and that he has no other evidence, now in his power of his said services except his own testimony

And in pursuance of the act of the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule of Thom Brady }

Eleven Hogs	\$11	}	The annexed is a correct schedule of all my property. Thomas hisXmark Brady
one Cow	8	}	
one Calf	2.50	}	
nine sheep	<u>11.25</u>	}	
	32.75	}	

The State of Ohio } Sct:

Highland County } On this 23<sup>d</sup> day of August AD 1832 personally came in open Court in the Court of Common Pleas for Highland County in the State of Ohio and sitting Thomas Brady a resident of Fairfield township Highland County Ohio aged 70 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> AD 1832 That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

The he was drafted for the Militia of the State of Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> day of January AD 1781 at Halifax Court house Halifax County Virginia – was in Company commanded by Captain Joshua Powell in Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Fleming (Binns Jones was Major in said regiment) That Captain Powel died about two weeks after he enlisted & then Captain Howel Eldridge took the command of his company he marched from Halifax to Portsmouth in Virginia soon after he was drafted joined Colonel Dick of Portsmouth & the brigade commanded by General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] (the latter he think was a regular officer of the line) that he laid at Portsmouth three months & was discharged by Captain Eldridge



continental & militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ansr. On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January AD 1778 I listed for the Continental service in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Davenport in the regiment commanded by colonel Carlos Porterfield [sic: see endnote], at Halifax County in the State of Virginia. Said company & regiment I believe were a part of the Virginia line I marched under the command of said officers soon after I enlisted to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina & our company & regiment were engaged for nine months in guarding said town of Hillsborough where the provisions were deposited for the supply of the Southern army. the neighboring country was very much infested with tories & we killed four during the time we were on service near Hillsborough. After serving nine months I was discharged by Colonel Porterfield & returned to Halifax County Virginia.

In the month of April AD 1781 I was drafted at Halifax county Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Joshua Powell. I marched under the command of said officer from Halifax to Portsmouth Virginia soon after I was drafted. Colonel Charles Fleming commanded our regiment & General Muhlenberg commanded the Brigade. We lay at Portsmouth three months, when I was discharged by Captain Howell Eldridge. Captain Powell died whilst we were at Portsmouth & Captain Eldridge took his place at the head of our company. After I was discharged I returned to Halifax County Virginia

In the month of September AD 1781 at Halifax County Virginia I was again drafted for the Virginia militia under Captain Michael Roberts a few days after I was drafted I marched under the command of said Captain to Cabin point Dunwoodie County Virginia. We remained there a few days during which time I among several others was transferred to the company of Virginia Militia commanded by Captain Frederick Dunnison. I marched under command of my said Captain for Cabin point to York Town which was then occupied by the British army under General Lord Cornwallis & besieged by the American Army under Washington Our company was attached to the regiment commanded by Colonel Richardson [Holt Richeson]. I was in active service until the taking of Yorktown after which I was employed in guarding British prisoners from Yorktown to Winchester Barracks Virginia under the command of said Capt Dunniford. I was discharged on the 3<sup>d</sup> day of January AD 1782 by Captain Dunniford. In consequence of my age & the loss of memory I can not swear positively as to the precise length of my service in the last two tours mentioned but according to the best of my recollection I served at least three months in the first of said last mentioned tours & in the last of said tours I am positive I served three months & more

In all my tours of service as a revolutionary soldier I served fifteen months at least. Whilst I was at Yorktown I had an opportunity of seeing most of the General officers of the American Army but I know no others in addition to those already mentioned but General Knox (of the Artillery) General LaFayette General Washington & Colonel Lamb I can not recollect any regiments either by number or by the names of their officers except those already mentions

6<sup>th</sup> Question. Did you ever receive a written discharge from the service; if so by whom given & what has become of it?

Answer. I received a written discharge after the first term of my service from Colonel Carlos Porterfield which I have in my possession & will be forwarded with this application. In my 2<sup>d</sup> tour of service I rec'd. also a written discharge from Captain Howell Eldridge. and after my 3<sup>d</sup> tour I rec'd a written discharge from Captain Frederick Dunniford. The last two discharges I lost on my way from Virginia to Ohio.

7<sup>th</sup>. Q. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present Neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution.

Moses H Kirby Jacob Kirby John Smith Adam B Wilson and many others can testify as is required in the

above question.

There is no Clergyman in my neighborhood & it would be difficult for me to procure a certificate in all respects similar to that require by the War Department. I have no documentary evidence to prove my service as a soldier of the revolution but the discharge mentioned in the answer to the 6<sup>th</sup> question which is dated at "The Camp before Hillsboro North Carolina October 19<sup>th</sup> 1778 & signed by Col. Carlos Porterfield. I can prove by John Smith a resident of Fayette County Ohio my service in the Virginia Militia during my two last tours & his testimony as to this fact is now on file with the pension office of the United States [not found].

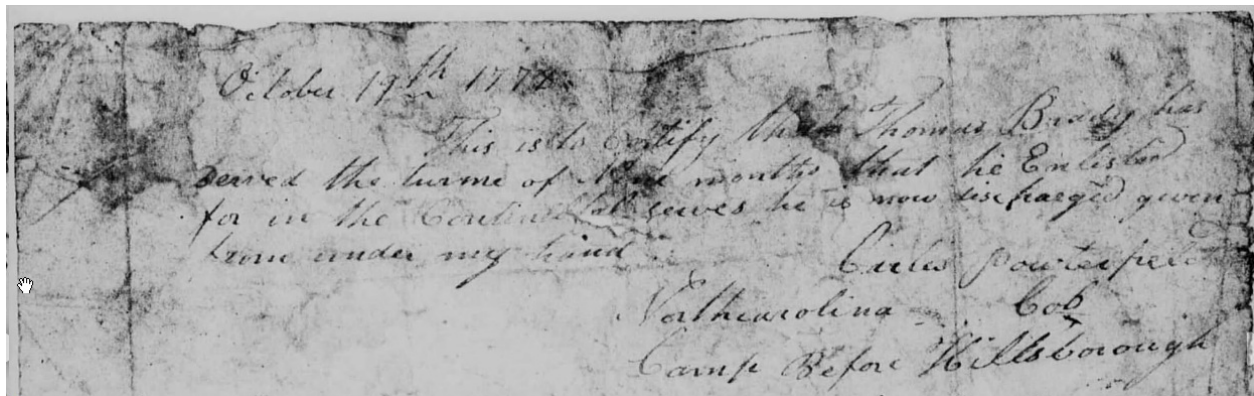
The said applicant relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is in no pension roll but that of the State of Ohio. He applied a few months since for a pension under the act of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 & rec'd a pension certificate from the War Department authorizing him to draw \$21.67 cts per annum during his natural life. In his declaration to obtain said pension he stated only two terms of his service as a soldier of the revolution amounting in all to but little over six months. That the reason of his not mentioning his other term of service in said war was because he had lost his discharges & knew of no person who could testify as to his service in said tour – whereas in his other terms of service he had procured the testimony of John Smith. That his opinion was that without documentary proof or the evidence of living witnesses he could not procure a pension. But now the said applicant herewith sends back to the war department his pension certificate & claims a pension for the whole period of his service as a revolutionary soldier. That he has drawn no money on above certificate. And the said Thomas Brady further represents that he is 71 years of age that he resides in said County of Highland about 14 miles from the place where the courts of record of said county are held that he is very feble & unable from bodily infirmity to attend before said courts of record to make his declaration &c

Thomas hisXmark Brady

October 19<sup>th</sup> 1778:

This is to Certify that Thomas Brady has served the terme of three months that he Enlisted for in the Continental serves he is now discharged given from under my hand

Carles pourterfield  
Northcarolina Col  
Camp Before Hillsborough



NOTE: Brady received a pension certificate dated 16 April 1833. A memorandum in the file dated 18 June 1833 states that Brady's pension was suspended following the second declaration because "some suspicion arose touching the Case." No basis for the suspicion is stated, but it is apparent that the first declaration in 1824 conflicts with the latter two. In addition, the 1833 claim states that Brady enlisted for nine months in the Virginia State Service, but the discharge states that he served three months in the

Continental Line. No enlistment in the Continental Line was for as short a period as three months. There does not appear to have been a Col. "Carlos Porterfield" or "Carles pourterfield." The signature on the discharge was presumably intended to be taken for that of Col. Charles Porterfield, but Porterfield was not a Continental officer, he was not promoted to Colonel until 14 Aug 1779, and his detachment was not in Hillsborough NC until spring 1780.