

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Jackson S5608

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/5/08 rev'd 1/25/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia } SS

On the twenty third day of May [1838] personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Thomas Jackson, aged Seventy-five years, eight months, and twenty days, 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 the 7th 1832.

That, according to the family register, he was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire England; on the 3rd day of September 1762; and removed, in the 6th year of his age, with his Father to South Carolina.

That on the 6th day of September in the year of our Lord 1778, being at that time, 16 years and three days old, he voluntarily and of his own record, rode to the proper and regular Muster Field of the Regiment of the County of Berekly [sic, Berkeley] -- Parish of St. Thomas and St. Dennis in the State of South Carolina, then under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Scriven [sic, Screven]. Stephen Fogarty being then Captain of the Company of said Parish, and John Gardiner the first Lieutenant; and then and there caused his name to be inscribed on the Muster Roll of said company. The Regiment being on that day drafted into three divisions; the declarant fell in the first division, which being allowed a short time for preparation and equipment, and marched to a place called Haddrell's Point on the East side of the Harbor of Charleston, and from two to three miles distant, where, at the time, were erecting extensive Barracks for troops; and there performed several tours of duty. Shortly after, several tours in Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's island, under the orders of the Gallant, and highly meritorious General Marion [Francis Marion]. The next, with the same detachment, in the Spring of 1780; was marched into the city of Charleston, then under the Command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] when three days before the close investment of the City by Sir Henry Clinton, being relieved by the second division of the Regiment, we were conveyed up the Cooper River, about six miles above the City, on the East side, where we took charge of a small Redoubt, with a nine pounder, and there remained sometime; when learning the disaster which befell General Huger [Isaac Huger] at Moncks Corner [Battle of Moncks corner, April 14, 1780], and fearing Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], who was much superior in number to us, may surprise and cut us off, we removed to a point on the Wando [River]; where, I cannot now recollect, but shortly after, we were compelled to disperse for the want of supplies; and every man made the best of his way home and the declarant played hide and seek -- shortly after, himself, and I think, nine of his neighbors and acquaintance were taken by a party of Colonel Tarleton's Horse, and detained

prisoners for about a week, but not having taken us in arms -- for we had hid them, we were dismissed under severe threatenings; which, however, were not much regarded by declarant for, either near the end of the year, or early in 1781, a small band of Patriots, with a view to increase their number, ventured as near the enemy as where I live, when I immediately equipped, mounted my Horse, and made a rapid move and joined the American Army then lying on the Santee [River], which in a few days was crossed; and declarant, then a mounted Militia man, remained, sharing the dangers, hardships, toils and privations, which, it is well known the Army under the orders of Marion, Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and other Gallant Officers of that day had to suffer: General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] being the Commander in Chief of the Southern Army. Yet such was my state of health, having contracted that summer, a bilious fever incident to that low, flat, and very warm Country, that I was rendered unfit for active, ardent duty: which prevents my enumerating battles &c that I had been engaged in; although I was very near the ground -- at the time -- on which several of them were fought, assisting to guard the Camp, baggage &c. from which service I had never flinched, although, many a two hours I carried my musket with a scorching fever on me. In the Spring of 1782, when light parties were pushed over the Santee, to its South side, I was pretty generally engaged in a scouting party, until sometime in April, or early in the month of May, a party of twenty-eight or thirty, being considerably in advance, we found ourselves suddenly in the presence of sixty British Calvary and about two hundred Infantry; and myself, after receiving a pretty severe wound from a Sword -- and six or seven others were taken prisoners, and conducted on board a Prison Ship then lying in the Harbor of Charleston where I remained about five months, and suffered greatly by affliction, induced by short allowance of bad provision, in a crowded Ship and extreme warm weather. At the end of which time, through the kind interference of an influential friend, without my knowledge of the fact until I was ordered on shore and marched to headquarters -- I received a Parole, from which I was only released by the Treaty of Peace.

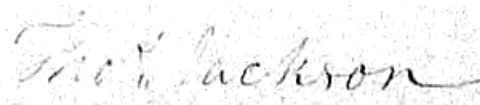
Here it may be proper for me to observe, that from the very great sufferings and severe privations which I endured nearly four years, including my confinement in the Prison Ship, I contracted afflictions from which I have never recovered; especially Rheumatic affections, particularly in the head, together with nervous affections, causing great debility of body, and rendering my memory very treacherous and my recollection of names and circumstances with which I have been once quite familiar very feeble and indistinct. The declarant here begs leave to add, that from the great length of time which has elapsed since the above named services were performed; and the circumstance of his having removed nearly thirty-eight years ago from the State of South Carolina to that of Pennsylvania, that it would be next to an impossibility for him to obtain a living evidence of the services and circumstances above related. It will also be seen from the foregoing statement, that the claimant was a private in the Militia, and, properly, a volunteer, consequently, had no Commission, and no other discharge than his parole.

And I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present; and declare that my name is not -- nor ever has been -- on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Arch Randall, Judge Com Pleas Philad County

S/ Thos. Jackson




I, Ezekiel Cooper, a Presbyter of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now stationed in

residing in the City of Philadelphia, do hereby certify; that in the year 1792, I was stationed in Charleston SC as the Minister in Pastoral Charge of the Methodist E. Church in that City, during which time, I was acquainted with the above named Thomas Jackson, who was then a respectable Citizen of that place, and a worthy and useful member of the M. E. Church; and I am persuaded that he could, at that time, have procured living witnesses to the facts stated in the foregoing relation of his services in the revolutionary war. When he, the said Thomas Jackson removed from Charleston to Philadelphia, my acquaintance with him was renewed, or rather, continued; -- and we have ever since to the present time then considerably intimate, as social and religious friends: he has served the Church in various relations in this City, as a member, a trustee, a Leader, Secretary &c; with fidelity and acceptance, to the best of my knowledge and belief. And I am satisfied and fully persuaded, from my knowledge of his veracity and conscientious rectitude, that his statements are entitled to full credit and belief. From what I have always understood of his age, he is, I believe 75 years of age, and a few months over; there being only a few months difference in his age in my own.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court May 23 1838.
S/ Arch Randall, Judge &c

S/ Ezekiel Cooper



[Edmund J Yard also gave a supporting affidavit as to the character and reputation of the applicant as a revolutionary soldier.]

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Personally appeared before me, One of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas Thomas Jackson who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For two terms of one month each, at Haddrell's Point: For four terms of one month each at Fort Moultrie; For one term of one month (or 37 days) in the City of Charleston: For one term of one month, on the Cooper and Wando Rivers, a private Militia man on foot. For one year and two months on the North side of Santee, and for two months on the South side of the Santee, as a private -- mounted Militia Man -- a Volunteer: when he was taken prisoner, and remained in a British Prison Ship five months: all which parts of service was performed with an embodied corps called into service by competent authority: and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit. And for such service he claims a Pension.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 2nd day of August 1838 in the Court of Common Pleas
S/ Arch Randall

S/ Thos. Jackson

[p 13]

Philad^a Augt. 1838

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 26th Ultimo, was duly received, and your very polite and kind

attention to my little concern demands my sincere acknowledgments which, I now respectfully tender. The extreme warm weather aiding my infirmities has so completely prostrated me, that I have not been able to answer it, satisfactorily at an earlier day. You will, no doubt, my dear Sir, observe a considerable discrepancy between my declaration and its amendment: when and in the former paper, I wrote "nearly 4 years," my mind must have been deeply impressed by a sense of the sufferings &c then endured, which caused me simply to count from the time of my joining the Regiment, to the time of my release from the Prison Ship. I certainly did not mean to do, or say, anything that was incorrect.

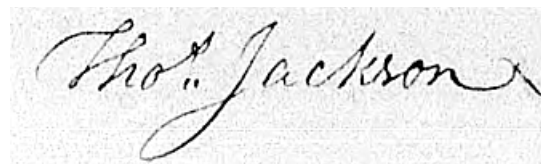
However, when I determined to make out the enclosed amendment; which, I respectfully request you to accept as such: I thought it best to be under the mark rather than to exceed it. I am nevertheless, inclined to think that two terms of one month each, might have been added to the earlier part of my service, and two, if not three months to the sixteen on, or near the Santee; but my recollection of them being so indistinct, I determined to omit them.

A large part of my time, while at home, was of a dangerous character, owing to my vicinity to the enemy, and the incursions of Tories, of which we had some in that part of our Country; so that, as soon as night approached, I rolled up a blanket under my arm and slipped away unseen from the house, sometimes in one direction, and sometimes in another and laid myself down to sleep in the woods &c. The Plantation on which I lived, and, which became mine soon after the Peace, was plundered eleven different times; of, either 6 or 7 Horses, about 60 head of Cattle, a small flock of Sheep, a number of Hogs, Poultry of all times in a large quantity; Grain, fodder &c, wearing apparel &c. The eleventh time, when the great sweep was made, I was at home on Parole, but dared not speak, my next neighbor, raised, and living about half a mile from me, was their guide. I will just add, that during my last tour of service and imprisonment, I saw my home once, and that was when the British marched me along the road leading by it to the Prison Ship.

I am much to please to learn that W. E. Hayne Esquire has certified to an "Indent" which had been issued in my favor. I have not the smallest recollection of it, but presume that it must have been issued for pavement of the Tour of service performed in the City of Charleston which was 37 days, owing to the want of punctuality in the second division of the Regiment.

Pardon me, my dear Sir, for taxing your patience so heavily, and, if needful, be pleased again to instruct me and thereby add another act of kindness to your already

greatly obliged and
with much respect and esteem
your Humble Servant
S/ Thos. Jackson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper background.

J. L. Edwards, Esqr.
Comm. of Pensions

[This file contains several other letters from Jackson to the pension office. The application and the amendment to it also appear to have been written by Jackson, as they are clearly in the same handwriting as the letters signed by him.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the South Carolina militia.]