

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Thompson S6217

Transcribed by Will Graves

f29NC

rev'd 3/15/17

[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.]

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State of Tennessee, Franklin County Sct.

On this 27th day of November 1832, personally appeared before the Worshipful the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid, Captain William Thompson a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged about 79 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 provision of the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers – I first volunteered in the early part of the Revolutionary War, year not recollected, as a private in Captain Joseph Green's Company of North Carolina Militia, Dobbs County in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Richard Caswell, for a tour of three months. The Inlet of Cape Fear River was at that time blockaded by a British Man of War – 40 miles below Wilmington, at a place called bald head [sic, Bald Head Island]. The troops were commanded by Colonel Caswell—Garam, Major [sic, Major James Gorham]. We occupied an entrenched Camp at a place called the Cold Spring, one mile below Wilmington. After remaining there sometime; Colonel Caswell receiving information that it was not in the object of the enemy to land troops but to be blockade the Inlet, he discharged us, [indecipherable word] serving to the best of his recollection (for he has no discharge for that time, or other written evidence) about two months & an half. He then resided in Dobbs County, North Carolina.

After being discharged as above he returned home, & in a short time thereafter, he thinks within a month or two, volunteers were again called for, to march to Bald Head below Wilmington. He again volunteered as a private in the Company Commanded by Captain William Fellow [William Fellows], -- Colonel Caswell having the chief Command. His residence was then as above, distant from Wilmington about 100 miles. We crossed Cape Fear at that place; & marched lower to Ball Head on the South side. Here we remained until the term (three months) expired, & he was again discharged, but not in writing.

After being at home some time, there was again a call for volunteers. He joined the Company Commanded by Captain George Miller, Benjamin Axum Lieutenant, in Colonel Caswell's Regiment. We were marched to Moore's Creek bridge, where we had a battle [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776] with the Tories (Scotchmen) who were on their march, to join the enemy at Wilmington. The Tories were defeated. They were Commanded by McCloud (or McLeod) [Lt. Col. Donald MacLeod] & McDonald [Donald MacDonald], both of whom with others were killed, many wounded & taken prisoners. We had one killed (John Grady) & two wounded. The prisoners he believes, were released upon taking the Oath of allegiance to the State. He was again discharged though not in writing after serving as well as he now recollects about six, or seven weeks.

Early in the year 1779, he again volunteered as a private for a tour of three months & joined Captain Moring's Company in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Jonas Johnson [Jonas Johnston] – there was another Regiment of North Carolina State Troops Commanded by Colonel McDowell both raised to go to South Carolina, the whole Commanded by General Butler [John Butler] of North Carolina. We marched from Dobbs County, North Carolina early in the month of March 1779, passing by Kingston [sic, Kinston] the place of rendezvous to Fayetteville, from thence to Charlotte, from thence to 96 [Ninety Six] in South Carolina. Here we remained about one week -- & were marched to Augusta in Georgia, having previously reached General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] headquarters – not far from Augusta. The enemy had been lying at that place, which they evacuated upon Lincoln's approach we pursued them down the River near the mouth of Briar Creek. Here we recrossed the River & marched to Purysburg from thence we marched to Dorchester 22 miles from Charleston. The Army lay encamped at Bacon's Bridge, two miles from Dorchester some time. The Army was marched from this place to Stono, where the enemy was attacked. He was in the battle which was fought on the 22nd day of June 1779 [sic, the Battle of Stono Ferry was fought on June 20, 1779]. The enemy was reinforced from the Islands near Charleston, & the American Army Commanded by General Lincoln was repulsed. Our loss in the battle was 176 in killed & wounded. This applicant was then acting as Quarter Master for Willoughby Williams, the Quarter Master of Colonel Johnston's Regiment. His time of service having expired some time before, he was regularly discharged on the 10th day of July 1779, as will appear by the annexed discharge under the proper hand of Colonel Jonas Johnston, who Commanded the Regiment. He was however detained at Camp some days after the 10th of July waiting for orders. He returned to his residence in Dobbs County North Carolina, about the 27th August 1779. The body of said discharge is in the handwriting of Willoughby Williams, who was Quarter Master of the Regiment, & whose widow married the late Governor McMinn of this State. His handwriting is probably known to the Honorable H. L. White of the Senate of the U.S.

On the 8th day of June 1780 the applicant was appointed a Captain of Militia in the Regiment commanded by Colonel William McKinney [William McKinnie], by Alex Martin [Alexander Martin] then Governor of the State of North Carolina, as will appear by the annexed Commission. As such Captain of the militia, he was immediately ordered into service for an indefinite period of time. He was almost constantly in service from that time until the end of the War – but from the nature and character of the War at that time in the Southern States, he was generally with the men under his command, sometimes more & sometimes less engaged in patrolling & scouting about the Country in pursuit of the Tories. The times were so gloomy that many of the principal men & officers particularly Governor Caswell, Colonel Glassgow [James Glasgow], Colonel Cobb & others fled for refuge West of the Mountains leaving such as chose to remain to defend themselves & Country the best way they could.

In April 1781, being on a scout with a small party of mounted men of which he had the Command in Duplin County, North Carolina, we were attacked by a detachment from the Main Army of the enemy Commanded by Lord Cornwallis & took us prisoners of War. We were paroled after being robbed of my mare, saddle & bridle by a Sergeant of the British Dragoons – the mare was young & very likely & valuable, the Sergeant after taking possession of her, said he would not take 50 Guineas for her. She was never returned to me nor did I ever receive any Compensation for her. Without being able to specify with precision the length of time he served as Captain, he can say with truth & certainty, that he is confident that he must have served as such at least one year – that altogether he has no hesitation in declaring that he served the United States, during the War of the Revolution, as a private soldier & Captain of Militia more than two years.

He states that he was born in the County of Dobbs, State of North Carolina, and the [year]

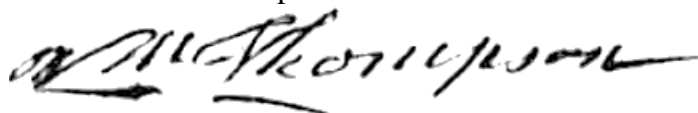
1753 or 1754. He has no record of his age having lost it. He continued his residence in Dobbs County afterwards Wayne [County] until the year 1796, when he removed to Washington County Georgia & resided there until 1808, when he removed to Wilson County, Tennessee where he resided until 1810 at which time he removed to this County, where he has resided ever since. He has no other discharge or documentary evidence in his possession to prove any of the facts herein stated, nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court, November 27, 1832.

S/ E. Russell, Clerk

S/ Wm Thompson



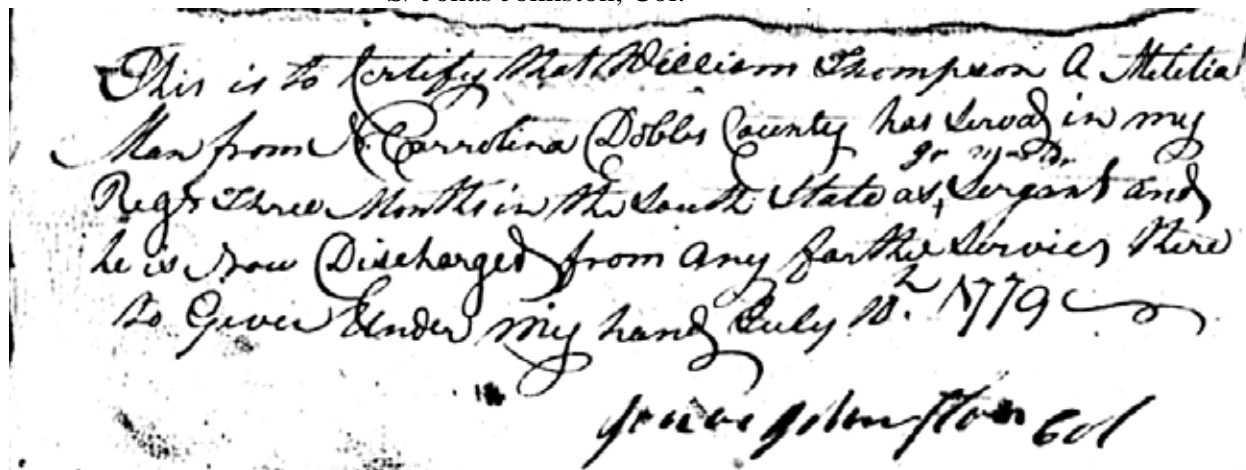
By W. B. Wagner, D. C.

[Robert Dougan, a clergyman, and Elias Oldham gave this standard supporting affidavit.]

“This is to Certify that William Thompson a Militia Man from North Carolina Dobbs County has served in my Regt Three Months in the South State as ^{Or Master} Sergeant [sic] and is now Discharged from any further Services there.

Given under my hand July 10th, 1779.

S/ Jonas Johnston, Col.”



This is to certify that William Thompson a Militia Man from N. Carolina Dobbs County has served in my Regt Three Months in the South State as ^{Or Master} Sergeant and he is now Discharged from any further Services there
So Given Under my hand July 10. 1779
Jonas Johnston Col

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$285 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months, as a Sergeant for 3 months, and as a Captain for 12 months all in the North Carolina militia.]