

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hester S6991

f14NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/15/09 rev'd 3/19/13 & 10/3/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of North Carolina Bladen County: Superior Court of law Fall Term 1832

On the 11th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Robert Strange one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of law and Equity for said State, presiding in the Superior Court of law now sitting -- Thomas Hester, a resident of the County of Bladen, State of North Carolina, aged seventy five but 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States, under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That about the 10th of November in the year 1778 (and as well as he can recollect), then residing in Bladen County North Carolina, he became a substitute for man by the name of Kimbrel, for a service of five months, in a company of Bladen Militia under the command of Lieut. Allen, he joined the Company at Fair Bluff on Drowning Creek or Lumber River, which was shortly after placed under the command of Capt. Joseph Wood, and attached to a Regiment of Militia commanded by Col. Alston [Lt. Col. Philip Alston of the Cumberland County Regiment]. At the same place there were three other regiments of Militia under the command of Colonels Williams, Perkins and Eaton. They all marched thence to the Ten Mile House near Charleston, thence through Dorchester & Masonborough to the White House near the Two Sisters Ferry, thence to Augusta, on the Savannah River, (the British having just left that place on their march to Savannah), thence to the mouth of Brier Creek, where they joined the Troops under the Command of General Ash [sic, John Ashe], and General Bryan, the Artillery being commanded by a General or Col. Alberd or Albert [perhaps a mistaken reference to Samuel Elbert of the Georgia militia], after they had been encamped at that place about a week, they were surprised and defeated by the British; who had marched back and crossed Brier Creek above the place where the Americans were encamped; -- It was on the 2nd day of March [sic, March 3, 1779]¹. The Troops under General Ashe were completely surprised -- and were immediately thrown into the utmost disorder & confusion, and fled, some of them, (he Hester being one) swam the River, (leaving their clothes and baggage behind) and embodied again on the North side of the River, and marched back to the White House near the Two Sisters Ferry: At that place an alarm was given that the British were pursuing and the remnant of General Ashe's Army that collected at the Two Sisters Ferry, (he Hester being one) marched thence at night about ten miles to Bee Creek; thence back again to Dugler's Ferry [Douglas' Ferry?] on the

¹ Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

Savannah River, and were encamped there about one week. Just below at Purrysburg were stationed about seven Thousand regulars (as it was said) under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], they broke up their encampment and marched by the Troops; to which he was attached, where a Junction took place; thence the whole Army marched under General Lincoln to the Black Swamp near the Two Sisters Ferry, and remained there till the 10th of April, when the North Carolina Militia were discharged. He received a discharge in writing, which has been lost long since.

2. Previously to the performance of the above service, shortly after the commencement of hostilities with Great Britain, (the year not recollected, but either in the year 1775 or 1776), he performed a Tour of one month's service, then residing in Bladen County, in a Company of Militia under the command of Capt. Hendon [Josiah Hendon], attached to some other Militia, commanded by Col. Thomas Robeson [Jr.]. They march from Elizabethtown, Bladen County. They marched from that place to Caswell's [Richard Caswell's] Camps, near Jumping run, about two miles below Wilmington, and remained there a month. He received only a verbal discharge.

3. He served another tour of one month's service, in the Fall of the year (but the year not recollected), in a body of Militia under the command of [Lt.] Col. James Richardson & Major Anderson [sic, Captain Samuel Anderson], on an expedition against the Tories in Robeson (then Bladen) County, and marched to Ashpole & Bear Swamp near the South Carolina line. On ~~Ashpole~~ Bear Swamp, about two hours at night, the Tories made an attack on our force & were repulsed. Major Anderson was wounded in the thigh -- and Barfield, a Tory who was under guard, was wounded. Capt. Raiford a regular Officer, and Capt. Brown who it was said was a regular officer (having been engaged in recruiting for the Continental Army) were in the expedition. He was permitted to return home, a few days before his term of service expired, on account of severe indisposition & received no discharge -- He was then residing in Bladen County.

4. He served another Tour of two or three weeks, (the precise time, nor the month or year not recollected) under Col. Thomas Brown and Capt. Peter Robeson in a body of Bladen Militia, on a scouting expedition into Columbus & Robeson counties (then Bladen) against the Tories. They marched from Elizabethtown, Bladen County to the plantation of Thomas Amy [probably Thomas Amis] in Columbus (then Bladen) County; where having understood that the Tories were collected at Ford's Plantation on little Pedee [River], they marched to that place; and on arriving there ascertained that the Tories had retired -- marched thence in pursuit of them to Amy's again; and thence, crossing Drowning Creek to Barnes' plantation in Robeson County where they were verbally discharged. He then resided in Bladen County.

5. He served another tour of two or three weeks (but the precise time or day and year not recollected), under Capt. Jared Irwin who commanded a Troop of volunteer light Horse, on another expedition against the Tories, did not meet with the Tories, & at the expiration of the time above mentioned were discharged & returned home. He received a verbal discharge. He then resided in Bladen County.

5. [Sic, 6] He served another tour of three months as a Volunteer in a company of Bladen Militia, commanded by Capt. Thomas Haynes Col. Thomas Owen accompanying us -- in the Fall of the year 1781 -- marched from Elizabethtown to Bluford's Bridge [sic, Buford's Bridge]² on the North East River -- Capt. Haynes there took command of a company called a Light Infantry

² J D Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

Company and the Bladen Company was placed under the command of a Capt. Horton, they were marched thence to Jones Old Field on the North East River, ~~and there joined~~ previously to arriving at Blueford's Bridge -- the Company had joined the Back Country Militia under General Butler [John Butler]: At Jones Old Field information of the surrender [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] of Cornwallis was received. Whereupon the Back Country Militia were discharged -- the Bladen Company were ordered to take the prisoners and delivered them into the Prevot [provost]: That do it being performed, Col. Owen directed the men to return home. On this Tour, he served six weeks, the time for which he engaged not having expired -- received no written discharge, he then resided in Bladen County.

He has no documentary evidence, nor knows of no living witnesses of the services above detailed.

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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Thomas Hester, X his mark

The following are the answers to the Questions³ prescribed by the War Department propounded to Thomas Hester, the aforesaid Applicant for a Pension on account of Revolutionary services.

Answer 1. I was born April 2nd, 1757.

Answer 2. I have my age is recorded in an old English Prayer Book in my possession.

Answer 3. I was born in Bladen, resided in the same, during the Revolutionary War, and ever since.

Answer 4. I volunteered in every instance, except in the instance which I became a substitute for Kimbrel, in the tour of 5 months, as above detailed.

Answer 5. I recollect none except the Officers mentioned in the declaration, to wit Capts. Raiford & Brown, and an Officer by the name of Albert or Albend, who commanded the Artillery at the Battle of Brier Creek.

Answer 6. I received a written discharge from Capt. Wood as above stated, and I don't know what has become of it since; in every other instance I received verbal discharges.

Answer 7. Col. Richard M. Lewis, Robert Lyon, Esq., Mr. David Singletary, Mr. Robert Johnston, Mr. James Bryan.

[Richard M. Lewis and David Singletary gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for 9 months.]

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.