

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Prestwood S7337

Transcribed by Will Graves

f29SC

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[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.]

South Carolina, Darlington District: Court of Common Pleas Fall Term 1832

On this the 16th day of October AD 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas now sitting, Thomas Prestwood a resident of Darlington District and State of South Carolina aged Seventy one years on the 16th January 1833 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. Captain Jacob Johnson [Jacob Johnston] of the Militia was the first officer under whom he served. He was drafted by said Johnson in Chesterfield District South Carolina about a year before the Declaration of Independence the term was one month - went from Chesterfield to Georgetown South Carolina - thence to Sewee Bay, thence to Hadrell's Point [sic, Haddrell's Point] thence to Fort Johnson where he stayed until his time was out and his discharged and returned to Chesterfield District. Sometime afterwards he was drafted again and served under Captain Thomas Ellerbe - rendezvoused at Cheraw South Carolina. This was the place of rendezvous for the companies from the three Districts of Chesterfield, Marlborough and Darlington. The particular object of the expedition the Deponent does not recollect. He knows however that the men from these Districts under the command of Major Robert Loyd (or Lide or Loid or Lloyd pronounced Lide) [Major Robert Lide] marched from Cheraw to Orangeburg - thence to Black Swamp - thence to Purysburg where they stayed about two weeks when the British from the State of Georgia came upon them and forced them to flee to Charleston for safety. They reached Charleston by rapid marching in time to save themselves. There was an engagement however before they reached Charleston. General Moultrie [William Moultrie] who commanded the Americans detached three hundred picked men to destroy the Bridge at Coosahatchie [Coosawhatchie, May 3, 1779] which the American had passed and which the British had yet to pass in their pursuit of the Americans. This was done as Deponent believes for the purpose of checking the progress of the British and securing the retreat of the Americans. As to this however the Deponent does not speak with confidence in as such as he was, but a private Soldier and his only duty was to obey orders - He was one of those three hundred who went back to Coosahatchie to destroy the Bridge, this they effected - Col. Lawrence (or Laurens) [John Laurens] had the command of the detachment. He was wounded at the Bridge in the arm by a Ball - his horse was likewise shot through the hips - As soon as the Bridge was broke down this detachment hurried on to overtake the main body which they succeeded in doing about ten miles off. On the day after the Americans marched Charleston the British Red Coats came in sight and on that night they kept up a warm fire on the British - the day afterwards a white flag was sent into Charleston by the British commander demanding a surrender of the

town. No attention was paid to it and they (the British) moved on to Stono. Deponent was sent with a detachment to assist Genl. Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] in the Battle at Stono [June 20, 1779] but did not reach there in time, he got as far as Wappoo Cut & stayed there until the British had quit Stono and gone to John's Island. The detachment then returned to Charleston where Deponent stayed until he had completed the tour of five months when he received his discharge and returned home. His discharge was handed to him by Capt. Ellerbe but he does not know who signed it. Deponent saw a great many of the Regular Soldiers and Officers whilst he was in Charleston but doesn't recollect any of their names. It was no part of his duty to inquire - and if he heard without inquiring he has forgotten them and in addition to this time was but little intercourse between the Soldiers in the Militia and those in the Regular Service. The next he was drafted was when the British were at Moncks Corner on Cooper River. He joined General Francis Marion on Santee River Leneud's Ferry. He was in a small engagement during this draft. Deponent was out, (as a mounted Militia man) on a short excursion with Col. Mayam's [Hezekiah Maham's] Light Horse Company when they came across a party of Sixteen British who were sent out to reconnoiter them, they pursued and in the distance of 3 [could be "8"] miles succeeded in taking every one of them by killing four. He knows of nothing else worth relating during this Draft which lasted for one month in camps. The balance of his Service as a Soldier was of this character. The Militia of Craven County (now called Chesterfield, Darlington and Marlborough Districts) were divided into three parts who were out successively in camps for one month at a time. It was so arranged that two thirds of the Militia companies were always at home as a protection from the Tories whilst the other third was with Gen. Marion on foreign duty. He (this Deponent) served in this manner between two and three years always turning out when his duty required it. At these times he served sometimes under Capt. Alexander McIntosh, Capt. Joseph Jones, Capt. Daniel Sparks and others, whose names he does not at present recollect. He was born in Chesterfield District South Carolina on the 11th day of January 1762, his age was recorded in a Book by his father which Book was lost on the death of his father. He has already stated when he live when called into the Service and the manner in which he served. Since the Revolutionary War he has lived in Chesterfield District and Darlington District in the latter of which places he now lives. He has no documentary evidence of his services - his discharges he has lost long since not supposing they would ever be of service to him he took but little care of them and has lost them long since. The general circumstances of his services he has also stated according to the best of his recollection. Dates he has forgotten but he has referred to events which may point to them accurately enough. He is known to John Powell, Nathan Moore, Caleb Coker, Shadrick Johnson, William Beasley & many other gentleman of respectability who live in his neighborhood who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution. 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 and signed the date and year aforesaid. He swears also that William Coy and Samuel Cox were with him in the Revolutionary War and could testify to his services but he is not able to procure their attendance in Court in as much as they live in Marlborough District - Also that it's out of his power to procure a clergyman to certify as to his character. Thomas Mason a clergyman resident in his neighborhood is sick so that he cannot procure his attendance.

S/ Thomas Prestwood

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Prestwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

S/ B.J. Earle

Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Sessions in Open Court of Darlington

Courthouse in the State and District aforesaid.

South Carolina, Darlington District

Personally appeared before me and made oath John Powell that he has been acquainted with Thomas Prestwood who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration for forty years past - that the said Prestwood has maintained a fair and irreproachable character in his neighborhood where he is well known - that he is generally reputed and believed to have been a Soldier of the Revolution and that he the said Powell concurs in that opinion.

Sworn to and signed the day and year aforesaid .

S/ B.J. Earle

S/ John Powell

[p 19: Robert Campbell, a clergyman, and Martin DeWitt gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

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The State of South Carolina Darlington District

Thomas Prestwood of the District and State aforesaid appeared before me and made oath to the following as facts as an Amendment to his Declaration for a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That he Served under the following named officers & at the times & places stated below.

1st His 1st excursion in the War was under Captain Jacob Johnson in the first quarter of the year 1779 & not before the Declaration of Independence as stated in the Original Declaration. He knows that this term of his Service took place the year before the Surrender of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British of May 12, 1780]; which by reference to the History of that period will fix it in the year 1779. He served as a private in the militia Service, in which he was drafted by the Said Johnson & went to Fort Johnson on James' Island, where he was Stationed & remained there for forty days; being ten days longer than he was drafted for. He omitted to mention that Captain Johnson threw up his Commission before he reached Fort Johnson & the command of his company devolved upon Captain Morris Murphy [Maurice Murphy] from whom the Deponent received his discharge & returned home. This tour of his Service is detailed in Original declaration page 1st marked A.

2nd. His next term of Service Commenced on the 1st of March 1779 - in the militia as before - under Captain Thomas Ellerbe as detailed in Original Declaration marked "B". He Served at this time until the last of July in the Same year, making a term of five months.

3rd. - In the year 1780 on or about a month of April under the Command of Captain Alexander McIntosh, Colonel Kolb [Abel Kolb] being the highest Officer, he Served, he Served one month & a half in the militia as above. He was marched down to Georgetown, thence to Santee, but the British being at Hadley's Point, prevented them from going to Charleston to join the Americans - they proceeded from thence to Cedar Creek there they were stationed a Short time - & from thence proceeded to Murray's Ferry on Santee [River] for the purpose of making another effort to cross the river. Here they were met by the American forces from Charleston, who informed them that the City was taken, & deponent returned with them home.

4th He was not called on again until sometime about the month of October 1781, when he Served one month under Captain Daniel Sparks, in General Marion's Camps on Santee River as detailed in Original Declaration marked "C".

5th On or about the 1st of January 1782 he Served one month under Captain Joseph Janes [could

be Joseph Jones]¹ in Marion's Camps on Santee River & thereabouts, wherever his mode of warfare rendered it necessary for him to move.

6th One month in the same year under Captain Elisha Magee. - One month under Captain Morris Murphy & one month under Captain Daniel Sparks. - & Each time in General Marion's Camps.

7th In the year 1783, one month under Captain Daniel Sparks Completed his Service in the Revolutionary War, amounting in the whole to thirteen months & twenty-five Days, which he Served as a private in the Militia. He also served that for the periods above mentioned, he Served with an embodied Corps, called into Service, as he believed by competent authorities that he the Deponent was either in the field or in Garrison & for the time during which the Service was performed he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Sworn to & signed before me this 29th of July 1834

S/ A. M. McIver, N. P. & Ex Q.

S/ Thomas Prestwood

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$42.78 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months and 25 days in the South Carolina militia.]

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