

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Thomas S7711

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/8/17

[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 North Carolina Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions July Term 1832 –

This 19th day of July 1832 – Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now Sitting, William Thomas a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy 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 the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and Served as herein stated viz. that he entered the Service under Captain Hunter as a volunteer & Sergeant – the precise date not Recollected but Sometime before the defeat of General Gates at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] and served 3 months, that Soon after the expiration of said Service he volunteered in this light Horse of Richmond County under Captain William Wall, Thomas Wade and Thomas Crawford Cols and was in Service from time to time as called out by the commanding officer until the Spring of 1782 – during which time himself & Course were wounded in an engagement with the Tories at Betty's Bridge [Beattis's Bridge, August 4, 1781]¹ on the south Eastern part of this County, that he was in Sundry Skirmishes with the Tories and that his house was plundered by them his Horse taken away and himself again wounded on the head by the Stroke of a Sword he further states that after the Battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781] he went in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis as far as Elizabeth in the County of blade the affiant resided in this County at the time of entering the Service and has continued to reside here ever since.

He would further State that the reason why the militia of this Section of the State were kept so constantly in arms was that there unfortunately existed here and enemy with in as well as without, the Country being infested and Greatly annoyed by a large Body of Tories who were constantly committing murders and various depredations on the Whigs, and who became particularly troublesome after the defeat of General Gates at Camden South Carolina.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 Subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Thomas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Thomas". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Elias Sinclair, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_beattis_bridge.html

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State of North Carolina Richmond County

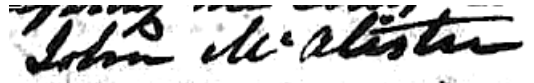
Thomas P Williams came into Court & made oath that he was well acquainted with William Thomas during the Revolutionary War, that he saw him frequently in the Service of the Bullet cut out of his foot and believe the foregoing declaration to be true.

S/ Thos. P. Williams²



North Carolina Richmond County: John McAlister came into court & made oath that he knew William Thomas to have been a Revolutionary Soldier, he saw him after he was wounded at Betty's Bridge and knew he had been fighting the Tories.

S/ John McAlister³



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North Carolina Richmond County: Elias Gardner came into Court and made oath that he was well acquainted with the applicant William Thomas in the Revolutionary War, that himself and said Thomas Served a tour of three months together under Colonel Crawford & William Hunter Captain in the year 1780 or 1781 – that he saw him frequently during the War in the Service of his country and believes he was pretty generally so engaged – and have always understood that he fought in the Battle at Betty's Bridge – and was there wounded by the Tories. Sworn to & Subscribed in open court

S/ Elias Gardner⁴



North Carolina Richmond County

Walter Leak came into Court & made oath that he was well acquainted with William Thomas knows him to have been a Soldier of the Revolution on the American Side & believe his declaration to be true. Sworn to & subscribed

S/ Walter Leak⁵ – 71 years old



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State of North Carolina Richmond County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions January Term 1833

This 25th day of January 1833 Personally appeared in open Court of Pleas & Quarter

² [Thomas P. Williams S7940](#)

³ [John Macalister \[McAlister, McAllister\] W1887](#)

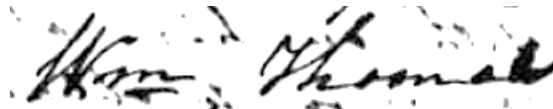
⁴ [Elias Gardner S6875](#)

⁵ [Walter Leak S7136](#)

Sessions now Sitting, William Thomas a Resident of the County and State aforesaid, Aged Seventy 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 the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the Service under Captain Hunter as a volunteer in the character of a Sergeant at what time he turned out does not precisely recollect but thinks it was but a short time before Gates defeat at Camden which he is informed was in 1780, that under Captain Hunter 27th October 1780 he served only three months but that immediately after this Service he volunteered in the light Horse Company under the command of Captain William Wall, Thomas Wade and Colonel Crawford [Thomas Crawford], that he continued in Service from time to time with but short intervals until the Spring of 1782 he would here take occasion to state that it is entirely out of the Question for him to recollect precisely the time of Service they were always held in readiness and at intervals employed against the Tories, in skirmishing and Scouting parties that he was at an engagement at Betty's Bridge under the command of Colonel Love⁶ Colonel Wade and Colonel [sic, Captain] Wall that in that engagement he was wounded – he thinks the Battle was in 1781 he cannot precisely state the length of Service but is confident he served twelve months that he has no documentary evidence nor knows of no person by which he can prove his whole Service but there are now living Several know him to have been a Whig Among them he would Mention Walter Leak Sr, John McAlister, Moses Knight and Elias Gardner. 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 in open Court 25th January 1833

S/ Wm Thomas



[Martin D Crawford, a clergyman, and Walter F Leak gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories by the Court

1. Where and in what year were you Born

Answer, In 1742 in Queen Ann County Maryland

2nd Have you any record of your Age and if so where is it will sign

Answer, I have it at Home in the family Bible

3rd – Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived Since, and where do you now live –

Answer, I lived in the County of Anson when called into Service have lived ever since and now live in the County of Richmond –

4th How were you called into Service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Answer, I always volunteered.

5th – State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the Troops where you served Such Continental & Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the General circumstances of your Service –

Answer, I know of no Continental officers, but was with Colonel Wade, Colonel Love Colonel Crawford Captain Hunter Captain Wall. I was wounded at Betty's Bridge in the Battle which I was then in & was taken at my own House by the Tories and chopped on the head with a Sword. I know of no other circumstance which is material to mention. I have no documentary Evidence

⁶ Perhaps a reference to Lieutenant Colonel David Love of Anson County but he is not known to have been at the battle of Beatti's Bridge.

but there are now living, and Present in court Walter Leak Sr, John McAlister, Elias Gardner & Moses Knight who were with me at different times in the War we were in a Battle at Betty's Bridge together and they will State I was a Whig.

S/ William Thomas

We Walter E Senior, John McAllister, Moses Knight and Elias Goodman do Certify that we were acquainted with William Thomas who has sworn and Subscribed to the us declaration that we were with him on one or more Battles and believe and know him to have been a Whig and a friend of his Country.

Sworn to & Subscribed in open court this 25th January 1833

S/ Walter Leak Sr.

S/ John McAlister

S/ Elias Gardner

S/ Moses Knight⁷

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$52.50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & light horse of the North Carolina militia, for 12 months.]

[Note: I did not see the family record in this file as transcribed by Nancy Poquette below. I do find it in the file of [William Thomas W6279](#).]

[Another version]

Pension Application of William Thomas, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 2372, Application #S7711

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

“Personally appeared, **William Thomas**, who stated that he entered the service under Capt. Hunter as a volunteer and sergeant, the precise date not recollected, but sometime before the defeat of General Gates at Camden, and served three months. That soon after the expiration of said service, he volunteered in the Light Horse of Richmond County under Captain William Wall, Thomas Wade and Thomas Crawford, Colonels, and was in service from time to time as called out by the commanding officer until the spring of 1782, during which time himself and horse were wounded in an engagement with the Tories at **Betti's Bridge** on the southeastern part of this county. That he was in sundry skirmishes with the Tories and that his house was plundered by them, his horse was taken away and himself again wounded on the head by a strike of a sword. He further states that after the Battle at Guilford, he went in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis as far as Elizabeth in the County of Bladen. This applicant resided in this county at the time of entering the service and has continued to reside here ever since.”

“He would further state that the reason why the militia of this state were kept so constantly in arms was that there unfortunately existed here an enemy within as well as without, the Country being infested and greatly annoyed by a large body of Tories who were constantly committing murders and various depredations on the Whigs, and who became particularly troublesome after the defeat of General Gates at Camden, South Carolina,” etc, etc.

Richmond County, **William Thomas** aged seventy years:

⁷ [Moses Knight R6028](#)

That he entered the service under Capt. Hunter as a volunteer in the character of a sergeant. At what time he turned out he does not precisely recollect, but thinks it was but a short time before Gates was at defeated at Camden, which he was informed was in 1780. That under Captain Hunter, 27th October 1780, he served only three months, but that immediately after this service, he volunteered in the light Horse company under the command of Capt. William Wall, Thomas Wade and Col. Crawford.

That he continued in service from time to time with but short intervals, until the spring of 1782. He would here occasion to state that it is entirely out of the question for him to recollect precisely the time of services, they were always held in readiness, and at intervals employed against the Tories in skirmishing and scouting parties. That he was at an engagement at **Betti's Bridge** under the command of Col. Love, Col. Wade and Col. Wall. That, in that engagement, he was wounded. He thinks the battle was in 1781.

He cannot precisely state the length of service, but is confident he served twelve months, that he has no documentary evidence, nor knows of no person by which he can prove his whole service. But there are now living, and present in court, several who know him to have been a Whig, among them he would mention Walter Leak, Sr or Jr, Lt. John McAliston, Moses Knight and Elias Gardner, who were with me at different times in the War. We were in a **Battle at Betti's Bridge** together and they will state that I was a Whig.

Thomas T. Williams came into court and made oath that he was well acquainted with William Thomas during the Revolutionary War. That he saw him frequently in the service. Saw the bullet cut out of his foot, and believe the foregoing declaration to be true. Thomas T. Williams.

John McAlister came into court and made oath that he knew William Thomas to have been a Revolutionary soldier. He saw him after he was wounded at **Betti's Bridge** and knows he had been fighting the Tories.

Interrogatory

1st- **When and in what year were you born?**

Answer- **In 1742, in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.**

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

Answer-I have it at home in the family Bible.

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

Answer-I lived in the County of Anson when called into the service, have ever since, and now live in the County of Richmond [*the land on which he lived, had been divided into Richmond County*].

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

Answer-I always volunteered.

5th-State the names of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such

Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer-I know of no Continental officers, but I was with Col. Wade, Col. Love, Col. Crawford, Capt. Hunter, Capt. Wall. I was wounded at **Betti's Bridge** in the battle which I was then in. I was taken at my own house by the Tories, and chopped on the head with a sword. I know of no other circumstances which it is material to mention.

[Note by Will Graves: The following family record relates to William Thomas W6279, not to this veteran's family.]

Family marriage record pages from a Bible have been included as evidence. Can be seen on the Natl Archives microfilm series, M804, roll 2372.

This pension application has included with it, photocopies of the pages of the family Bible, births and marriages.

Family Record-Marriages

William Thomas and Agnes Thomas was married January the 19th, 1792.

Joel Thomas and Isabel Thomas was married October the 2nd, 1817.

Lewis Thomas and Eliza Thomas was married November the 8th, 1821.

Ezekiel Thomas and Sarah Montgomery was married 27th _____, 1826? [*Very faded*]

William Thomas and Susan E. Burk was married 28th July, 1831.

Mary Thomas and Philip Pruitt was married 7th December, 1835.

Madison H. Thomas and Nancy F. Shelton was married 28th February, 1836.

Family-Record-Births

Elizabeth Thomas was born February 27th, 1793.

Joel Thomas was born October 23, 1794.

Lewis Thomas was born December 8th, 1796.

Ezekiel Thomas was born September ??th, 1798.

William Thomas was born October the 23rd, 1800.

Sarah Thomas was born December 22nd, 1802.

Mary Thomas was born February the 3rd, 1805.

Anna Thomas was born July 18th, 1808.

Madison H. Thomas was born August the 31st?, 1810.

John W. Thomas was born February 26th, 1814.

Malissa Ann Thomas was born December 16th, 1836.