

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Fletcher Thomas  
Transcription by FA Weyler

VA

S8483  
08Aug2013

[p2] North Carolina Certificate 23.232  
Thomas Fletcher of Wilkes County  
Private of Col Payton's Virginia Regiment  
16 months increased to 24 months  
Issued 09Dec1833 @ \$53.33 increased to \$80/annum  
Mar, 18, 1835

[p3] Note referred to Fletcher as Revd. Thomas Fletcher

[p5] State of North Carolina  
County of Wilkes

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & quarter sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, now sitting, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Thomas Fletcher, a resident of the said County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina, 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 June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 1762 in Ware Parish in the County of Gloucester & State of Virginia from the Church Book of which Parish he obtained the registry of his age which is now on record in his family Bible. He lived in the said county until he was sixteen years of age when he was put upon the muster roll of a company of militia commanded by Capt. James Bently and some time in the summer of 1778 was ordered out by command of Colo. John Peyton as one of a detachment to guard the magazine at Gloucester Court House. The guard was placed under command of a Sergeant Singleton and remained on duty at that place until the commencement of the ensuing winter, a period of five months or more when they were relieved and returned home. Some time in the following year (1779) a British ship called the Settle Belt made her appearance in the Road off the mouth of York River when an immediate call was made for the militia. This deponent again turned out and marched under the command of Maj. Burwell to the mouth of York River where they were stationed a considerable time until the ship disappeared when the militia were discharged. In a short time after his return home, the deponent was again called upon

[p6] together with a considerable portion of Capt. Bently's company and was placed under the command of Lieut. Stubbs and stationed at Gloucester Town for the purpose of guarding the Ferry Boats and Military Stores, as at that time the negroes were very troublesome in consequence of the great number who were running away, stealing ferry & other boats, plundering provisions, &c &c and making their escape to the British.

In these two last tours of duty, this deponent believes he served as much as five months or more.

~~In the Spring of the year 1780 the coast of Virginia was very much infested and annoyed by British ships, and great danger was to her app\_\_\_\_\_ from invasion being under intermittent \_\_\_\_\_ plunder and destroy \_\_\_\_\_ Ferry Boats and under their \_\_\_\_\_ it became necessary to keep a guard~~

[the remainder of the page is also struck through with only occasional words legible.]  
[p7 The first part of the page is struck through.]

Very soon after the return of Captain Bently's company home, the command was transferred to Capt. M Anderson and shortly thereafter this deponent was called out with others of the company under the command of Capt. Anderson and stationed at Fox's Ferry on York River to guard it. They remained at the said Ferry until the arrival of Lord Cornwallis at York Town when they were marched off to Whiting's Mills where they joined the regiment under command of Col. John Page. Soon after joining Colo. Page's regiment a proposition was made for volunteers to march down upon the British lines with a view of reconnoitering. A considerable number turned out under Major Weeks whom this deponent was one. Before however they had accomplished their object, they heard of the arrival of the northern army under Genl. Washington at or near Williamsburg. When orders were immediately given for a small detachment to be selected for the purpose of collecting beeves for the use of the army. This deponent with others was detailed for that purpose and placed under the command of a Sergeant White. After reconnoitering the country for some time and collecting a considerable number of cattle, they

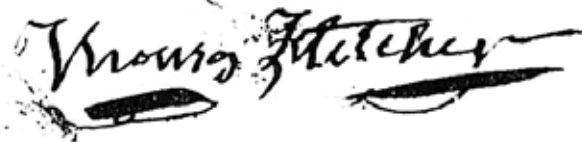
[p8] drove them to Genl. Washington's army near Williamsburg & after delivering them up, they returned and rejoined the portion of the army they had left at Hubbard's old field. In a short time they marched to Ware Church where the volunteers before mentioned under command of Major Week, was transferred to the main army, among whom this deponent was one. And in a very short time they marched down to York Town where they were stationed in Sewell's old field under the superior command of some French officers, whose names are not recollected. (The colonels with whom this deponent was acquainted were Colo Ennis & Colo John Page) Here they remained until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in the latter part of October 1781. Soon after this event this deponent was discharged and returned home having served in the last campaign from six to seven months. The capture of Lord Cornwallis being considered as a cessation of hostilities, this deponent was not called upon to perform any other service. (This deponent desires it to be remembered that as he was but sixteen years old at the time he entered the service, and as his knowledge of the affairs of the world, and of his own country was limited, and moreover as so great a length of time has elapsed since his service was performed, he does not pretend that he has a perfect recollection of the length of time embraced in each term of service which he has set forth, but he feels confident in the belief that the aggregate services performed by him will amount to a period of two years or upwards). This deponent continued to reside in the County of Gloucester from the close of the revolutionary war until the year 1799 when he became a travelling preacher of the Methodist communion [?] and continued as such until the year 1802 when he settled in Wilkes County North Carolina where he has lived ever since and where he now lives. He has no distinct recollection

[p9] how or by what authority he was called into service but he believes that the Gloucester militia were at all times held in readiness for service as that county was situated very near the coast of Virginia and constantly exposed to the depredations of the British fleets. He presumes that nothing more was required than the issuing of an order by the proper authority to call into service all the militia of the county. He has no discharges or documentary evidence of any kind to prove his service nor does he recollect of ever having received a written discharge. He knows of no person living whose testimony he could procure who could testify to his service, but refers to the Rev<sup>d</sup> James Vannoy & Benj<sup>n</sup> F Martin Esquire as persons to whom he is well known in his

neighborhood and 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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas Fletcher". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. There are some ink smudges and a horizontal line drawn through the signature.

Test: R Martin, C.W.C.C.

[Routine county certification and supporting statements

James Vannoy, clergy

Benjamin F. Martin, neighbor

Robert Martin, clerk

P Daniel, Chairman

[There are several letters of appeal from Thomas Fletcher and Congressman Lewis Williams.

First, the application was rejected twice.

Then it was resubmitted with one section struck out.

Then the persistent appeals allowed the greater length of service originally claimed.

The pension amount was thus increased to \$80/annum.]