

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Gear S8553

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/27/08 rev'd 10/16/15

[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.]

North Carolina, Guilford County: County Court February Term A.D. 1833

On this 22nd day of February personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Guilford County in the same being a Court of record, now sitting Thomas Gear a resident in the United States and County and State aforesaid, aged 77 years, who being 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 the 7th A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated, to wit, that he volunteered in Pennsylvania Lancaster County in the company of Captain Scott, Commanded by Colonel Lowry, when nearly all the citizens of Lancaster, York and Cumberland Counties turned out and met at Philadelphia that after leaving Philadelphia he went with the troops up the Delaware to a town on the Jersey side called Burlington below Trenton, that this was in the latter part of 1776 to the best of his recollection – that his company joined the regular Army under the command of General Washington at Trenton – that he was engaged in the battle of Trenton [Second Battle of Trenton, January 2, 1777] - that night put an end to the battle – that there ran a Creek through Trenton – that General Washington continued on one side and the British on the other – that he marched off for in the night in General Washington's Army – that he marched all the latter part of the night and arrived at Princeton at daylight – that before leaving Trenton he assisted in building large fires to deceive the enemy – that shortly after their arrival the Americans were engaged in battle at Princeton [Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777] with a part of the British Army coming to join Lord Cornwallis – that the enemy was defeated – that in this battle General Mercer [Hugh Mercer] was killed – that he was marched thence to Somerset Court House and thence to Morristown where [paper torn] Army took up winter quarters – that he continued [paper torn] in Morristown about two weeks – that there were brought to Morristown prisoners from someplace [illegible word, could be "South"] of that place, that these prisoners were sent under the care of said Captain Scott and his own [paper torn] to the County of Lancaster Pennsylvania to the Barracks – that after he returned he was discharged from the service and received a certificate of service for 4 months – that he resided in Pennsylvania until 1778 – that he and his father's family then moved to Guilford County NC that at Martinsville Guilford County he volunteered in the company of Captain Forbis [Arthur Forbis] August 1780 in Guilford – that he marched to the South under Colonel Paisley [John Paisley] and joined the troops under General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] below Charlotte Mecklenburg County – that he retreated with General Davidson back to Salisbury Rowan County – that he was there left by the troops to take care of the baggage wagons – that the troops marched to the South and returned late in the fall of the same year 1780 – when he was discharged and sent home to Guilford with some troops from the same County – that this was a three months tour that previous and he believes the summer before the last mentioned tour he volunteered and was marched under Captain Forbis and Colonel Paisley up on the Yadkin River after one Colonel Bryan [Samuel Bryan] a Tory in which he continued a few weeks –

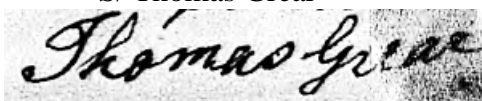
that he took many other such short tours after the Tories off in various sections but his recollection does not sufficiently aid him to give of them a satisfactory history or their several dates that in them all he must have served not less than two months – that in all his service he must have done service not less than nine months – that he left in Pennsylvania the [indecipherable word, looks like “haket”]¹ mentioned above, that he knows of no one who can testify from personal knowledge to his services in North Carolina – nor can he prove his other services by any one known to him – that he has no documentary evidence of his services – that he was born in the County of Donegal [Donegal] Ireland about twenty miles from London Derry – that at 16 years old he sailed to America and settled with his father in Lancaster County Pennsylvania that he has no record of his age but knows it from what his father told him – that he has lived in Guilford ever since the Revolutionary War – that he is known to Reverend William Paisley and Marshall McLean who can and are willing to testify to his character for truth and their belief of his revolutionary services – that he always served as a private – that he filed a declaration somewhere to the above, and in substance the same in August Term six months ago, but has been informed by his Representative the Honorable A. H. Shepherd that it has not yet been found at Washington.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to an annuity or pension and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Subscribed and sworn to in open court.

S/ A. E. Hanner, CCC

S/ Thomas Gear



[William Paisley, a clergyman and Marshall McLean gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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



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