

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Hargis

Certificate S8663

Transcribed by Diane Hubbard Jones

Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832 ~

State of North Carolina )

Person County )

On the 18th day September 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County aforesaid, now sitting, Thomas Hargis Sen'r, a resident of the County afores'd aged Eighty years on 26th day of April 1832, 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 Jun 7th 1832. ~

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

The declarant volunteered for the term of three months in Militia of North Carolina some time between 1775 and 1778, the particular year he does not recollect. He then resided where he does now, but at that time the said County of Person formed part of Orange County in said State. His company was organized at Hillsborough N.C. under Capt Farquhar & Lieutenant Shadrach Hargis. Field officers were Col. Ramsey & Col. Moore. - He was marched on an expedition to the western part of North Carolina for the purpose of suppressing the Indians in that quarter. When he reached Silver Creek, it was ascertained that their services were not required - whereupon he was marched back to Hillsboro. After his said Tour or term of service expired, he was discharged at Hillsboro afores'd - His discharge, if he obtained a written one, is lost. Afterwards the declarant having the wood works of a new waggon, John Douglas Esq'r then of Orange County, took it & secured it for the benefit of the American troops, in lieu of a three month's tour on the part of the declarant. When the British forces, under Lord Cornwallis, were pursuing Gen'l Green [sic, Gen'l Nathanael Greene] across North Carolina towards Virginia, - Col. Moore, of the North Carolina Militia, then of Orange, directed the declarant, who was a Captain of a militia company in his neighborhood, to raise a volunteer company, for a three month's tour, if possible - & proceed to reconnoiter the British in their way to Virginia under Cornwallis. The declarant accordingly held a call muster in his neighborhood and obtained some volunteers for the said service, & the next day his men were directed to meet at David Vanhook's, then in Orange County, now in Person, for the purpose of organizing & marching. In the forenoon of that day, when the declarant was engaged at the said David Vanhook's, in organizing his said company - the British Col. Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] rushed on him at the head of his troop of Horse and took the declarant & several of his men prisoners - then the British took from him his horse, bridle & saddle - his rifle - gun shot & etc and conveyed him on towards Hillsboro by the declarant's dwelling house. Then they took every thing of the declarant's that was considered useful to them, together with 13 or 14 head of cattle. He was carried to Hillsboro & there lodged in Jail for a few days: thence he was removed as a prisoner to the neighbourhood of the Battle of Guilford in March 1781; - was in hearing of that Battle; about eight days after that Battle, he was carried as a prisoner by the British, on to Bell's Mills on Deep river in Randolph County - when he, not being well able to travel, was discharged on parole & returned home. He was taken prisoner at Vanhook's, by Col. Tarlton's Troop of Horse, on the 14th day of February 1781, and got home from Bell's Mills aforesaid sometime in April following. How long he was prisoner, he cannot precisely recollect -

Early in the Fall of that year, as soon as the news of the capture of Hillsboro & Governor Burke [Thomas Burke], by the Tories, was known - the declarant again volunteered for the Term of three months; - and marched in pursuit of the Tories for the purpose, if possible, of re-taking from them the

Governor of his State - under Capt Shadrach Hargis. Field officers were Gen'l Butler [John Butler] and Col. Moore. They marched to the neighborhood of Wilmington, No. Ca. when they had a skirmish with the British. In that engagement, Gen'l Butler's horse ran off with the Gen'l as it was rumored - but this declarant then thought & still thinks that it was the General, and not the horse, that was the author of the blunder. Out of about five hundred Americans, nearly three hundred retreated before the Enemy, with Gen'l Butler and his horse - and after the falling back of the Americans, the declarant shot[?] several Guns - believing that if he again should fall into the hands of the enemy, that death would inevitably be his fate; as he had violated his parole, in again taking up arms in the cause of American Independence. - After the said term of service expired, the declarant was discharged on the 7th November 1781 - as will appear by the written discharge hereunto annexed - given to him by Col. Moore. -

In the declarant's afores'd expedition against the Indians, the declarant was sergeant of his company. -

He was born 26th April 1752, in Fairfax County in the State of Virginia - and was removed by his Father, when a youth, to the neighbourhood where he now resides - & where he hath ever since resided. He hath a Register of his age, which is a copy of his Father's Register of the ages of the members of his family - which copy is hereby appended. [Note from transcriber: the Register was not in the pension file.]

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, so far as he hath knowledge.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Jesse Dickens Clerk?

[Signed]

Thomas Hargis

We, Lewis Amis, a Clergyman of the County of Person & State of North Carolina, William McKissick & John Barnett residing in the same County & State, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Thomas Hargis Sen'r who hath subscribed & sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be eighty years old; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to & subscribed that day & year afores'd. -

Jesse Dickens, CCC

[Signed]

Lewis Amis

Wm McKissick

John Barnett

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter, & after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, & served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears unto them that Lewis Amis who hath signed the preceding certificate, is a Clergyman, resident in the County of Person & State of North Carolina - and that William McKissack & John Barnett, who have also signed the same, are residents in the County & State aforesaid - & are credible persons - & that their statement is entitled to credit.

R VanHook [Seal] CWP?

I, Jesse Dickins, Clerk of the the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, of the County of Person and State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Thomas Hargis Sen'r for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal of office this the 18th day of Sept and A.D. 1832. -

Jesse Dickins CCC

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State of North Carolina )

Person County )

Superior Court of Law and Equity,  
Term Spring 1833

Personally appeared in open Court, before The Hon. Thomas Little one of the the Judges of the State and court aforesaid ( It being a court of record ) Thomas Hargis a resident of The county aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following amended declaration in order to attain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That he entered the Service of the State of North Carolina in the militia as a Volunteer, as stated in his original declaration for the time of three months, but his memory is now too frail to particularize the month or year, but he remembers that he was then a single or unmarried man, and He thinks he was married in June 1777 – and his first Tour of Service mentioned in his original declaration was after 1775 and before June 1777, he cannot now be more specific. But he above swears in minutes that he served the full service of three months, and was discharged at Hillsborough as he has before stated at the the end of the term. And that he was a 2nd Sergeant during the whole of this Tour. That in regard to his captain and subsequent Imprisonment by the British as stated in his original declaration, he had left his home fully [torn] for the [illegible] and was at David VanHook's with his men not simply preparatory to [torn] service, to commence thereafter, but with the full purpose not to return to his home until his service was performed, and was Then in arms in defense of the country and was detained a prisoner at least five weeks and what ever requisite order was [torn] to be given had been given to the men on the preceeding day and his men like himself understand at the place appointed to march forthwith against the enemy.

That on his Tour mentioned in his original declaration as having been performed in The fall of 1781. He volunteered as a private – and served in that capacity the full period of three months as is evident by his discharge hereto appended –

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the 15th day of May 1833.

Test: Duncan Rose C.S.C

[signed]

Thomas Hargis

Personally appeared in open court Robert Van Hook who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath say that he was present at the time mentioned by Thomas Hargis in his declaration when he was captured by the British under Col. Tarlton, that he well remembers That the said Hargis and his men were in arm[torn] The occurrince having taken place at his fath[er?] David VanHooks, that he saw the said Hargis Both before and after his capture, and saw him when he was made to surrender his arms that This affiant was then a small boy but at sufficient age to have a distinct recollection of the transaction.

Sworn to and subscribed in  
open Court this 15th day of

May 1833

[signed]

R. VanHook

Test: Duncan Rose C.S.C.

And the Said Judge presiding in consideration and by Virtue of the original proceedings had In the court of Pleas and quarter sessions as well as by virtue of the proceedings now have had doth certify that the above applicant Thomas Hargis was a soldier of the Revolution and served as he states; and that Robert Van Hook who subscribed the above deposition is a credible person, and in letter? to belief.

This 15 May 1833

[signed]

Thos Little, JSCL&E

I Duncan Rose Clerk of the Superior Court of Law for the county of Person do hereby certify That the above contains the original proceedings In the Superior Court of Law for said county in case of the amended declaration of Thomas Hargis Sen. for a pension under the act of 7th June 1832. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 15th day of May 1833.

Test: Duncan Rose C.S.C

[signed]

Duncan Rose C.S.C.

State of North Carolina )

Person County ) 15th May 1833

I Jesse Dickins clerk of the County Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County of Person aforesaid do certify that Robert Vanhook whose signature appears written within [illegible] He is one of the acting Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid and that faith and credit ought to be given to all of his official acts in Testimoney whereof, the seal of my office doth appear given under my hand at office that day and date first above written.

[signed]

Jesse Dickins CCC