

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Leach S8837

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia At a quarterly Court held for Wood County at the Court House thereof before the Commonwealth Justice of the peace in and for said County on Monday the 17th day of June in the year 1833

Present Robert Edelson, Benj'n Mitchell, Jonas Beeson, Bennett Cook, Stephen Kincheloe, Henry L. Prestiss, Charles Keetor, Joseph Tomlonson, Henry Steed, Barnes Beckwith, John Taylor, Moses Foley, John A Kennaird & David Blair, Gent[leman] Justices

Personally appeared in Open Court while sitting for said County of Wood, Thomas Leach a resident of said County of Wood and State of Virginia aged sixty nine years last April who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That some time early in the year 1781, I being then under sixteen years of age, left my Fathers House in Farquier [sic: Fauquier] County Va. and entered the service of the U. S in the Virginia Militia under Capt. John Obannon, who marched us to Williamsburg Va. after we arrived at Williamsburg Capt. Obannon was promoted to a Major, and one James Foley took the command of our Company in Obannons stead. We remained there about five weeks and were driven out by the Brittish [20 Apr 1781] and we retreated through the Country to Richmond where we were reinforced [by Gen. Anthony Wayne, who joined Gen. Lafayette 10 Jun], and in our turn followed the Brittish to Little York, and there besieged them 19 days [sic: 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] when they surrendered. I was then detached to the part of the Army, that took charge of the prisoners and marched them from York to the Winchester Barricks 4 miles Westward of Winchester Va. And I was there discharged. I was commanded by Capt. Foley only untill about April, at which time I got a furlough for 12 days to go Home for Clothes and returned within the time and was under the Command of Capt Jennings I think his Christian name was Augustine or Augustus for about three months when my tour expiring I went home and staid three months and was again drafted and left home under the command of James Winn, and joined the Army before they arrived at York [?], and on or about the 2nd day of the siege our Capt. James Winn deserted his post and fled, he was followed by our Adjutant Dawson Burgess, who understood overhauld him, striped him of his Commission and let him go. After this a Capt. Sharp [sic: Linchfield Sharpe, pension application R17780] who had served his tour of duty and received his discharge, Volunteered again and took Command of our Company, and remained with us through the siege, and untill we were discharged near Winchester as before stated - and from him I received my discharge, but not considering it of any consequence only to shew that I had done my duty, I took no pains to preserve it and it was lost. - As to my acquaintance with the Officers, it was quite limited, being a very young man the whole service being while I was under seventeen years old, and our Officers so frequently changed - My first three months services was to fill the place of my Brother who had recently returned from a three year tour, and was drafted - Arriving at the age of sixteen I was placed on the muster Roll and drafted, during my first three months I only returned home on furlough as above stated, after this tour I returned home as above stated and remained three months, and returned again to service being drafted a second time and served as stated above - the three months that I was out of service during that year, I understood our army was marching and countermarching through Virginia as set out above - my whole service amounted to nine months Viz. One tour of three months to relieve my Brother and two tours of 3 months each on my own account - I was born in Prince William County Va but was reared in Farquier - where I generally lived untill the year 1810 at which time I moved to this Wood County where I have resided ever since and do now reside. I know of no person now living, that knows of the particulars of my service as well as my Brother George Leach [pension application W27584] - there are some Individuals that know of my being in actual service, but they do not know how long - They are old and infirm - I will try to procure their statement.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare

that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state and this is the first application of the kind I ever made —
Thomas hisXmark Leach

I George Leach of Wood County Virginia do hereby certify and declare that about the year 1781 I returned to my Fathers family in Fauquier County Virginia, after I had served a tour of three years in the service of the U.S. Artillery, I was drafted as a militia man my Brother Thomas (who is the same that is now applying for a pension by his declaration made and hereto annexed) who then resided with our Father, James Leach, agree to take my place and was received though under sixteen years of age and actually marched under Captain Obannon to Williamsburg and joined the same Company as a substitute for one of the men Viz William Figgin. I saw my brother Thomas there - I received a wound in our rencounter with the Brittish at that place - I know he served that Tour and he was by my Father placed on the muster Roll during this first Tour and drafted in the next tour having arrived at 16 years of age - and had to remain a second tour on his own account with a short time he went home on furlough - I returned home after my wound Rec'd. at Williamsburg and was knowing to Thomas being drafted, and that he was at the siege of York and I visited him while on the march to Winchester Va. and then saw him in service, he was about nine (9) months, and I am well assured was in the service of the U.S. that time, to wit, three months in my place before he was Sixteen years old, then three months on his own account and after an interval (during what was called the running tour) of three month then was again drafted and served three months.

Given under my and this 5th October 1832

George Leach

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Thomas Leach ser'd 9 mo. draws \$30.

I the undersigned Thomas Leach at the requisition of the War Department give the following narative of my age & revolutionary service to Wit - I shall be 71 years old in April next.

In January 1781 my brother George Leach (who is a pensioner) was drafted for three months. I took his place & marched from Fauquier county Va. (under John Obanion, Capt. James Farley Lieut. & — Payser [possibly Peyton] Ensign, a Company Commanded by Capt [Tilman] Weaver marched at same time & from same place. - the two companies went on to Williamsburg - there were other soldiers there, but I cant say how many companies or Regts. nor who commanded them - the whole however remained at Williamsburg almost five weeks. at that time we were attacked by the british driven out of the town and pursued up the country. Some where on our retreat, but cant tell where my time expired whilst we were retreating. my company & Capt. weavers were discharged. on my way home (in April 1781) I met Capt. Jennings Company, in which I had been drafted & whilst in service as a substitute, Capt Jennings gave me a furlough for twelve days. I went home to Fauquier, got a fresh supply of clothing, returned and joined the army one or two days before my furlough expired between Fredericksburg & Richmond. - I cant tell how many companies Regts. or men there were in the army when I joined it. nor can I tell who was my colonel, or who commanded the army - We went on to Richmond (this was in may 1781 [sic: more likely July]) and pursued the british army which was retreating down the country, but I dont recollect how far below richmond it was that we pursued them, but whilst we were in Hot pursuit my time expired some where between Richmond & Williamsburg. I got my discharge & went home, having been in service three months. I got home in July - cant tell who commanded the american army in this expedition. nor do I know whether or not there was a General officer along. Nor who was colonel or Major, or adjutant. - I went home remained for 3 months and was again drafted & marched from Fauquier under Capt James Winn sometime in September 1781 and went direct to york town. got there before the Siege began. dont know to what Regt. I was attached nor do I know who was my colonel or Major. on the third day of the Siege my Captain Winn ran away and left us. I remained at York town until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis & marched with the Prissoners to the Winchester Barracks & from there went home. I was in service this time at least two months — I expect that General Wayne commanded the

american army at York town - I am not certain whether he or Washington commanded. I am not certain that Washington was there. If he was, I did not hear of it - nor did I see him

H. L. Prentiss wrote my Declaration. I told him the same in substance that I now tell - he pretended that he would not charge me anything, but he retained 25\$ of my money.

In witness that the forgoing statement is true I hereto subscribe my name. December 13, 1834

Witness J. M. Steed.

Thomas his mark Leach

Note this man is as great an imposture as ever lived - I had very great difficult with him - he at first stated that he had been in service for nine months and went on to detail his continuous service for that length of time - in doing of which he entraped himself completely - he then took another tack and gave the statement above detailed not one word of which is true - the statement contradicts its self, but there was some thing in his manner and equivocation, much more conclusive against him

W. G Singleton Dec'r. 15, 1834

NOTE: On 21 Feb 1838 a James Leach, 75, certified the service of Thomas Leach.