

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Lyttle (Litle, Little, Lytle) S8873

f75NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/13/09 rev'd 8/10/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina Burke County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October Court 1832

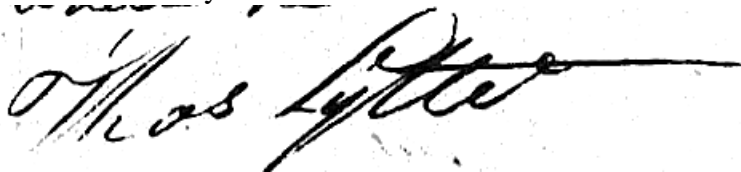
On this 22nd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of Court now sitting Thomas Lytle: a resident citizen of said County and State: aged about 82 years who first being duly sworn -- according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

That after being in various irregular scouting parties both as private and Lieutenant he was commissioned as Captain by Colonel Bateman [sic, Christopher Beekman] of Rowan [County] who ordered him up on the year 1777 or early in the year 1778 with 25 men to the upper forts on the Catawba River to check the Indians -- That on reaching the upper forts called Cathey's Fort: Davidson's Fort & Waeford's [sic, Wafford's] Fort, that he commanded 9 months at Cathey's Fort, and during this time he was as necessity required acting as a ranging or scouting party he and his men from the 3 forts Cathey's: Davidson's & Waeford's: that for the tours of 1 1/2 or 2 years: That he belonged first to the Rowan Militia & then after the County of Burke was erected he was under the command of General Charles McDowell & that he remained in command at the upper forts on Catawba until the Indians made peace. That before he went into this service & That before he was commissioned Captain he served as Lieutenant under one Robert Holmes Captain & Hambright [Frederick Hambright] Lieutenant Colonel: General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] in a tour of 3 months in defense of Charleston whilst besieged by the British but that they was & his men discharged the day before Charleston was taken by the British [May 12, 1780]: and that he has no documentary evidence of his service and must beg leave to refer to the several affidavits hereunto appended, both of those who served with him and others who well knew him to have the command as by him stated & to have been a faithful and bold officer in the revolutionary Struggle for years; especially when the Indians were laying waste and destroying this Country then a frontier. -- That the commission he acted under was handed to him by Colonel Bateman on the Presence of Colonel Hugh Brevard who was then in the Service and succeeded Colonel Bateman in command at the very time that he Thomas Lytle receive said commission & that he thinks said Brevard signed it for he then took the command for that Bateman at the time told him in the Presence of Brevard that he hereafter must look to Brevard to command as he Bateman was about to move away. -- He further states that in one of their scouts after the Indians on the upper waters of the Catawba that he got his commission wet & took it out to dry it & stuck it up in the crack of a house above the fire where they slept & went off having then forgot it and never saw it afterwards. He was born in the County of Rowan

was sent up here to take the command & has lived here ever since. That he is as before stated 82 years of age -- that I am well known to Isaac Thompson,<sup>1</sup> John Duckworth<sup>2</sup> and Samuel Patton<sup>3</sup> who served under him and whose affidavits are hereunto appended as well as that of Colonel John Carson<sup>4</sup> of Burke whose affidavit he expects to get and also append. (See affidavits A) (No. 2 A)

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. I further state that I got to Kings Mountain just after the Battle [October 7, 1780] was fought in the year 1780 and saw Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] lying dead & learnt that he wrote with & used his sword with his left hand -- I knew General Lincoln when in command at Charleston. -- he was a well set strong man but not very flerly [? friendly?]. -- I cannot state the force of our own side well from the failure of my memory -- But I knew Colonel Washington when he was in the Southern war.

S/ Thos Lytle



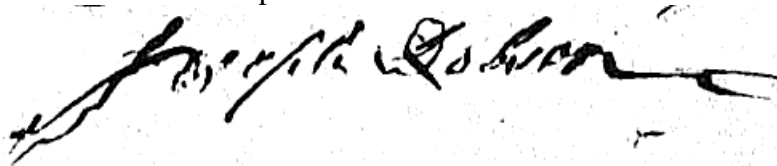
Sworn to and open Court 23rd of October 1832

Test: S/ J. Erwin, Clerk

[Mark Brittain, Thomas Green and Charles McDowell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Joseph Dobson swears that he served under Thomas Lytle who now applies for the above certificate against the Indians during the revolutionary war --

S/ Joseph Dobson<sup>5</sup>



Sworn to in open Court 23rd of October 1832

[p 50: Richard Bird, a clergyman, and John Burgin, Sr. gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 51]

State of North Carolina Burke County: Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace or Burke County, NC Captain Thomas Lytle who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear as to the precise length of time of his service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned in his declaration hereunto attached, that after serving in various grades 4 terms he cannot now recollect he served more than 2 years as Captain commanding for which he

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<sup>1</sup> [Isaac Thompson S7724](#)

<sup>2</sup> [John Duckworth S6805](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Samuel Patton S8934](#)

<sup>4</sup> This MAY be a reference to [John Carson S9132](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Joseph Dobson W19187](#)

claims a pension but he begs to refer to his declaration for at the time of making the preceding declaration his memory was better than it is now. I have no record of my age.

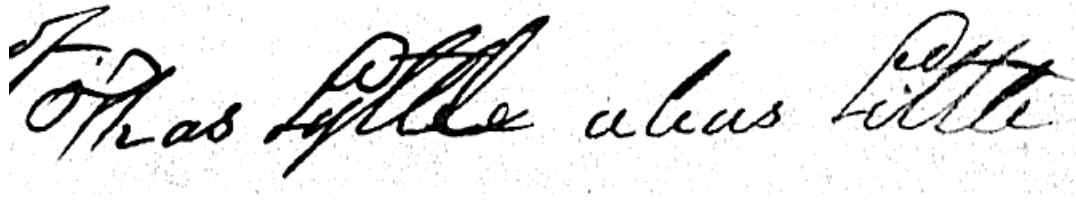
Sworn to before me the 8th day of May 1833

S/ Jesse Burgin, JP

S/ Thomas Little, X his mark

[p 8: On September 15, 1842, in Buncombe County, NC, Millington Little swore that he was the son of Capt. Thomas Little. He signed this document with his mark.]

[p 10: On Oct. 2, 1851, in Buncombe County North Carolina, Thomas Lyttle (alias, Little) executed a power of attorney in favor of Henry H. Sylvester to prosecute the claim for a pension of Capt. Thomas Lyttle (alias, Little) for the of John, George, Millington, Thomas Lyttle and Saphrona Davidson, widow.



Thomas Lyttle alias Little ]

[p 54]

State of North Carolina Burke County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October Court 1832

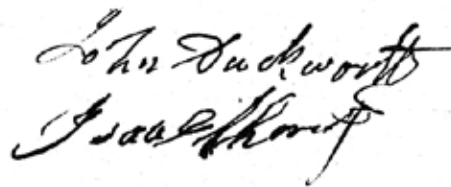
Isaac Thompson & John Duckworth comes into Court and makes oath that during the war of the Revolution they knew that Thomas Lytle served as Captain and commanded at the Head of the Catawba River where we forted against the Indians -- that they Isaac & John served as privates under him -- that he is generally reputed to have commanded as Captain for a much longer time than 6 months.

Sworn to in open Court this 22nd of October 1832

S/ J. Erwin, Clk

S/ John Duckworth

S/ Isaac Thompson



[p 55]

State of North Carolina Burke County: This day came Samuel Patton before me Jesse Burgin one of the Justices of the peace for said County & made oath in due form of law who deposeseth & saith that Thomas Lytle was Captain under General Charles McDowell & I was Lieutenant under said little & was marched from said County against the Cherokee Indians & this Expedition were about one month. Sworn to & subscribed this 13th of October 1832

S/ Jesse Burgin, JP

S/ Samuel Patton, X his mark

[p 59]

I John Carson of the Pleasant Garden State of North Carolina and County of Burke being

requested to state what I know of the services of Captain Thomas Litle [sic] in & during the Revolution of 1776 -- I do hereby certify that said Litle was addressed as Captain and a good Whig was known by me to be a brave soldier and an honest man. In testimony whereof I further state that we served together in several campaigns against the Cherokee Indians and in different forts, together ranging the mountains between the different forts on the frontier of North Carolina and also in the Cross Creek expedition -- he never commanded me as a Captain but I verily believe he acted as Captain at Wofford's Fort in the Turkey Cove -- I am at this date 82 years old and my habitation has been in said County since the year 1776. Sworn to and subscribed to the best of my memory and belief -- March 24th, 1834.

S/ Jn. Carson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jn. Carson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ James McDowell, JP

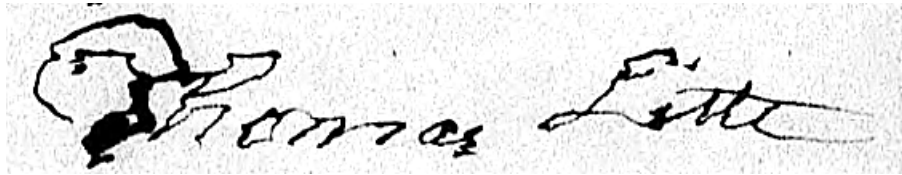
[p 66]

State of North Carolina were County: Personally appeared before me Jesse Burgin a justice of the peaceful Burke County State of North Carolina Thomas Lytle Senior who being duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear precisely as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. The first tour that I claim for was as a Lieutenant with part of his company and attached to Captain Work's company of the Regiment of Colonel Bateman of the Rowan Militia we served against the Tories over on Saluda in South Carolina where Colonel William Polk was shot in the shoulder, the same tour we served against the Tories in North Carolina in the expedition called the Cross Creek expedition against the Scotch Tories as they were called where they were defeated [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776]. This was in the same company under Colonel Bateman we went out for a 3 months tour but performed the service in a little better than 2 months: this is the first service which I claim for (the reason that this was not put in my first declaration he is that I did not know that it was necessary to state more than 6 months of my service) this was the winter 1776 & 1777 before I came up to command the upper forts on the Catawba in North Carolina, this was the first regular tour of duty -- was on which I claim for I was then a regular commissioned Lieutenant which commission I kept or many years until I viewed it of no value & of course lost it.

For upwards of 2 years I commanded at the upper forts on the Catawba has described in my previous declaration he further states that the commission of Lieutenant & also that of Captain were both large printed commissions: & thinks that Colonel Brevard filled up that of Captain he further states that after the first Tour of service was out at the upper forts, that he was continued in said service because he, acquainted with the mountains it being the frontier and that he delighted in the service. He further states that in consequence of such acquaintance with this then frontier that he never was out of the service 6 months until peace was restored with the Indians, but to make himself sure of not charging too much service he claims for no more than 2 years service as Captain & 2 months as Lieutenant, at one time & 3 months at another. I was born in Rowan County North Carolina 1750 on the 6th of June. I have no record of my age for it is worn out: I always was a volunteer. I cannot say who signed by commissions but they was such as are usually signed in blank by the Governor & filled up by the field officers even to the

day my commission both as Lieutenant and Captain are both lost. I cannot now tell who was the general officer in the expedition either at Saluda or Cross Creek but well recollect that Colonel William Polk was wounded in the first & that Colonel Bateman commanded me in the last, that Lieutenant Colonel Hartwright commanded him at the Tour of 3 months in Charleston under General Lincoln, when I was stationed so long as 2 years at the upper forts, General Charles McDowell commanded & had him & his men furnished with rations, & also with Frisch man when needed if they could not be got command the forts and scoured the Country. He General McDowell also commanded us in an expedition over to the Indian towns: in this expedition is Army was at least 200 men. That we often made excursions into smaller parties over against the Indians, that I cannot say more as to the time for the want of memory but can say without the least doubt that I served at least 2 years as Captain & 5 months as Lieutenant.

S/ Thomas Litle

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Litle". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 6th March 1834

S/ Jesse Burgin, JP

[Facts in file: The veteran was born June 6, 1750 in Rowan County, North Carolina; he died at his residence in Burke County, later known as McDowell County, May 31, 1835.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$217.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for service as a Lieutenant for 4 months and 15 days and as a Captain for 7 months and 26 days in the North Carolina militia.]