

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Thomas W11622 Polly Thomas PA VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The State of Ohio Miami County Ss

On this 30 day of Ap'l. 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable Geo. B. Holt, President & his associatis judges of the court of common Pleas for s'd. county now siting, Abraham Thomas, a resident of the State of Ohio and county of miami af's. aged seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefeit of the act of congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated. That during the summer of 1776, the particular time he is unable to state, but he well recollects that blackberries were ripe during the time, he was out picking some blackberries whin he discovered an indian making towards him & he ran & the indian chaised him some distance & he naroly escaped; he was drafted with a bout half of the malitia company to which he belonged, and was quartered at Grave Creek fork or Station, which is situated as he believes in the western part of Va. [in present Moundsville WV] he was out two months under the command of one Joseph Tumblesan, who as near as he can now recollect acted as a Lieutenant & there were about thirty men in the service at this station at the time; the indians infested the neighbourhood considerable during this time, but there was no general battle during this tour of service.

That during the fall of the same year 1776, he was again drafted, but he cannot recollect the time, but he recollects that the corn had became too hard to roast when he entered the service this time, he was under the command of a Phillip Vervell, but his grade or rank as an officer is not recollect, he had from fifteen to twenty men under his command, he was out one month, and during the time were quatered at a station called fort Wheling [probably Fort Henry], and where the Town of Wheeling in the western part of Va. now stands; that during this tour of service, they were attacked by the indians & besieged by the savages two days. at the time of being drafted on both of the above tours of duty he resided when at home in the Western part of Pa. on the waters of the monongahela river about thirty or forty miles above [south of] where the city of Pittsburgh now stands

In the spring of the year 1780, he removed from the state of Pennsylvania, to the State of Kentucky [sic: then part of Virginia], and that sometime in June of the year 1780, as near as he can now recollect, he entered the service again as a volunteer under Col. Harrod, and went with the troops or volunteers to the mouth of Licking on the Ohio river, where he arrived in the latter part of July, he soon after crossed the Ohio, with the troops, to where the city of Cincinnati now stands, the army here consisted of near a thousand men & were under the command of Gen'l. Geo. R. Clark [George Rogers Clark], there were Colns. Benj. Logan [Benjamin Logan], James Harrod, Lyn [sic: William Lynn] & Floyed [sic: John Floyd] & a Col. [George] Slaughter, as he was called, of the Va. line, there was taken with the army one piece of artillery, they commenced their march from Cin'a. in the fore part of August, went to a little indian town called chillicothy [sic: Old Chillicothe near present Xenia] on the waters of the little Miami river; the indians had abandoned the town & set it on fire & it was burning when the army arrived, the troops here halted & destroyed the fields of corn &c, & then went on to another indian town called Piqua, where a severe battle was fought [8 Aug 1780] the town taken & burned & the cornfields destroyed; after this the army returned to licking & home; he was out on this expedition from first to last two months as near as he can now recollect. During the summer of 1782, in the month of August as near as he can now recollect, the indians invaded the country, & he volunteered under Col. Benj. Logan, to expell them from the settlements, he with the rest of Logans volunteers were on their march for the seen of action, when the battle of the lower blue licks was fought [19 Aug 1782] but did not arrive in time to participate in the battle, in which the Kentucky troop were defeated with great loss, he with Logans men met the fugitives a few miles from the seen of action on their retreat; after collecting the scattered troops, & making the necessary arrangements he with the rest of the forces again advanced to the battle ground & assisted in

burying the dead, and as near as he can now recollect he was out this time fifteen days. Some time in the fall of 1782, in September as near as he can now recollect, he again volunteered under Col. Benj. Logan & under the General command of Gen'l. Geo. R. Clark, the army this time was composed of about one thousand men mostly mounted volunteers with rifles, they crossed the Ohio river at Cincinnati & traversed the indian country, & destroyed several indian towns [10 Nov 1782] among which were Chillicothe, Wilstown, & Piqua on the Great Miami & took a french store on Loramies creek [Loramie Creek], & destroyed the corn &c. on this expedition a few prisoners were taken but no general battle was fought; he was out on this expedition, as near as he can now recollect, two months from first to last, making in all seven months & a half that he is able to particularise during the revolution – he will further state that shortly previous to the revolution he was out on two indian expeditions & during the whole of the revolutionary war he lived on the frontiers, in the western part of Pa. till 1780, & in Ky. during the residue of the war, the neighbourhoods of his residence, were often disturbed by the incursions of the indians, & he was frequently called to defend the stations & to pursue the savages, & spent a large portion of his time in that way & on scouting parties amounting to six or seven months time as he believes, but he is not able from recollection to designate the various times, but he is firmly of the opinion that during the revolutionary war, he spent in all more than one year of the time in the defence of his country against the indians

1. he was born in the State of Va. according to the best of his information & recollections in the year 1756, 2^d He has no written record of his age. 3. That at the time of the commencement & for considerable time previous to the revolutionary war he resided in the western part of Pa. & was in the campaigns of Dunmore & Cresap, previous to the revolution – removed to Ky in the Spring of 1780, where he continued to live till about the year 1804, when he again moved to the county of Miami in the state of Ohio, where he has lived ever since. 4. Was both drafted & volunteered as stated. 5. Does not recollect of any regular or continental officers being with the troops where he served. 6. He never received any written discharge for his services, nor a cent of pay. 7. He is acquainted with James Orr, Alex'r. Telford, Aaron Tull[?] & Sam'l. Kyle all of whom reside in s'd. Miami county & can testify as to his character &c. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Abraham hisATmark Thomas

The State of Ohio Miami County ss

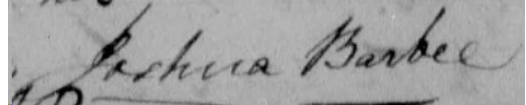
Before me John T. Tullis a Justice of the Peace for and within said County personally appeared Joshua Barbee [pension application S12952] of Mercer County State of Kentucky and being duly sworn deposed and saith that he has been acquainted with Abraham Thomas in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, the said Abraham Thomas being now present and declaring his intention of making the Declaration which is yet blank, and to which this affidavit is attached. Affiant says in the year 1780 he affiant and the said Abraham Thomas went out with the troops on an expedition against the Indians. That they belonged both to the same company, a volunteer company, commanded by Captain John Doherty [John Dougherty] and Lieutenant Samuel Kirkham. That they started some time in July of that year, they crossed the Ohio at the mouth of Licking River, that the Army there consisted of about a thousand men, commanded by Gen George R. Clark. They commenced their march from Cincinnati and reconnoitred the country North of the Ohio River, taking in their march the Indian towns Chillicothe and Piqua on the Little Miami, and destroying the Indian's corn and burning the town of Piqua after a severe battle had been fought. The Army with deponent with the said Abraham Thomas returned to Kentucky after having been absent about two months, some time in September.

In the year 1782 Affiant was again in the service and belonged to a company command by Captain Samuel Kirkham, formerly Lieutenant Kirkham, that the said Abraham Thomas belonged to said company. That they crossed the Ohio river again some time in October under the command of Col Benjamin Logan. That they march to an Indian town called Piqua on the Great Miami River, now the town of Piqua, Miami County Ohio that they returned about the first of November, being gone altogeth on this expedition, about

six weeks. The expedition was commanded by Gen. Clark.

Affiant has been long acquainted with the said Abraham Thomas and from their intimate acquaintance he has often heard the said Abraham speak of expeditions in which he had been engaged after the Indians previous to his removing to Kentucky while living on the Monongahela and from the standing of the said Abraham Thomas in his society and his known veracity he has no doubt of the truth of his statements. And further he saith not

sworn & subscribed before me the 4th April 1833

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joshua Barber". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "Joshua" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Barber".

NOTES:

On an application for bounty land dated 21 May 1855 Polly Thomas, 79, stated that her maiden name was Polly Swailes, and that she married Abraham Thomas in Miami County on 5 July 1821. The file contains a copy of the marriage return by Samuel Kyle "E.C.C."

On 19 July 1855 Polly Thomas, 79, of Concord Township in Miami County, applied for a pension, adding that Abraham Thomas died on 4 April 1843. George Keifer and Henry J. Pettit certified that they "were members of a Military Company, which officiated at the burial of Abraham Thomas." William Swailes and Charles H. Culbertson certified the marriage of Abraham and Polly Thomas.