

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hill W1606

Catharine Hill

f58NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8]

State of Tennessee, White County: SS

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before me Nathaniel W. Williams Judge of the Circuit Court of Law and Equity for said State now sitting in the said County of White, Thomas Hill, a resident of White County and State of Tennessee, aged about 74 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 June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. He was drafted in the Company of Captain John Leek [John Leak] in what was then Guilford County in the State of North Carolina but the portion of it in which he then resided has since become Rockingham County. The object of the draft was to raise men to go against the Cherokee Indians on the Tennessee River.<sup>1</sup> This was a three months Tour in the year 1776, and he believes in the month of June. Captain Leek's Company was attached to Colonel John Martin's [sic, James Martin's] Regiment. The troops marched to the Cherokee Towns and destroyed them – the first Town that he entered was called Watauga. The second was called “Burning town,” the third was called “Echota” -- with numerous smaller Towns. The expedition was commanded by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] of North Carolina. This was about the same time that Col. Christy [sic, William Christian] marched against the Indians from Virginia. This Declarant, then returned home, not having received a written discharge, but states that the Company to which he was attached was “mustered out of service” near the head of Catawba River into State of North Carolina, he County he does not remember.

His next service was in the year of the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781].<sup>2</sup> He turned out as a volunteer under Captain John May of Guilford County – according to the best of his recollection, the Company to which he was attached on this Occasion also, belonged to and was a part of the Regiment commanded by Col. James Martin, but of this he is not positively Certain. The object at this time was, to protect the Country from the ravages of the British who had penetrated the interior of the State. The special object of the forces to which he belonged was, to prevent the British from crossing Dan River. He was not in any battle. At the end of six weeks the company to which he belonged was relieved by fresh troops, and permitted to return home, in order to obtain provisions and enjoy a short respite from the fatigues of War. They however soon returned to the service, and in the whole, this tour amounted to about three months. He was not in the battle of Guilford, but Captain May was on his way to Join General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army on the day the battle was fought. He was acquainted with Colonel Martin,

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_guilford\\_courthouse.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html)

Colonel Paisley [John Paisley] – and General Greene. After the Battle of Guilford he was permitted to return home. After this he came out to Holston [River], below the “Long Islands,” to what he now supposes it is the County of Hawkins. He there volunteered under Captain Robert King, as he believes in the year 1782 to protect the Country from the ravages of the Cherokee Indians. He is not positive whether this was in the year 1781 or 1782. He served on this occasion three months – and was engaged in various skirmishes with the Indians. This was the last term of service, which could be called such, in which he was engaged. It is true he was subsequently out on what were termed ranging or scouting parties, but for these services he asks nothing from his Country. He has no documentary evidence by which the foregoing facts can be established. Nor is there any living witness within his reach, or whose testimony he can procure.

1<sup>st</sup> He was born on the December 22, 1759 in the County of Guilford in the State of North Carolina, near Dan River and in a part of the County which is now Rockingham.

2<sup>nd</sup> He has no Record of his age. The Bible which contained it, was in his house when it was burnt in Claiborne County, East Tennessee, about 27 years ago.

3<sup>rd</sup> The places where he lived when he entered the service have already been mentioned. To wit, Guilford N.C. and Holston, East Tennessee. Since the Revolution – he has lived in Guilford County N. C. where he remained something like eight years. He then removed to the County of Surry N. C. where he remained about two years – from thence he removed to the County of Greene in the State of Georgia, where he remained about 13 years. He then came to Claiborne County in East Tennessee, where he remained about two years-- & He then came to the County of White, where he now resides, and has resided ever since he came to it.

4<sup>th</sup> The manner in which he was called into service has been fully stated.

5<sup>th</sup> He has also stated he General Circumstances of his services, and has mentioned the names of those Officers with whom he was acquainted.

6<sup>th</sup> He never received any written discharge. It was in the custom on many occasions for the militia to be “mustered out of service” as it was then called.

7<sup>th</sup> He states the names of the following individuals to whom he is known, and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his having served as a soldier of the Revolution, Viz.

James Anderson, Esq., Major James Randals, Thomas Crawley, Turner Lane, Esq., Jesse Lincoln of Sparta and the Reverend James Simmons, John Green.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension except the present, or annuity – and declares his name is not on the roll of any pension agency in any state.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1832.

S/ Anthony Dibrell, Clerk

S/ Thomas Hill, X his mark

[James Simmons John Green, a clergyman, and Turner Lane gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 19]

State of Tennessee White County: March 21<sup>st</sup> 1833

This day personally appeared before me the undersigned, an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Thomas Hill, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively 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. "For 3 months, I served under Captain John Leek, as stated in my Declaration: this was as a private soldier."

As to his second tour of duty as mentioned in his declaration, he states that he was a private soldier. As to the length of this tour, owing to the frailty of his memory, he knows not

how to make any more explicit statement, than the one contained in his Declaration – and without employing the words "about three months," he now states, that, to the best of his recollection, he was in the service, this tour, for the period of three months – this was under Captain John May, as will be seen, reference being had to his Declaration.


His third, and last tour (for which he claims) was as a private, and under Captain Robert King. It will be seen, on referring to his Declaration, that this tour is explicitly stated, as one in which he served "three months."

To recapitulate – He now states that all the services for which he claims, amounted to Nine months – viz.: three tours, for three months each, and each time as a private soldier. This entire statement is given to the best of his memory.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and date first above written.

S/ Waman Leftwich, JP

S/ Thomas Hill

*Thomas Hill* 

[p 5: On February 18, 1850 in White County Tennessee, Catharine Hill gave testimony that Thomas Hill departed this life April 5, 1849 at his residence in White County Tennessee where he had lived for upwards of forty years; that prior to moving to Tennessee, the veteran had lived in Georgia and was raised in the state of North Carolina. She states that she is the widow of Thomas Hill; that she married him in North Carolina about the month of July in the year 1783 as near as she cannot recollect; that she is about ninety years of age. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 12: On June 15, 1850 in White County Tennessee, Martha McElroy, 57, gave testimony that she has been well acquainted with Thomas and Catherine Hill for about 50 years when they lived in Georgia before they removed to Tennessee; that they lived together as man and wife and in about the year 1805 moved to Tennessee where they continue to live together as man and wife; that she also knows Winkifield Hill and Elijah Hill, sons of Thomas & Catherine Hill; affiant believes Elijah Hill to be about 66 years old and that Winkifield Hill is about 58 years old. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 13: On June 15, 1850 in White County Tennessee, Elizabeth Underwood, aged about 60 years, gave testimony that she has been personally acquainted with Elijah Hill and Winkifield Hill ever since the year 1805; that Elijah is about 66 years of age and Winkifield about 58 years of age; that they are the children of Thomas Hill late a pensioner of the United States and Catherine Hill his widow. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]