

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Cowan W18922 Mary fn110NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/10/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Rowan County

On this 11th day of November 1853 personally appeared before the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid now in session, it being a court of Record, Thomas L Cowan, a resident of the town of Salisbury in the said County, aged about seventy-three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836 granting Pensions to certain widows, – That he is the son of the identical Thomas Cowan and Mary Barkley his wife and widow. That the said Thomas Cowan deceased, served as a Private and an Officer in the Army of the Revolution in the North Carolina Militia; that he has frequently heard his father speaking of his services both as a private and as a Captain in the Revolutionary War; that he heard him speaking of being at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, and of being in the Skirmish at Cowan's Foard [Cowan's Ford] on the Catawba [River], when the British crossed that River, and also at the Skirmish at Torrence's on the same day., That he thinks he has heard him speaking of being at the Battle of the Cow-Pens [sic, Cowpens], and various other places which he cannot now recollect; that he cannot recollect the names of the officers under whom he served, except General Lincoln; and that he has often heard him speak of his services under that General: That from the tradition of the neighborhood, he thinks he was elected Captain in the year 1780, and that he served his country in that capacity until the close of the War. He further states, that his father Thomas Cowan & Mary Barkley his mother were married on the 30th of December 1773, as appears from the Record in the Family Bible; and that they lived together as man and wife, from that period until his death, which took place on the 4th day of December 1817, – that there is no other record proof of their marriage that he is aware of. That they raised a large family of children, the following of whom are still living, viz., Thomas Lincoln, this declarant, Anna, Jane, James & Nancy. He further states that his mother Nancy Cowan lived a widow from the time of her said husband's death, to the period of her own death, which took place on the 5th day of August 1836. He is not aware of any other evidence existing either as to the services of the said Thomas Cowan, or his marriage to the said Mary Barkley his mother, other than that herewith sent.

S/ Tho. L. Cowan

Tho. S. Cowan

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court November 11th 1853.
S/ James E Kerr, Clerk

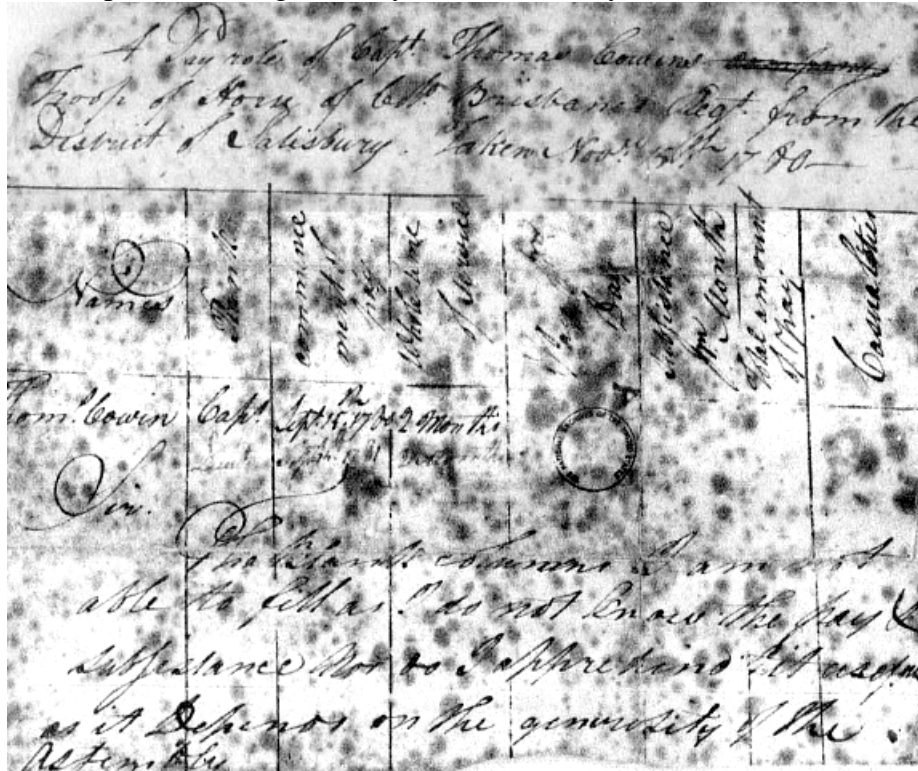
[fn p. 21]

3 Pay role [roll] of Capt. Thomas Cowin's Troop of Horse of Colo. Brisbane's Regt. from the District of Salisbury. Taken Novr. 15th 1780

Names	Rank	Comment of pay	Whole	Pay per	Subsiste	Casualtie
Thom.s Cowin	Capt	Sept. 15 th 1780 To Sept. 14 th 1781 ¹				

Sir

The Blank columns I am not able to fill as I do not know the pay & Subsistance Nor do I apprehend it as [indecipherable word] as it Depends on the generosity of the Assembly



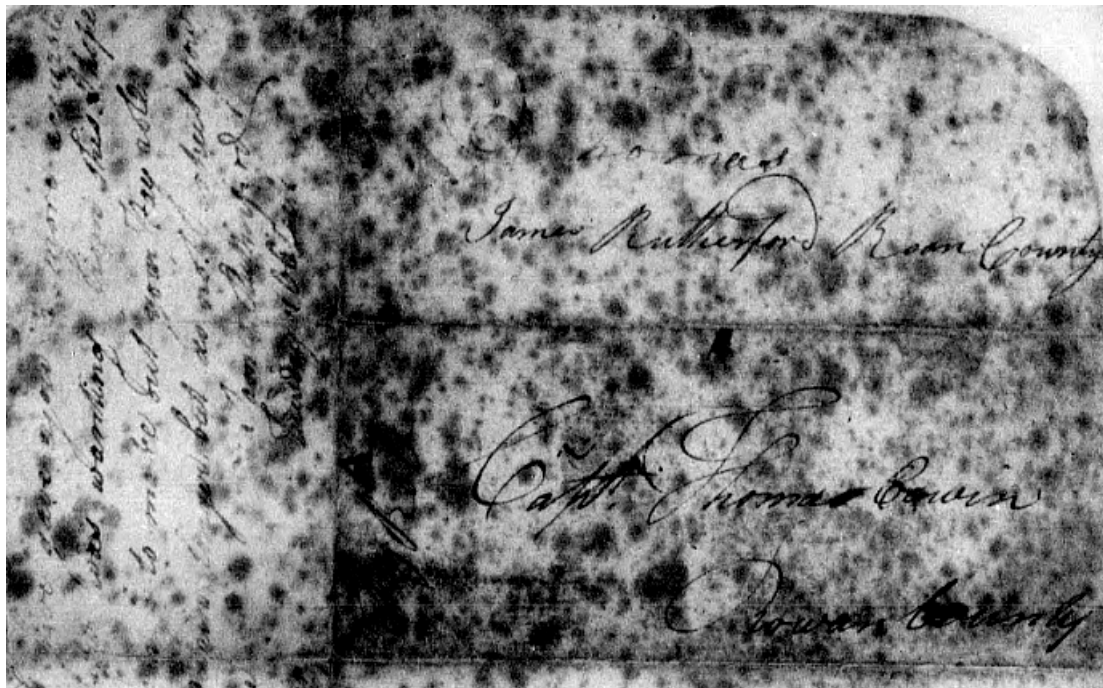
reverse

[indecipherable word]

¹ This date appears to me to be in a different handwriting than the balance of the document and suggests to me that it may have been added at a later date.

James Rutherford Roan County
Capt. Thomas Cowin
Rowan County

I should have gave you a more accurate
Copy but paper was wanting from this Shope
you will [indecipherable word or words] to make out you Pay role
I would [indecipherable word or words] longer but do not [indecipherable words]
S/ James Rutherford



[fn p. 12]

State of North Carolina Rowan County

be it remembered that at a court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions begun and held for the County and State aforesaid in the town of Salisbury, on the first Monday in February 1854, the same being a court of Record, Thomas L Cowan, the Declarant and Applicant for a Pension claim for the services of Thomas Cowan deceased as a Captain in the Rowan Division of Militia during the Revolutionary War, under the Act of Congress passed the fourth of July 1836 granting Pensions to certain Widow; and for the purpose of establishing the age, marriage and death of both him and his wife, as well as for the further purpose of showing how many children they had and raised, and how many are dead and how many are living, – Brought into court the Family Bible of the said Thomas Cowan deceased containing the Family Record, and is as follows: viz.:

Thomas Cowan was born January 23rd AM 1748/9

Mary Barkley was born October 4th, AM 1755

Thomas Cowan & Mary Barkley was married December 30th Anno Mundi 1773

Catharine Cowan was born October 14th AM 1774

Mary Cowan was born February 25th AM 1776

Margaret Cowan was born July 13th AM 1777

Lydia Cowan was born January 3rd AM 1779

Thomas L Cowan was born July 8th AM 1780

Ann Cowan was born March 10th AM 1782
Jean Cowan was born February 28th AM 1784
Elizabeth Cowan was born September 24th AM 1785
James Cowan was born February 2nd AM 1788
Aabel Cowan was born October 4th AM 1789
Agness Cowan was born December 27th AM 1792
Abigail Cowan was born September 18th AM 1794
Hezekiah Cowan was born March 29th AM 1796
Levina Cowan was born November 16th 1799

Thomas Cowan Senr. Departed this life December 4th 1817 in the 70th year of his age.

Mary Cowan departed this life on Friday the fifth of August 1836, at 7 o'clock P. M.

State of North Carolina Rowan County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, February Term 1854

I, James E Kerr, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid, certify that the foregoing transcript from the family Bible of the late Thomas Cowan together with the said family Bible were produced in open Court, and that the transcript was compared with the original entries in said family Bible by the Justices presiding as the Court, and that it was ordered by the said Court that the Clerk certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original entries in the family Bible of Thomas Cowan Deceased, late of Rowan County.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal this the 10th day of February 1854

S/ James E Kerr, Clerk

[fn p. 15: is an actual digital image of the Bible record.]

[fn p. 79: Certificate dated November five, 1853 from the North Carolina Comptroller showing payments made to Captain Thomas Cowan for military service in the militia during the revolution.]

[fn p. 89: On June 27, 1854, in Rowan County North Carolina, James Caruthers, 87, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Abram Lourance who has been dead a number of years past; "that he has heard Lourance often say that he was in the revolutionary war as a horseman under Captain Falls; that his horse was shot from under him; that he then immediately joined in the rear, the militia company of Captain Thomas Cowan, who with his company was then in the engagement (that he is the battle of Ramsour's Mills); that the said Cowan was then & there commanding his company in proper person; and that he (Lourance) received a wound, and that Captain Cowan thought it to be fatal or at least dangerous, told him he thought he better retire from the engagement, giving as a reason, that he (Lourance) had two brothers then in the battle, and that might intimidate or discourage them; but he continued to fight as long as he was able from the loss of blood, & then withdrew."]

[fn p. 91: On June 30th 1854, Robert Knox a resident of Rowan County gave testimony that he is the son of Benjamin Knox now deceased; "that he often heard his father Benjamin Knox say speaking of the services of Captain Thomas Cowan in and during the Revolutionary War, and he thinks and believes that from what he often heard his father say, that the said Captain Cowan, was pretty much engaged in the war during the whole of its continuance; and that he particularly & distinctly recollects that he often heard him say, that he (Knox) served for three months as a

private, under Captain Thomas Cowan in and about Charleston South Carolina; besides at various other times and places, two of which were at the Battle at Ramsour's Mills, in the skirmish at the widow Torrence's....”]

[facts in the file: the names of the children surviving the widow were given in 1853 as follows – Thomas Lincoln Cowan, Anna Graham, widow of Moses Graham; Jane or Jean Graham, widow of James Graham; James Cowan, Nancy or Agness McCorkle, widow of Lewis McCorkle. The said Nancy or Agnes McCorkle died about February or March, 1855.

[Veteran's widow's heirs were pensioned at the rate of \$111.66 commencing March 4th, 1831 and ending August fifth 1836, for the service of her husband as a private and Captain of Infantry & Cavalry in the North Carolina militia.]