

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Perkins (alias, Thomas Carson) ¹ W2640 Frances f56NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/27/17

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

State of Tennessee, Franklin County: SS

On this 30th day of August 1832, personally appeared before the worshipful the Justices of the County Court of said County, now sitting, John Perkins, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Sixty-seven years, on the 11th day of May last, who being first 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated, under the following named officers, to wit:

I was born in the County of Halifax & State of Virginia on the 11th day of May 1765 – and in the month of April 1781, he entered the service of the United States, as a private soldier in Captain James Turner's Company of Virginia militia, & as a substitute for Alexander Moore being at that time a resident of the said County of Halifax & State of Virginia. This Company Commanded by Captain Turner, was marched to the District or Town of 96 [Ninety Six] in South Carolina – then in the occupation of the enemy commanded as the applicant understood by General Cruger. The town & fort of 96 were then besieged by the American Army Commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781]. After being there some time the American Army raised the siege, & marched across Broad River, at the Fish dam Ford. After crossing the River, he volunteered in a foraging expedition, but had no engagement or skirmish with the enemy. From thence he was marched in various directions near the lines of the American & British armies & generally in Company with the Cavalry Commanded by Colonels Washington [William Washington] & ~~Lee~~. The Infantry Commanded by Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] – to whose command he was attached. He was discharged or furloughed at Mecklenburg Court house North Carolina. After his return to Halifax County Virginia, he received another discharge from Captain Turner. He served the full term of 3 months.

The next year 1782, he removed to Caswell County North Carolina, and was there drafted for 18 Months -- & served about 12 or 13 months. He entered the service under the Command of Captain Elijah Moore – he Company marched to Charleston, & was encamped at Bacon's Bridge or Ashley Hill – here Captain Moore becoming sick, we were placed under the Command of Captain Rhodes [probably Joseph Thomas Rhodes]. The Regiment was Commanded by Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle], of Hillsborough, Major Blount [Redding Blount] had the Command of the Battalion – while the Army was lying at Ashley Hill, a Detachment was Ordered to James Island to attack Fort Johnson, the detachment was Commanded by a French officer, as he understood – the fort was evacuated – the next morning we had a skirmish with a detachment of

¹ BLWt86132-160-55

the enemy engaged in cutting wood, on the Island for the Army in the City. There were Maryland & Pennsylvania troops on James island, but he does not recollect the names of the officers. He was discharged, he thinks in the month of August or September, at the 10 mile house, so called being 10 miles from Charleston. I then returned home to Caswell County, North Carolina, where I resided, with a brother in law, whose house was burnt, & with it all my papers, including my Discharges. He has no documentary evidence in my possession or power, nor does he know of any person, by whom he can prove any part of his Service. He removed from North Carolina to Pendleton District, South Carolina, where he resided until the year 1810, when he removed to Franklin County Tennessee where he has resided ever since. He is known to the Reverend Henry Hunt of this County – Robert Blackbourn, John Morrow, John Hackerson, Esqr. & many other Citizens of said County who can testify to his character for veracity.

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.

Sworn to, & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Perkins, X his mark

[Henry Hunt, a clergyman, and John Morrow, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 22]

State of Tennessee, Franklin County

On this second day of September 1833 personally appeared before the Worshipful the Justices of the County Court of said County, now sitting, John Perkins a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged 68 years, on the 11th day of May last, who being sworn, according to law, doth on his oath, make the following amendment, or addition to his original declaration, made in this Court, on the 30th day of August 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

The Declarant states that he cannot at this distance of time, from defeat of memory say with precision, the length of time he served on the second tour, but is confident, he served at least 12 months on that tour – making altogether 18 months, service rendered by him as a private soldier during the Revolutionary War, for which he claims a Pension.

In answer to the second interrogatory pounded by the war Department, he says, that his age is recorded in a family Bible, at his own House – or residence 14 miles from this place – that record was made by his father now deceased.

S/ John Perkins, X his mark

Sworn to in open court this 2 September 1833

S/ E. Russell, Clk

[p 32]

Raleigh 10th of January 1834

Sir

As requested by you in your letter of the 5th instant, I have examined the rolls and other documents in the Office of Secretary of State of North Carolina for the name of John Perkins but do not find it. That is on the rolls of this office the names of the soldiers called the new levies the 12 and 18 months drafts, I cannot vouch for the correctness of those rolls, they are said to have been made from Official documents in Philadelphia in 1791, and are signed by Lyde Catlin and Benj. Mefflin, who were (I believe) Commissioners for settling the Army accounts &c.

Yours respectfully

Wm Hill [NC's Secretary of State]

P. S. There are no militia rolls in this Office, the drafts were placed under Continental officers and considered as regulars.

S/ WH

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State of Tennessee, Franklin County

On this 26th day of May 1834, personally appeared here before the Worshipful, the Justices of the County Court of said County, now sitting, John Perkins alias, Thomas Carson, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 69 years on the 11th day of May last, who being sworn according to law, doth on his Oath, make the following amendment to his Original & Amended Declaration heretofore made in this Court, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June the 7th 1832.

The Declarant states that on the 30th of August 1832, he applied to M. Taul to prepare his Original declaration & imparted to him the facts, which are embodied therein. The papers having been sent back he prepared his Amended Declaration & caused the same to be forwarded to the War Department. He understood from Taul, that his Original declaration had been sent to the Secretary of North Carolina for information, & that his name could not be found on the Army Rolls. This declarant felt mortified that owing to some cause to him unknown, he was likely to be deprived of the bounty of his Country for services rendered by him as a Soldier of the Revolution. In the month of March last he visited the said Taul, at his house in Winchester, & inquired of him, if he had any “good news” for him, supposing it was time to have heard from the Honorable Mr. Forester of Washington, to whom he had sent, through said Taul, a list of his messmates – being answered in the negative, which in a moment banished from his mind all hope of ever succeeding, he inquired of Taul for his opinion &c. After a little further conversation, it for the first time occurred to this Declarant that the difficulty in obtaining his pension was occasioned by an oversight on his own, having performed the services in his said Declarations mentioned by the name of Thomas Carson, by which name at that period of his life he was called & known. He states that he was the son of Mary Perkins, who intermarried with Thomas Carson, when this Declarant was an infant. Carson was a widower & had children, one of which was of the name of “John” -- in consequence of which as this Declarant afterwards understood, although his name was John, he was called Thomas after his step father, and by that name he was called & known, & by that name served in the Army of the Revolution. His stepfather died about the close of the War, & his mother then informed this Declarant, that his true name was “John Perkins” by which he has ever since been called & known & having [illegible word] the name of John Perkins so long, the circumstance of his having served by the name of Thomas Carson did not occur to him, until the time mentioned herein. He now positively & unequivocally states that he performed the service stated in his Declaration by the name of Thomas Carson: he is gratified to know that whatever may be the fate of his application, he was not compelled to change his name it was only the resumption of his proper name, after the death of his step father who bore the same name.

He further states that he has lately discovered that John Nelson of Warren County who has obtained a Pension under the same act of Congress, was acquainted with him during the War. He would have taken his Deposition before, if he had known that he could have proved anything by him.

Sworn to in open Court.

S/ John Perkins, X his mark

S/ E. Russell, Clk

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Captain John Nelson² of Warren County, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that he was a Captain during the Revolutionary War – that he was well acquainted with Captain Elijah Moore under whom John Perkins, alias Thomas Carson, served his first term – he was also acquainted

² [John Nelson W53](#)

with Captain Rhodes & Captain Brevard [Alexander Brevard] & slightly with John Perkins, alias Thomas Carson. He recollects distinctly to have seen him in the service of the US when the Army under General Greene was lying at the 10 mile house in South Carolina. He was then called Thomas Carson; he well remembers to have heard Captain Brevard call the Roll of the Picket guard under him in and at that place & amongst other names was that of Thomas Carson, which was answered to by him. He is the same person now called John Perkins. He further states, that he is acquainted with the character of Mr. Perkins, & that he is a man of unimpeachable veracity.

Sworn to in open Court 26th May 1834.

S/ John Nelson, Capt.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Nelson Capt." The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

S/ E. Russell, Clk

[p 45]

Micah Taul, being first duly sworn, Deposeth and saith, That at the request of John Perkins he prepared his original and amended declaration be for a Pension, under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. He was previously acquainted with Mr. Perkins & felt considerable interest for his success. He addressed more than one letter as well as he recollects to the Commissioner of Pensions on the subject. Mr. Perkins made frequent applications to him for information about the prospect of succeeding -- & appeared to be much mortified, at the delay & the probability of his claim being ultimately rejected. Some time during the Winter, he received a letter from the Honorable JB Forester (to whom this Deponent had written requesting his attention to Mr. Perkins' claim), directing Mr. Perkins to forward to him at Washington a List of his messmates during his service in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Perkins promptly furnished the List, which I forwarded to Colonel Forester. Some time afterwards, he thinks about the middle or last of March Mr. Perkins again called upon him to know if he had (to use his [illegible words]) any "Good News" for him, when this Declarant informed him that he had not heard from Colonel Forester, since he sent on to him, the List of his messmates. This information seemed to banish from Mr. Perkins mind all hope of success in his application, & with tears in his eyes, & in a tone of voice & manner manifesting the deepest distress, he asked this Deponent his opinion, when he informed him, that he did not know, what further effort could be made in his favor unless he knew of some person living by whom he could prove his services. He said, he did not. Though he knew he had given a true account of his services & he did not know, the reason why other old Soldiers could get Pensions & he could not, unless it was, because, he did not serve in his proper name, but in the name of "Thomas Carson." He immediately proceeded to relate to me how it happened, that when young & during the period of his service as a soldier of the Revolution, he was called Thomas Carson, & afterwards resumed the name of John Perkins, which was his proper name, & which is the same account contained in the preceding statement of Mr. Perkins. It seemed to this Deponent to have just then occurred to him, that was a true reason, why his name could not be found on the Roll, to wit: That he served by the name of Thomas Carson & that Thomas Carson's name was on the Roll, but the name of John Perkins was not. From the manner in which this communication was made, he did not then doubt, nor does he now doubt, the truth of the statement and so confident was he in the belief of its truth, & so sanguine in his hopes that it would be the means of eliciting information that would ultimately enable him to

succeed in the application, that he immediately wrote to Colonel Forester imparting to him the information derived from Mr. Perkins.

This Deponent further states, that he has been acquainted with Mr. Perkins for several years, having been first introduced to him, by a highly respectable citizen (John Heckerson Esqr.) at whose house, he was on a visit. He has no hesitation in expressing it as his decided opinion, that Mr. Perkins is a man of unimpeachable integrity & veracity, and every way entitled to Credit & such in this Deponents opinion, is his general character.

S/ Micah Taul

Sworn to in open court this 26th day of May 1834

S/ E. Russell, Clk

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State of North Carolina

Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify, that it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that Thomas Cayson a private in Captain Brevard's Company of the 10th Regiment, entered the service in the year 1782, for the term of 18 months, and that nothing more is said of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this 2nd May 1834.

S/ Wm. Hill

The name Cayson appears to have been altered from some other name on the rolls. Edward King, George Tippit, John Grinage and William Dobbins were all 18 months men mustered in 1782 under Captain Brevard in the 10th Regiment.

Given under my hand this 2nd May 1834

S/ Wm Hill Secry

Raleigh, 2nd May 1834

Dear Sir

I send you a certificate for Thomas Cayson. I am of opinion there was an error committed in writing his name, that it should be Thomas Carson. The persons named as his messmates appeared to have entered the service about the same time and under the same officer.

Very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

S/ Wm Hill

[p 10: On April 5, 1853 in Wayne County Tennessee, Frances Perkins, widow, aged 72, filed for her pension under the 1853 act. In various documents filed by her, she states: that her maiden name was Frances Nichols; that she first married Martin M. Ferrell who died June 16, 1817; she then married John Perkins, alias, Thomas Carson; that she married Thomas Carson alias John Perkins in Franklin County Tennessee April 16, 1822; and that her husband died June 16, 1840 in Hardin County Tennessee. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 13: Copy of a marriage bond issued in Franklin County Tennessee on April 5, 1822; issued to John Perkins for the marriage of John Perkins and Franky Ferrel.]

[p 6: On January 15, 1859 in Wayne County Tennessee, the widow, Francis Perkins filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war soldier. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as

a private for one year and 3 months in the North Carolina Continental line and the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]