

**Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements &
Rosters**

Pension application of Aaron Thomas W2704

Sarah

f70NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/10/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Macon County: Corte [sic, Court] of Pleas & quarter Sessions
December Term 1832

On this 28 day of December 1832 personally appeared in open corte [sic, court] before the Justice of the court of pleas & quarter Sessions now sitting Aaron Thomas a resident of Macon County aged about 72 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 act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832. I was born in the year 1760 in Orange County N. Carolina the 27 day of January and entered into the services of the United States in the year 1780 as a drafted man for [a] three month tower [sic, tour] under the command of Col. Lock [sic, Francis Locke] & I believe the Capt.'s name was Thomas Franaun [?]; entered in the month of July; marched from Salisbury to Rocky River then marched near Camden & then I was put under the Command of Gen. Gates [Horatio Gates] & I was in Gates' army when he was defeated near Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. I then was with others gathered together & discharged in Roan [sic, Rowan] County N. Carolina. My next tour I entered at Salisbury N. Carolina as a drafted man for a three month tour in the year 1781 under the command of Col. Marlburry [? Malmedy?]. and Capt. Humphrey and I marched under them to the Virginia line guarding the prisoners taken at the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] in South Carolina but I believe I did not serve all the time quite out [several illegible words] of being taken by the British Army under Cornwallace [sic, Charles Lord Cornwallis]. We were dismissed to escape being taken prisoner. I went out again as a volunteer or as a minit [sic, minute] man in the month of August 1781 & continued on until January following 1782 & in the latter part of January 1782, I entered the Service again in Salisbury under the command of Maj. Isaac Lewis [spelled "Luis"] and Capt. Charles Gordon of the N. Carolina state [?] as a regular & I believe that Governor Martin was the Commander in Chief & was kept guarding prisoners until July. I then marched to Hillsborough after scouting through the country after Tories and particularly after a Tory officer named Fannor [sic, David Fanning] then got back about Hillsborough & marched to one James Pault's [?] & then was discharged making a twelve month tour. My discharges have all been lost or mislaid so that I know nothing about them. I have no way of proving my services, my 2 certificates transmitted. My age was recorded in a spelling book. My 12 month discharge was given by Lewis; one 3-month discharge [was given by] Col. Locke. My minute man tour I got no discharge.

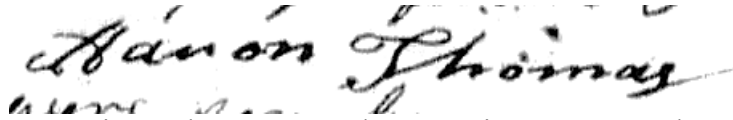
I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

I moved from Rowan to Wilkes County N.C., then to Lincoln N.C., then to Rutherford N. C. & continued there 42 years then on one plantation, then to Macon County where I am now living.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Pathman, J. P.

S/ Aaron Thomas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Amos Curtis [?] could be Amos Cantis], a clergyman, and Aaron Pinsor [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[There are two amendments to the application made by the veteran, but the handwriting of the scribe is so bad that I have elected not to try to transcribe them. They appear to be attempts by the veteran to clarify the periods of his service. On August 17, 1836, he filed a new application written by a different scribe. It appears to me to be an attempt to restate his services in a manner more comprehensible to the Commissioner of Pensions. It appears a f p. 58 as follows:]

State of North Carolina Macon County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1836

On this 17th day of August 1836 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record before the Justices of the Court now in session Aaron Thomas a resident citizen of this the County of Macon State of North Carolina aged 76 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following and his second declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 this being his second declaration –

That he served as well as he can now recollect as follows – first a three month Tour in the Company of Captain Frazier in the Regiment of Colonel Locke of Rowan North Carolina in the year 1780 was at the battle of Camden where Gates was defeated on or about 16th of August his time commenced sometime in June 1780 served regularly until the battle we were there defeated and broke, officers & all, and rallied and got together at Colonel Phifer's in the then County of Mecklenburg where we were regularly discharged at the end of the term of 3 months when Colonel Locke gave me a written discharge for the 3 months tour I being all this time a private Soldier.

That his next Tour of service was for the term of 3 months under Captain Humphrie s in 1781, our Company was stationed at Salisbury NC guarding prisoners, and marched with and under Colonel Marberry who guarded the prisoners on to Virginia, we marched on through the Moravian Towns, we got along with the prisoners across the Yadkin [River] and it rose so that the British who were in pursuit could not follow: we lay some time on the North East of the River guarding the prisoners then marched on slowly (so as to keep out of reach of the enemy) to Virginia Line; from Rowan we marched on to Salem in Stokes & slept a few days then to Houser [?]Town, thence across Dan River at the mouth of Snow Creek, then to Mayo River in the Virginia Line, where the prisoners were surrendered to the Virginia Troops when & where Captain Humphreys marched us back into North Carolina and got as far back as Houser Town there found out

that the British were in close pursuit and thereupon discharged us telling us all to take care of ourselves, for he meant to do the same. This was within a few days before the 3 months was out so that we had no orders to rendezvous again, which made me lose about one week of this last tour that I was taken prisoner by the British Dragoons from whom I escaped and got home in a few days. In this tour a private.

I next served as a minute man off and on as called on in the Captain's company under whom I mustered (Captain John Johnson) for about 5 months in scouting about against and capturing the Tories. During which time I followed no regular civil business except of being a minute man for I kept a knapsack & musket ready to march as I might be called on during which time I was never mustered into regular Service or regularly discharged but often assisted in capturing Tories when called on delivering them prisoners in Salisbury – this began about the first of August 1781 and closed with the year. I have already made a declaration for the time above mentioned for which has been granted to me by the war Department pay to the amount of \$23.33 per annum by certificate dated 12th of March 1834 signed by Lewis Cass – Secretary of War – Certified on the back recorded in the pension office in book E Vol 67 Page 76 by D. Brown Clerk under which I am told I failed to prove heretofore – about the close of the year 1781 orders that the men of the militia company of Captain John Johnson of Rowan should be classed into classes of 14 each and that each class should furnish a man to serve a term of 12 months as State Troops as well as he can recollect, that he having been much harassed as a minute man determined to serve this regular tour of 12 months and volunteered to serve for the class he fell in on their giving him two suits of clothes to wear whilst in service he so volunteered and was marched to Salisbury and mustered into service by Captain Charles Gordon of Wilkes North Carolina and served under him in the Battalion of Major Joel Lewis who was also from Wilkes for the whole space of 12 months when mustered into service I was measured by the standard, my age and a complete description of my person was taken down in writing and we were mustered & drilled like regulars and I made a Sergeant of this was on or about the first of the year I was employed in guarding the prisoners in Salisbury until the last of July or first of August we were then marched down into the Counties of Randolph and Chatham after the Tories Generally commanded by one Captain Fanning a then noted & celebrated Tory Captain we had no general or regular engagement but often met and exchanged a few shots with the Tory Enemy. We were stationed some time at Cox's mill on Deep River Chatham County then marched to Lindley's Mill on Haw River where we were stationed some time – thence to Brewer's mill on Haw River near the Redfield forward from whence we were engaged in routing out and keeping down the Tories for the regular British forces had left the country & it was overrun with Tories & disaffected to the United States cause at the close of the year 1782 we were marched by Captain Gordon & Major Lewis to Hillsboro and Orange County North Carolina where we were halted for a few hours – Governor Martin was then at Hillsboro. We were then marched through Hillsboro on upon Eno River to Hart's mill where we were furlough to go home & to meet at Major Lewis's House in the County of Wilkes for our discharge – from which place where I was discharged I went home and sent for my discharge in the last of January or first of February 1783 by Nicholas Chapman who obtained it for me of Major Lewis my discharge was for the Term of 12 months & signed by Major Lewis has deposed to by Nicholas Chapman – Affidavit marked (A). He further states that he may be mistaken as to the name by which

these 12 months Troops were none but this he very well recollects that he was promised 200 acres of land on Duck [?] River that after he was discharged he sold to one William Brown his right to collect his pay & gave to him my discharge to enable him to receive the pay that I never saw him afterwards & do not know what he did with my discharge but he sent me word which I got that he received \$72 & ½ in silver of my pay & that I never got the land which was promised me for Brown died & Gordon & Lewis both moved off to the west & believes they are all dead.

I was born in the County of Orange NC. I have no record of my age except one taken from a memorandum of my father's in a spelling book. I lived in Rowan County North Carolina & continued to live there during all my service & the revolutionary war. I was drafted the two first tours of duty – I was a volunteer when under Captain Johnson as a minute man – as described the third tour in this Declaration mentioned and I served as a volunteer substitute the fourth Tour of duty when I got the two suits of clothes and the promise of the bounty land. I do not now recollect the names of any of the Regular officers except General Gates, DeKalb who was killed at Gates defeat. I served under Colonel Locke the first tour, the second tour Colonel Malberry who was a regular officer had command but he had no regular Troops; In the minute service described in the 3rd tour against the Tories no higher officer ever commanded than Captain Johnson and he was the officer who encourage me to go into the 12 months service, and I left his minute service under his permission for he represented to me that I would get 200 acres of land for serving.

In the 12 months service of 1782 I went to Salisbury where Governor Martin reviewed us when we were mustered into service. In the 12 months tour I was never commanded by any higher officer than Major Lewis – the General circumstances of this campaign were we had to keep the Tories down for the British forces had left the State, but the Tories were in power and Captain was always on the alert to catch & guard them many of the Tory officers works tried at Salisbury North Carolina. I was officer of the guard who guarded Samuel Bryan, Colonel, John Hampton, Lieutenant Colonel & Nicholas White Captain, all 3 Tory officers when they were tried & condemned at March court 1782 at Salisbury North Carolina after which I marched own & continued to serve as heretofore described. I did receive a discharge signed by Major Lewis & it was disposed of as before described (this last discharge was for my last 12 months Tour). I never had a commission but was always a private.

I refer to my former declaration as to the persons to whom I am known the certificate of the clergyman and all the other testimony therein contained also to the affidavit of Nicholas Chapman marked (A) and also the affidavit of Edward Cook marked (B) both hereto annexed. I also refer to the affidavit of Amos Curtis the clergyman of my neighborhood who has moved away as appended to my first declaration.

Sworn to in open Court

S/ John Tatham, Clk

S/ Aaron Thomas

State of North Carolina Rutherford County: This 30th day of May 1836 came Nicholas Chapman before me James McNeilly a Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid and being duly sworn according to law on his oath deposes as follows to wit in That in the year 1782 he was well acquainted with Aaron Thomas now of Macon County who was then in the Service of the United States under Major Joel Lewis of Wilkes and the

Company of Charles Gordon Captain – he states that he knew said Aaron Thomas before he went into the service and after saw him in said service guarding prisoners at Salisbury North Carolina. That after his time of service was out he Nicholas Chapman at the request of said Thomas applied to and obtain for him of Major Lewis of Wilkes his written discharge which written discharge was for the term of 12 months and was dated sometime in the month of January or February 1783 – for the said Aaron Thomas had served the said term of 12 months the year preceding Nicholas Chapman lived a near neighbor to said Thomas and soon after he got home he Chapman at his request went up to Wilkes and applied for and obtained his discharge and delivered it to him Aaron Thomas.

S/ Nicholas Chapman, C his mark

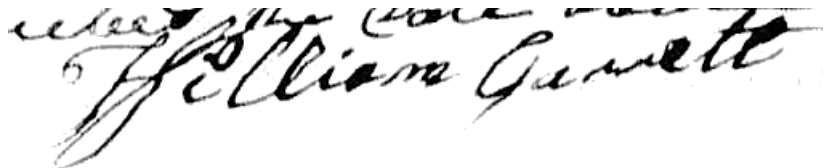
[f p. 49]

State of North Carolina Macon County: This 4th day of September 1838 came William Garrett¹ before me John Howard a Justice of the peace of the County aforesaid and being duly sworn according to law on his oath deposes as follows to wit

That in the year 1782 he was well acquainted with Aaron Thomas now of Macon County who was then in the service of the United States under Major Joel Lewis of Wilkes in the company of Charles Gordon Captain he states that he knew said Aaron Thomas at Salisbury when they went into the service either the first or middle of January 1782 and went with him to coxes mill on Deep River thence on different scouts after the Tories to Hillsborough where we were dismissed having served 12 months and I further say that the said Aaron Thomas was with me in the service of the United States for the term of 12 months and the most of the time I was with him except when we were on different scouts after the enemy we were dismissed at Hillsboro without ever receiving a written discharge in the winter of 1783.

Sworn to and subscribed the date above written before me

S/ William Garrett

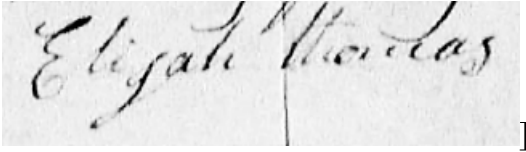
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Garrett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ William Garrett".

[f p. 17: On March 3, 1852 in Rabun County Georgia, Sarah Thomas, 81, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of Aaron Thomas, a pensioner at the rate of \$23.33 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him the 29th day of December 1797; that her husband died April 3, 1847. That she remains his widow.]

[f p. 22: copy of a marriage bond issued to Aaron Thomas and William Silvey December 29, 1797 in Rutherford County North Carolina conditioned upon the marriage of Aaron Thomas to Miss Sarah Silvey of said County.]

¹ [William Garrett S6879](#)

[f p. 15: On May 20, 1854 in Raiborn County Georgia, Elijah Thomas, gave evidence that he is the son of the late Aaron Thomas who was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$20 per annum; that his father died in the year 1847 leaving a widow who has since died; that he believes his father did not receive the full pension to which he was entitled and by this application seeks to obtain the arrearages.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elijah Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The name is written in a single line, with a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]