

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Terry W3053

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky Montgomery County} SS.

On this 13th day of Sept 1832 Personally appeared in open court before the hon. Silas W Robbins the sole and presiding Judge for the County and circuit of Montgomery now sitting Thomas Terry resident in Montgomery County and state aforesaid aged 71 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 day of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the U.S. under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He states that he was born in the State of Virginia Chesterfield County on the 11th day of Dec'r. 1761. he states that his father moved from Chesterfield to Pawatan [sic: Powhatan]. And in the 18th year of his age he states he entered the service of the U.S. in Pawatan county in the following way. He states that there were a class of men (the number he has forgotten) in that county [illegible word] to furnish a man for 18 months and I was young and somewhat anxious to try a tour in the Revolutionary army. I took what ever they had offered. And immediately he states the oath was administered by an officer whose name he has forgotten. He states that he was immediately sent to Col. Fortner's near Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] and that Col. Fortner sent him on to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] with a letter to the the Board of War directing the department to pay his expenses from Petersburg to Williamsburg which was done. And he states he immediatly joined the state garrison Regiment at that place under Col. Charles Porterfield Maj'r. Charles McGill [Charles Magill] Capt. Martin Heely Lieutenant David Man [David Mann] and Ensign Berry. He states that he remained at Williamsburgh untill the Spring of 1780 And as he belonged to the state Troops of virginia ~~he was not compelled to go out of the state~~ But such was his arder for rendering efficient and active services for his country that in the spring of the above year he volunteered for six months together with most of the Regiment to which he belonged To go on an Expedition to Charleston South Carolina that place having been besieged by the British [and surrendered 12 May 1780] We commenced our march some time in april under the same officers that he first joined at Williamsburgh. We continued our march untill we had passed Salsbury [sic: Salisbury NC] about two days travel and on hearing of the defeat of Col. A. Buford [Abraham Buford at Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] we retreated back nearly to the Virginia line at which place we halted. And again recommenced our march back to South Carolina beating back stely [steadily?] giving time for reinforcements to come on from diferent parts of the Union. He states that as they were considered as light infantry they were always in front of the Enemy watching their maneuvers. And he states that Col. Armong's regiment of cavelry [sic: Lt. Col. Charles Armand's Legion] was also along. He states the he recollects that the evening before they arived at the place on which the battle took place that there was a flag sent from Lord Cornwallis and letter destined for Ge'l. Gates's [Horatio Gates] which was then at Rugelly's Mill [sic: Rugeley's Mill SC, 15 Aug 1780] and as he was one of the guard the col took him and one more and went to the out sentry and received the letter and conveyed it to General Gates. And when he returned from the campt of General Gates we were ordered to commence our march [at 10 PM] the order of our march was rank and file Col. Armang's cavelry keeping in front we having to march some small distance from the road and the cavelry in the road. He thinks thinks that they marched something like 5 or 6 miles before we were attacked by the enemy [at about 2 AM, 16 Aug]. The attack commenced in front between the cavelry and enemy the American Cavelry having passed us on the retreat. The British cavelry came opposite us & poured in a volley on them and during this skirmish our col. [Porterfield] was wounded having had his leg broke. We however continued to retreat back to the main army and he states he joined Smallwood's Brigade [Maj. Gen. William Smallwood's 1st Maryland Brigade]. And about sunrise the Battle took place near Camden. At which General Gates had the command And after a severe contest we were defeated. We then retreated back to Hillsborough and from thence to Richmond Va and remained some short time at that place. He states that he was then ordered to go on an expedition to Portsmouth the British having landed there we proceeded nearly to the

place and on hearing that the enemy had left the place we then commenced our march back to Richmond again and arrived there without any occurrence worthy of notice. He states that some time in January or February following [5-7 Jan 1781] the British came up under [Gen. Benedict] Arnold to Richmond and burnt all the Public Buildings - after taking the possession and kept it some few days. He states that the day before the British took Richmond he slept[?] there together with six others & one sergeant as a guard to escort Col [illegible] Baggage to Col. John Coles in Albemarle [sic: Albemarle]. He states he then returned back to Richmond and continued there till the 3^d day of March 1781. and was on that day discharged by David Man which he states he sold to a man whose name he has forgotten tho there was something due him yet. He states that there was a man by the same name in the same company. He states that when he returned home his parents had moved to the county of Bedford here he lived 16 or 17 years and moved from thence to Ky in the 1794. to the county of Madison from thence to Bourbon County and there lived until about 4 years since he moved to Montgomery & there he now resides. He states he has a record of his age. He states that he has no documentary evidence of his services neither does he know of any person by whom he can prove his service He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Thomass Terry

NOTE: On 4 Dec 1843 Mary Terry applied for a pension stating that as Mary Milam she married Thomas Terry in Bedford County in 1789, and he died in Dec 1838. With her application are copies of the following documents: 1) a request dated 23 Feb 1789 from Ann Milam for a license for the marriage of her daughter, Polly, to Thomas Terry; 2) a marriage bond signed the following day with James White as surety; 3) a marriage return by Jeremiah Hatcher stating that he performed the marriage on 2 Apr 1789.