

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Biles W3928

Tabitha

fn46NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/29/10

[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 Montgomery County: January Term of the County Court 1833,

On this 7th day of January 1833 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Montgomery County now sitting Thomas Biles resident of the above County aged eighty 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 June 7th 1832,

He entered the Service of the United States In the year 1776, as well as he recollects the day and Month not recollected, He volunteered as a private Soldier under the following named Officers, Captain Hugh Montgomery of Salisbury Captain James Craig near neighbor and General Rutherford commanding Officer & served as herein stated, first volunteer as a Private Soldier for three months under Captain Hugh Montgomery the year not recollected and marched from Salisbury to Cross Creek now Fayetteville supposed to be one hundred & ten miles against the Tories that was supposed to be embodied at that place, the day previous to their arrival a Commander of a Company from another Quarter whose name is not recollected arrived there & fought the Tories below Cross Creek at a place called Cambleton [sic, Campbelltown or Campellton] on Cape Fear River or near that & beat the Tories his Captain with his men continued there sometime the length of time not recollected he then marched to Salisbury & after was discharged by Captain Hugh Montgomery, He then volunteered as a Private Soldier for three months under Captain James Craig & General Rutherford day month or year not recollected he was marched from Salisbury against the Valley Towns of the Cherokee Nation of Indians crossed the Mountains supposed to be two hundred fifty miles he was marched across the head of the Cuttaba [sic, Catawba] River to the foot of the Swanano [sic, Swannanoa] Gap there halted one day & night for the South Regiment with a Company of Warriors from the Catawba Nation of Indians that was to meet General Rutherford at that time & place the names of the South officers not recollected General Rutherford not hearing from the South Regiment left the Baggage with a guard & marched across the Swannanoa Gap for the Valley Towns on the way burnt & destroyed two small towns & everything was supposed to be of use to the Indians & he marched on to the Valley Towns the name of the Streams of water is not particularly recollected when he arrived at the Valley Towns there was orders given to destroy everything supposed to be of use to the Indians Burnt all Houses cut down the corn carried it to the River & cast it in, there was no firing except with the spies who killed and took seventeen Indians & two white men as well as he

recollects at the lower end of the Valley Towns met the South Regiment with the Catawba Company of Warriors they informed General Rutherford their arrival at the place appointed to meet in the evening of the same day he left. Saw the Baggage & guard all safe & on the next morning marched for the Valley Towns on their way had a severe fight with the Indians & beat them the number killed & wounded not recollected. The two regiments marched in different directions Home when he reached Salisbury was discharged by Captain James Craig he continued at home short time then he volunteered as a private Soldier for three months under Captain James Craig & General Rutherford the year not recollected & marched from Salisbury near the Rocky Mountain supposed to be eighty miles against the British & Tories therefore was supposed to be much stronger than General Rutherford's had no firing but with the scouts from there marched against the Tories supposed to be embodied at Ramsours Mills stated to be about eleven hundred men as well as recollected Colonel Locke commander of three hundred men he believes was stated camp near the place at daylight in the morning commenced an action against the Tories & beat them one or two hours after the Battle General Rutherford marched his men on the Ground the number killed & wounded not recollected his time of service expired he was there discharged by Captain James Craig & returned home continued short time he then turned out a Volunteer as a Private Soldier for three months under Captain James Craig & General Rutherford a day month or year [not] recollected marched from Salisbury to Mecklenburg County & stationed at Sugar Creek with General Small Wood [sic, Smallwood] it was stated that he was a Continental officer with a Troop of Regulars continued some time there the time not recollected his time of service expired was discharged by Captain James Craig and returned home he then was employed for three months with his own wagon & team in the service of the United States & went himself one trip high up in the State of Virginia & brought a load of salt from where it was deposited for the use of the Army to Salisbury he then hired a man to go with his wagon as driver he then turned out with a scouting party he states such parties was common where he resided with those that were true to their country when there was no officer with them from the commencement of the Troublesome times and continued so to the close of the War he was in no Battle more than with scouting parties as he now recollects he has no documentary evidence to prove his services & knows of but one person now living that he can prove his services by that is David Biles who resides in Rowan County above Salisbury supposed to be 40 miles or upwards & is at this time too far advanced in years & infirm to be brought to Court.

Qt. 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In the State of New Jersey in the year 1752,

Qt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. In a family Bible stated to be kept by my Father of his children's Ages

Qt. 3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In North Carolina Rowan County in the Jersey settlement five miles above Salisbury & moved from there in the year 1797 – to Montgomery County in the State of North Carolina on a farm near the Narrows of the Yadkin River & near the Head of Mountain Creek & continues to live on the same place ever since

Qt. 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. A volunteer

Qt. 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general

circumstances of your service.

Ans. General Smallwood Continental officer & his Regulars, General Rutherford, Colonel Locke, Captain Hugh Montgomery & Captain James Craig Militia officers

Qt. 6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. By Captain Hugh Montgomery & Captain James Craig, I never received a written discharge but verbally which was the custom in the back country

Qt. 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

[Ans.] William Harris, David Pennington, Francis Locke, David Kindal & George Smith

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, before the Court now sitting

S/ Thos. Biles

[George Shankle, a clergyman, and Robert Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn . p. 12: on October 22, 1846 in Stanley County North Carolina, Tabitha Biles, 81, applied for a widow's pension as the widow of Thomas Biles, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$40 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him in Rowan County North Carolina in 1784; that her husband died in Stanley County North Carolina on December 31st 1844.]

[fn p. copy of the marriage bond issued to Thomas Biles and Charles Biles on March 8, 1783, to secure the marriage of Thomas Biles to Tabitha Marbury.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 12 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]