

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Ragains (Ragain) W4502 Elizabeth Ragains f57NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 3/5/17

[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.]

[p 15: images posted on Ancestry.com of the following document are must more legible than those posted on Fold3.com]

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 3rd day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Thomas Stuart, Judge of the Circuit Court of Williamson County, Tennessee in open court now sitting, Thomas Ragains, a resident of said county and state aged 81 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated.

I enlisted as a regular soldier on the first day of February 1775 in my 22nd year of age while residing in a small village named Cross Creek, now Fayetteville, North Carolina, into Captain Roan's [Robert Rowan's] company in which Neal McAllister was 1st [Lieutenant?], Robert Varner was 2nd Lieutenant and Robert Counsel was Ensign; Andrew Beard was 1st, John Warner 2nd, myself 3rd and Michael Delaney 4th Sergeant. I also recollect the following named individuals, composing part of said company to wit: Frank Anderson, John Jones, John White, and Joseph his Brother. We lay at Fayetteville some time; during which time I was sent with an express to Captain Moore then quartered in Dupelin [sic, Duplin] County, that a great body of Tories was marching to attack him. I then returned to my company. We were marched by Captain Roan from Fayetteville to Wilmington, North Carolina where we lay about two weeks, thence we were marched to Charleston, S Carolina where Cornwallis and Clinton had arrived with a large body of troops from England. This was in the summer of 1776. White, Colonel of the first regiment of the North Carolina troops took command of us at Wilmington and marched us to Charleston where we fell under General Lee [Charles Lee]. While at Charleston in the skirmish near the Light house I was wounded in the left thigh. Some short time after this skirmish the British under Cornwallis made a violent attack [June 28, 1776] on the Fort on Sullivan's Island and they were repulsed with considerable loss and only five men on our side. From Charleston (there being a call for men to go to Saint Augustine in the Province of Florida) I entered Captain Hall Dickson's [sic, Henry Dixon's] company as a volunteer regular soldier, with the same individuals, and all the sergeants who had composed Captain Roan's company, Colonel White commanding the first regiment of North Carolina troops, taking command of us, marched us towards Saint Augustine.¹ We went through Purysburg, Savannah and continuing our march to Fort Barrington in Georgia; there we joined General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh] commanding the first regiment of Virginia troops with some others and he took command of the whole of us. We continued our march until we arrived in the Province of Florida and hearing the British had

¹ First Florida expedition: Fall of 1776 <http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution09.html>

taken possession of Saint Augustine, we halted and marched back by Fort Barrington where all the troops but the North Carolina regiment, of whom I was one, under Colonel White were left and we were marched to Sunbury [sic, Sunbury] where we lay some months. From thence we were marched to Wilmington, a short time before we arrived there my tour of two years for which I had entered expired, but I remained with the regiment until we arrived. I got my discharge signed by Captain Dixon or Murphey for two years service. This discharge I lost out of my britches pocket or it was stolen.

I next volunteered while living in Orange County, I think in August 1780, into Captain George Hodge's company. We left Orange County marching into Chatham [County] where we joined another company and continued our march to Pedee [River] where we joined General Arrington's [sic, William Henry Harrington's?] regiment of horse troops. There we lay some time; frequently skirmishing with the Tories. We marched with General Arrington to Cheraw hills, in S Carolina where we lay some time. This was two months tour. I next, while living in the same county, entered Captain Patterson's [James Patterson's] horse troop company. I served in this tour also two months against the Tories who were then ravaging Chatham, Guilford, and Randolph Counties. In this tour we pursued and came near to capturing one Colonel Fannel or Fannon [sic, David Fanning], a Tory notorious for his ravages. I then returned home where, in a few days, I entered Colonel Maybin's [sic, probably Robert Mebane's] troops, we marched to Lindley's Mills where a body of Tories had collected under this same Fanning, we routed them, taking 25 prisoners whom we left at Mr. Lindley's house. They were all wounded. This was a two month's tour. I received no discharges for any of my services. About this time I entered the first of February 1781, into Captain Bluff's² Company, a Continental Captain. I entered this company as a volunteer. Colonel Washington [William Washington] and Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] were then with General Lee's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] army. We marched and joined their troops and I continued with them until the battle of Guilford in which I fought under them. In this battle the British kept the field but we whipped them. This battle was on 14th of March 1781 [sic, March 15, 1781]. I then returned home. I was acquainted with most if not all of the officers above named. I got no discharge for my militia service.

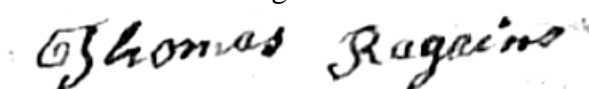
I was born in New Jersey and the county I do not recollect. I, at an early age, left there and settled in Cumberland County, North Carolina. I then settled in Orange County in 1775 where I lived until 1812 when leaving that county I settled in 1813 in Rutherford County, Tennessee where I lived until 1817 when I came to this county (Williamson) where I have been living ever since and now live. I have a record of my age taken from my Father's family bible which I presume is in North Carolina.

I am acquainted with Thomas Hardimon, Robert Davis, Robert Hulme and Daniel McMahan who can certify to my character as a Revolutionary soldier and the latter whom can certify to some of my services as stated and the only man I know of in this state who can do it. I was born in 1753. I have no documentary evidence except what has been mentioned.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity whatever, except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. This day and year aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court 3rd Sept 1832

S/ Thomas Ragains



S/ P Hay, Clk &c

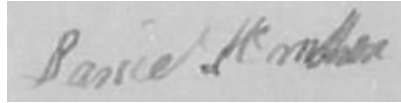
2 The War Department summary lists this name as "Buff or Bruff"

[Robert Davis, a clergyman, Robert Hulme and Daniel McMahon gave standard supporting affidavits.]

[p 19]

I Daniel McMahon do certify that I have been acquainted with Thomas Ragains who has signed the above Declaration for 50 years. I saw him frequently while in the service against the Tories he had the reputation of a brave and daring soldier, in those days. I was out with him on one expedition. I know he has been reputed to have been a soldier of the revolution and that he is a man of veracity.

S/Daniel McMahon³

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Daniel McMahon".

[p 21]

The further declaration of Thomas Ragains for a pension --

Some time before I entered Captain Buff's company on the 1st of February 1781 and after I had served under Captain James Patterson I served a three months tour under Captain Patterson again in a company of horse troops commanded by Col. Dudley [Guilford Dudley] against the Tories. I lived at the time in Orange County North Carolina. We were in the frequent pursuit of a Colonel Fanning who was a celebrated Tory in Counties of Orange, Cumberland, Chatham and Johnson [sic, Johnston] in all & thro' all of which we marched. This service was in the latter part of 1780. We started in the latter part of September of that year and after marching a considerable time we marched to a place called the Raft Swamp near the State of North Carolina. From this place we returned home. The tour escaped my memory at the time of drawing the month this original declaration and therefore I have inserted it now. Sworn to and subscribed on this 22nd day of August 1833 in Franklin Williamson County at a Circuit Court held for the said County in open Court the Honorable Thomas Stuart Judge presiding.

Sworn to in open Court 22nd of August 1833.

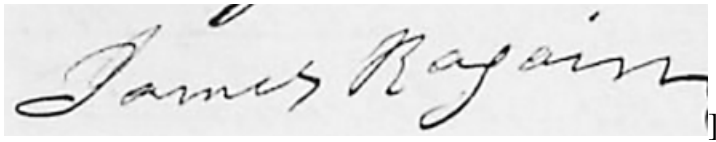
S/ Thomas Ragains

S/ P. Hay, Clk &c.

[p 11: On August first 1850 in Marshall County Tennessee, Elizabeth Ragain, 86, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating she is the widow of Thomas Ragain a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him February 24, 1776 as well as she recollects: that he died August 24, 1834; and she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 3: On February 23, 1852 in Marshall County Tennessee, James Ragain gave testimony that he is the 7th child of Thomas and Elizabeth Ragain having been born in April 1792 according to his father's family record; that he, the affiant, was born in North Carolina in Orange County about 8 miles from Hillsboro; that his father moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in 1812 and remained there until his death in his 60th year of his age; that according to his father's family record the following is a memorandum of the births of his parents children: Thomas born March 1779, John born March 1781, David born May 1783, Elizabeth born July 1785, Susanna born September 1787, William born September 1789, Samuel born February 1795, Hannah born March 1797, Joshuay born May 1799, Gilbert born August 1802.

³ [Daniel McMahon S4199](#)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Ragain". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "James" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Ragain". The signature ends with a small flourish.

[Summary from War Department documents: Applicant born in New Jersey in 1753. Married in Cumberland County, North Carolina February 14 or 24, 1776 or 1777, Elizabeth Featherkille, he died August 24, 1834 in Williamson County, Tennessee; she was allowed pension on an application executed August 1850, while a resident of Marshall County, Tennessee aged 86 years. Their children: Thomas, March 1779; John, March 1781; David, May 1783; Elizabeth, July 1785; Susanna, September 1787; William, September 1789; James, March 1792; Samuel February 1795; Hannah, March 1797; Joshua, May 1799; Gilbert, August 1802.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in both the North Carolina Continental line and the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]