

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Bowls (Bowles) W5857 Nancy fn68NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/24/10

[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 County of Orange: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term A.D. 1832

On this 27th day of November A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Duncan Cameron, Cutlett [?] Campbell and David Yarborough Esquires Justices of the Peace in and for said County now holding said Court, Thomas Bowles a resident of said County aged about sixty-nine 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 A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as hereinafter stated: In the winter of 1780-1 he was drafted in the said County of Orange for three months service and joined the Company of Captain Guinn [sic, Gwinn or Quinn?] at the High Rock on Haw River, about 30 miles from Hillsboro in said County, from thence he marched with Guinn's company to Guilford Court House & there joined the Army of General Greene before the battle there with the troops under Cornwallis. While the two armies were engaged in battle, he performed duty as one of the guard that had charge of the baggage wagons. At the close of the battle at Guilford Court House, he marched with Guinn's company that night to Troublesome Iron Works, about fifteen miles North of the battleground. From thence he marched with Guinn's company & General Greene's forces to Ramsay's Mills [Ramsey's Mills] on Deep River in the County of Chatham and was there discharged by Captain Guinn, said discharge has been lost.

About the close of the spring or beginning of the Summer of that same year to wit 1781 he was drafted for a service of twelve months from the Militia of the County of Orange aforesaid but was taken sick with the smallpox soon afterwards, and before he could join his Company commanded by Captain Donoho [Thomas Donoho] he remained at home, on furlough until he recovered, so as to be able to travel & performed duty, sometime early in September following (as well as he now recollects). He then proceeded to Hillsboro & joined some soldiers of the Continental line and there remained with them, in service, for eight or ten days, when the whole of them, were taken prisoners together with Governor Burke,¹ then the chief Magistrate of North

¹ September 12, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/hillsborough.htm>

Carolina by a Tory force commanded by Colonel Fanning [David Fanning], and taken under guard to Wilmington in North Carolina & there placed for safekeeping on board of a British Brig. As he and the other prisoners were on their way to Wilmington under guard, as aforesaid, they witnessed the battle between the Whigs & Tories at Lindley's Mills² about 18 miles Southwest of Hillsborough being kept under a strong guard during the battle. He and the other prisoners remained confined on board of said British Brig at Wilmington for about 3 months, and then sent by water to the City of Charleston in South Carolina, & there put on board of a British prison ship, – the militia and Continental troops British were separated and put in different ships. On board of the prison ships at Charleston, he & the other prisoners remained in close confinement until they were regularly and exchanged; making a period of 13 months and 10 days, from and after the day that he and they were captured and taken from Hillsboro in North Carolina by Colonel Fanning as aforesaid. From Charleston after the exchange, he proceeded to General Greens Camp at the Round "O" about 40 or 50 miles off and there was discharged by Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] of North Carolina. That for the purpose of drawing his pay through Colonel Lytle, his agent, he, after his return to Orange, delivered his discharge to Colonel Lytle which he has never seen said; Colonel Lytle having died soon afterwards at Hillsboro. That before the death of Colonel Lytle, he received offer for his services in the Army, a Ticket for £8.15 and cash of £3 amounting in value to \$23.50 and the said sum of \$23.50 is all he ever received for his Revolutionary services.

The said Thomas Bowles further declares that he was born in the County or town of Lancaster in Pennsylvania, when he was about 18 months old, his parents emigrated with him to the County of Orange in the State of North Carolina, where he has resided ever since and still resides.

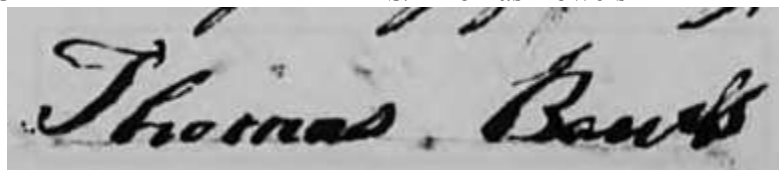
Within is appended the original certificate of the sickness and inability to March, obtained by the said Thomas Bowles bearing date the 21st of August A.D. 1781 after he was drafted for the 12 months & before he was taken prisoner at Hillsboro, signed by & in the handwriting of John Ray Esquire, then an acting Justice of the Peace in the County of Orange, who resided seven miles northeast of Hillsboro, in 1781 and from thence till the end of his death which was in 1828 or thereabouts.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ J. Taylor, CC

S/ Thomas Bowles

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Thomas Bowles" and is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

James Allison, residing in the said County of Orange, hereby certifies that he is well acquainted with Thomas Bowles, who hath subscribed & sworn to the above Declaration – that he has known him from their childhood, that he considers him a about 69 years of age, that he has always sustained a fair character – that he knows of his being drafted [this document ends with this sheet in both the HeritageQuest and Footnote versions of this file.]

² September 13, 1871 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/lindleysmill.htm>

[fn p. 62]

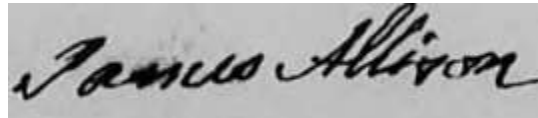
State of North Carolina Orange County: SS

On this 21st day of May 1835 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the Peace in & for Orange County aforesaid James Allison Senior³ in the 74th year of his age a Resident Citizen of the foregoing County & a United States pensioner – who being first duly qualified maketh oath that in the war of the Revolution he was well acquainted with Thomas Bowls of the aforesaid County now an applicant for a pension in the year 1780 or 1781 or thereabout. I was well acquainted with Thomas Bowls and to my knowledge Thomas Bowls was Drafted and was taken in Hillsboro as a prisoner by the Tories and taken to Charlestown and was gone near about 12 months.

Sworn and subscribed on this 21st day of May 1835 before me

S/ Asl. Moore, JP

S/ James Allison

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

[fn p. 66]

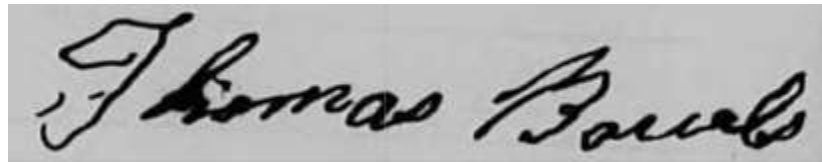
Supplemental testimony to the Declaration of Thomas Bowles of Orange County

State of North Carolina – On this the __ day of May 1835 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for the aforesaid County of Orange, Thomas Bowles, a resident of the aforesaid County now in his 73rd year, who maketh oath in due form of law that he was drafted for a tour of 3 months in the militia in the United States Service in the winter of 1781, and was put under command of a Captain Thompson – under whose command he remained some time – afterwards was marched to the High Rock on Haw River and there put under Captain Guinn – and was thence under General Greene till discharged at Ramsey's Mill on 7th of April following having served the United States just 3 months in this tour – 2nd. Drafted for 12 months in the Spring of that year or Summer but having the smallpox was not able to march with his company (Donoho's) – but as soon as he got able to perform duty went to Hillsboro and entered the service with the Continentals then stationed in Town – and continued in the Service till Town was surprised by Colonel Fanning about the 12th day of September 1781, and was in Town in service only about 2 weeks before he was made prisoner – making in all 16 months & 26 days.

Test

S/ James Forrest, JP

S/ John Bowls

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

[fn p. 19: copy of the marriage bond issued in Orange County North Carolina to Thomas Bowles & Robert Davis on the 16th day of May 1791 for the marriage of Thomas Bowles to Anne Davis.]

[fn p. 9: on November 26, 1847 in Orange County North Carolina, Nancy Bowles, 91, filed for a

³ [James Allison S6491](#)

widow's pension stating that she is the widow of Thomas Bowles; that she married him in the year 1791; that she has in original family record which is hereto annexed which reads as follows to wit: "Thomas Bowles was born August 12th 1792

Jane Bowles was born January 16th 1795

Elizabeth Bowles was born April 30th 1796

Ann Bowles was born June 7th 1799

Sarah Bowles was born February 13, 1801;"

that her husband died January 22, 1847; and that she remains his widow.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months and 24 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]