

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Reynolds (Runnells) W6104
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization and punctuation partly corrected]

I Thomas Runnells of Lawfull Age Testify and say that I was Born In the Town of Queenstown In Queene Ann [sic: Queen Annes] County In the State of Mareland In the United States of America In the year of Our Lord Seventeen hundred and Sixty Two and I Lived In the Same County Untill I Inlisted In the Armeey of the United In the year 1778 Under General William Smallwood Brigadier General and William Richarson [sic: Col. William Richardson] was our Corlen and Maj Egelston was our Mayour and John Hawkins was my Captin Mr Birch was our Leutenat I Belonged to the 5th Marey Land Regiment and I seved In the same Regiment Til the year 1781 I was Taken In the Battle of Camden in Carolinan under the command of Genl [Horatio] Gates and I was carried to Charleton South Carolinan a prisoner of ware and there Cep about sixteene months and then I got exchange and returned back and joined the camp and shortly after I got my discharge for I only inlisted for three years I was in the battles at Monmouth June 28th 1778 and in a number sgurmishes and I recieved a wound in the Camden battle after I receivd my discharge I lived in Queene Ann County till the year 1785 I then followed the sea for a living till the year 1787 I then hapend to fall in the provinces of Novesquoscie and there I married a wife and had a family of children and lived thaire till the year 1825 I then removed to the town of Portsmouth in the State of New hampshire in the United States of America where I now reside and I am varey pour and disenable and am not able to gett to the South to find any of my officers to enable me to prove my claime as intiitled to a pension from the Govement of the United States of America In Dutey Bound I will Ever Pray that I might Abtaine that Justes that My Case demands

Thomas hisXmark Runnells

Rockingham [NH] Court of Common Pleas January Term 1828

Personally appeared before us two of his Majestys Justices of Peace for the County of Cape Breton and province of Novascotia-

Bejamin Critchett and made oath that he knew Thomas Reynolds to have served in the Military Service of the United States of America from 29th day of June 1778 untill the year 1781 in 5th Mary Land Regm't. commanded by Col'l. Wm. Richardson First Brigade Command by Brigadier General Wm Smallwood

the deponent further saith that he was himself in the same Regm't. at the same time for the space of three years - [signed] Benj'n Critchett

Sworn to the above before us at the Gut of Canso this 10th day of July 1827

I, Thomas Runnells now of Portsmouth New Hampshire, where I have lived about Six years past, Testify and say, that I am an American Citizen, born in Queen-Anns County, Queens-Town, in the State of Maryland, and Inlisted as a Private Soldier in the American Army, in the Revolutionary War, on or about the 1st of April 1778 at said Queens-Town, and joined the Army early in the month of May in the same year, in the 5th Maryland Regiment Commanded by Lieu't Col'l. Richardson, and in Cap'n. John Hawkins Company of Foot of the Maryland line, and continued in the service of the United States, in the Army, from the time I joined the army until about the fall of 1782 when I was honorably discharged by Cap'n John Hawkins, and my discharge was signed by General William Smallwood, which discharge I have lost, and further Testify and say that I was in the Battle of Monmouth 28th June 1778 and in the Battle of Camden on or about May or June [sic: 16 Aug] in the year 1780 under General Gates, where I was taken as a Prisoner, and confined at Charlestown South Carolina, on board of a Prison Ship for Four Months, & fourteen months in the Barracks and then I received my discharge as before mentioned, and returned home, and am now at the age of Sixty Eight years, and am poor and destitute, and need the assistance of my Govement, having a wife and Three children, one of which is now with me, and in the Alms-House, belonging to the Town of Portsmouth, my wife,

and myself, both being very infirm, and not able to labour for our support, we were received into the Alms-House on the 24th day of January 1831 to be taken care of by the Town of Portsmouth, and we were helped by the Town, for several years before, not having any property whatever of our own, or any means of subsistence. and I further Testify and say that about Four years since I made application to Peter Chadwick Esquire Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, then sitting in Portsmouth, made a declaration & made oath to it, in Open Court, and had the deposition of Benjamin Critchett, who was a non commissioned officer in the army of the Revolution, and who was with me in the same Regiment and Company, and who now lives in Nova Scotia, which Deposition with my other Papers, were sent on to Washington to the care of the Hon^{ble}. Levi Woodbury, and which Papers were delivered, or caused to be delivered by him, at the War Office at Washington, and I received a Letter from the War Department soon after, which mentioned the Circumstance that the Papers had been received, & my name was Entered, and the Papers Filed at the War Office, since which, I have heard nothing more respecting the business, and I now wish to make application to the War Department, to know if I have been or am likely to be placed on the Revolutionary Pension List, as a Private Soldier, and if my Papers were satisfactory to the War Department, or if anything further is wanted, in order to entitle me to be placed on the Pension List, as I think my services in defence of my Country give me a claim on my Government's further Generosity. [signed] Thomas Runnels
 Portsmouth February 7th 1831.

State of New Hampshire }
 County of Rockingham } Ss.

On this ninth day of July, 1832, personally appeared before me, Thomas Runnels a resident of Portsmouth in the 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7 1832: - that he enlisted in Army of the United States in the year 1778, with Captain John Hawkins and served in the 1st Battalion of the 5th Regiment [sic: 5th Regiment of the 1st Battalion] of the Maryland line under the following named Officers: viz the said Capt John Hawkins, Colonel Richardson, afterwards Colo. [Thomas] Woolford; That he left the service in the year 1782: That he first enlisted for nine months and before that term expired, he enlisted for three years, under the same Officers; That when he entered the service, he resided in Queen Anne's County on the Eastern shore of Maryland; That he was engaged at the Battle of Monmouth, at the battle of Camden, under the command of General Gates, when he was taken prisoner in the year 1780 and that he was exchanged in the year 1782 when he was discharged: - That he marched through New York, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia and through the Carolinas until he was captured at Camden aforesaid; with his Colonel, Woolford, who was wounded: - He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

That about five years since he made application to the Secretary of War, and made his declaration in open Court, to obtain the provisions of the act of March 18th 1818 and was refused, because at the time of the passage of that act, he resided in Nova Scotia: - That since that application to the War department, he has repeatedly petitioned Congress, and an act for his relief, he has been informed by an Hon^{ble} Senator from this State, now Secretary of the Navy [Levi Woodbury], has twice passed the House of Representatives but failed in the Senate; and that al his papers, he has no doubt, are now in one or the other house of Congress to which he begs leave to refer: Thomas hisXmark Runnels

Land Office; Annapolis, August 13th 1832.

Sir;

Yours of the 8th Inst't. was received; In reply, I have to state, that on examination of the pay and Muster rolls in this office, I do not find the name of Thomas Runnels upon any of said rolls; — I find the name of one Thomas Reynolds on the Muster rolls, who appears to have enlisted in Capt'n. Hawkins Company, in the 5th Maryland Regiment, on the 10th of May 1779, for and during the War, and on the 16th of August 1780, was missing. I am inclined to believe that

this is the same person that is now an applicant for a pension under the act of the 7th of June 1832, as I have frequently noticed, that some of the old soldiers spell their names differently from what it appears upon the muster rolls. I have therefore deemed it necessary to send you a certificate; - his name does not appear upon any of the pay rolls.

I am very respectfully, yr. ob't. s't George G. Brewer
J. L. Edwards, Esq'r. [Commissioner of Pensions]
P.S. I herewith return the declaration. G.G.B.

State of New-Hampshire }
County of Rockingham S.S. }

On this fourteenth day of August AD 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature now sitting in Exeter Thomas Runnels a resident of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham and State of New-Hampshire Aged over Seventy 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year [blank] with [blank] and served in the [blank] Regiment of the [blank] line, under the following named Officers: [blank]

I Thomas Runnels of Portsmouth in the County of Rockingham and State of New-Hampshire, where I have lived for more than Seven years past and now of the age of over Seventy years was born in Queens-Town Queen-Anns County, State of Maryland. Testify and say that I entered as a Private Soldier in the War of the Revolution, in the American Army, in the year 1778 on or about the first of April of that year at said Queens-Town in Queen-Anns County State of Maryland and under the following named officers

Viz't. I was in the first of my Entering the Army of the United States Drafted to serve in the Continental Army for the term of Nine Months, at Queens-Town, Queen-Anns County in the State of Maryland, on or about the 1st of April 1778 and joined the Army early in the month of May in the same year, and in the 5th Maryland Regiment Commanded by Lieu't Col'l. Richardson, and in Cap'n. John Hawkin's company of Foot of the Maryland line, of United States troops, and before my term of Nine months as a drafted Soldier had expired, I Enlisted into the Continental army for Three years, to serve in the same Company and Regiment, and I well recollect that General William SmallWood was the Commanding General when I first Entered the army. I was afterwards in the Battle of Monmouth on the 28th of June 1778. General Washington was then at said Battle Commander in Chief. After the Battle of Monmouth the American Army had Orders to march to Brunswick Plains, which was our headquarters, and there our army celebrated the 4th of July and the Battle of Monmouth. we tarried there some time, and then marched for White Plains, where the army remained the greater part of the Summer to guard the Lines. and when the army left there, we march'd to a place call'd Bond-Brook [sic: not Bound Brook but Middlebrook NJ], we there built Hutts to accommodate the army for winter quarters. At Bond-Brook I got a Furlough to go home and join the recruiting party for about two months, and then returned and joined the army at Butter-Milk Falls in the State of New-York, and there assisted in building Forts and making Breast-Works. I recollect that General Waines [sic: Anthony Wayne's] Light Infantry took Stoney-Point in the state of New-York in the Summer of 1779 [Stony Point NY, 15 July]. In the winter of the year 1780, I recollect I was with a Detachment of the army ordered to Stattin-Island under the command of General Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling] to attack the Fort and Block-House there, then in possession of the British, but we did not succeed in the attack [raid on Staten Island NY, 14 Jan 1780], and march'd back to Elizabeth Town and then to Morristown to our winter quarters, and remained there until the 16th of April 1780 when we opened our campaign and march'd to the Southward with an intention to relieve Charlestown South Carolina, which place the British were then besieging, but before we could get to their relief Charleston surrendered to the British by Capitulation [12 May 1780], and the British Army met that part of our Army that were going to the relief of Charlestown and gave the American Army Battle at Camden, or otherwise call'd the Battle of the Pine Trees, in the month of June in the year 1780. General Gates was our Commander in Chief in said battle, and the American Army partly escaped, part were killed and wounded, and a part were taken prisoners. I well recollect that the Militia Generals that were in the Battle of Camden were General's Maxwell

and Sumpter [sic: see note below]. The prisoners that were taken at said Battle were carried to Charlestown South Carolina, and I was among them and was confined there for about a year and a half, a part of which time on board a Prison Ship, and a part of the time in Barracks made use of for that purpose with a yard round them Fenced, and I recollect that I never got any supplies for Cloathing during the whole time of my confinement as a prisoner of war, except one Dollar in money and our allowance of Provisions for a part of the time was very short and not good. And as soon as I got released from my confinement as a prisoner of war at Charlestown South Carolina I returned to the Regiment in the army to which I belonged. I do not exactly remember the name of the place where that part of the American Army where then stationed, and there applied for my discharge and obtained it, my term of Enlistment being out, and returned home, and I have been so unfortunate as to lose my Certificate of discharge, but I well recollect that said Certificate of Discharge was signed by General William Smallwood. And I cannot now find any Officer or Soldier living, that served in the army with me, if there are any such now living they are in such parts of the country as are unknown to me. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Thomas hisXmark Runnels

State of Maine

On this first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty nine personally appeared before the Hon Ashur Ware Judge of the U. S. for Maine District Elizabeth Runnels a resident of Portland County of Cumberland and state aforesaid aged sixty seven years and upwards who upon her oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed July 29th 1848.

And this declarant states that she is the widow of Thomas Runnels who was a pensioner of the United States under the Act of 1832 and drew a stipend in virtue of said act at the rate of eighty dollars per annum. And this declarant states that her said husband Thomas Runnels was a native of Queen Ann's County Maryland and a resident of said County during the time of the Revolutionary war. This declarant states that she has heard her said husband say that he entered the service about the time he was sixteen years of age and continued in the service about five years. This declarant further states that she has heard her husband say that he was at one time taken prisoner and she believe it was at the battle of Monmouth. This declarant has heard her husband speak of battles in which he fought and in one of which he was slightly wounded by a sabre cut on the side of his head. She believes he was in the battle at Camden South Carolina and also at the battle of the Cowpens [sic: 17 Jan 1781]. She has heard him say that he was in a skirmish at a place called Lisbon town [sic: probably Elizabeth town NJ] some time during the war. Her husband was first placed on the pension roll in the State of New Hampshire and resided in Portsmouth at the time.

And this declarant further states she was a native of a place called Penobscot in the State of Maine and that her father's name was Joseph McDaniel and a Scotch man by birth. That at or about the time she was five years old her father removed from Penobscot to Pictou Nova Scotia where she resided till her marriage. She further states that she was married to Thomas Runnels on the 26th of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine (1799) by the Rev'd James McGregor, and that her said husband Thomas Runnels was at that time thirty nine years of age and that he died in Portland Maine on the 12th July 1846 and that she has continued a widow ever since.

Elizabeth herXmark Runnels

State of Maine

Cumberland SS. On this 21st day of February AD 1857 personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and State, Elizabeth Reynolds aged 67 years, who being duly sworn according to law doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed May 15 AD 1828.

And this declarant states that she is the widow of Thomas Reynolds (sometimes called Runnells) late of Portland deceased. She states that her late husband was a resident of Queen Ann's County, State of Maryland in the time of the Revolutionary War. She has heard her said

husband say that he enlisted and served for during the war; - that he served in Capt Hawkins Company in the fifth Maryland Regt as a private - that he was taken prisoner at the battle of Camden near Charleston South Carolina in August 1780 and was kept in captivity for a long time and was exchanged for some of the captured [on 19 Oct 1781] troops of Cornwallis - that he was so worn out with hardships and sufferings while a prisoner of war, that he was unfit for field duty after his exchange, and was then transferred to the Invalid Regiment and was employed for the residue of the war in guarding prisoners and taking care of Forts and Magazines. This declarant refers to her former declaration for the benefit of the acts of July 19, 1848 for proof of marriage and that she is the widow of the said Thomas Reynolds, and also to the declaration of her late husband for the benefit of the Act of 1832. And this declarant further states that her said husband Thomas Reynolds, died at Portland on the 12 July 1846 and that she is still a widow. Elizabeth herXmark Reynolds

NOTES:

Instead of militia General "Maxwell" at the Battle of Camden, Reynolds may have meant the NC militia General Richard Caswell. Gen. Thomas Sumter was not in that battle, but was engaged nearby.

On 4 Jan 1837 Thomas Runnells applied to have his pension transferred from Portsmouth NH to Portland ME, where he intended to live with his children. The widow's application was supported by a deposition on 5 Jan 1850 by her oldest child, Ann Morrison, 49. The complete file includes other documents that provide further details regarding the family.