

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ambrose Thacker W6264

Molly

f79VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/21/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Fentress County: On this 7th day of November 1832 personally appeared before me James Campbell Justice of the peace for the County of Fentress aforesaid being a member of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for said County which court of which I am a member and sitting is a court of record, Ambrose Thacker a resident citizen of the County of Fentress aforesaid aged, as he believes, eighty-seven years according to Tradition having no record of his age and after being 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 seventh of June A.D. 1832.

That owing to his Extreme old age and infirmity that he is unable to go to any court of record and has for this reason called a Justice to take his Declaration at his own house in said County, he states that he entered the service of the United States a Listed [enlisted] Soldier in the revolutionary soldier [sic] under a certain Captain George Thompson a regular officer he enlisted at Albemarle Court house in the State of Virginia the precise time not recollected but it was in the spring season & believed to be in the year 1775 he enlisted for two years under said Captain and marched off from said County under said Captain in a few days after by Enlistment there was another 80 men marched off at the same time counting officers and musicians Warren Cash was Ensign and Joseph Biby Lieutenant Moses Webb Drummer we marched to Williamsburg Virginia and stayed there a few days and then we joined some small forces and there we took water in a vessel with orders to go to Cambridge where we were to join headquarters. We went within 20 or 30 miles of Cambridge by water and landed at a place he cannot designate to any satisfaction, the reason we took land was through fear of the British as danger was apprehended that their ships would come on us awares and our force being small we went from thence to the near Cambridge and there found General Washington's Army when we arrived there Colonel Rutherford was our Colonel, we stayed at Cambridge but a short time there was some British vessels there but they left there and we followed on toward where it was supposed they would try to land – and at some 30 or 40 miles from Cambridge or thereabout some of the British landed and others were trying [to] land and they saw Washington's forces and beat off from the shore in their vessels and after making ourselves ready and preparing for that purpose we went on towards Stony Point, when we arrived at a place near Stony Point being some miles from that place the precise distance not recollected by this applicant, it was but a few miles from said place, at which place this applicant witnessed all the feelings that an approaching fight must necessarily produce on those that are about to partake in its dangers, it being understood by us that the British were landing as they were trying to land and a great many of them did I and we fired on them and they still continued to land, and a great many landed and while they were still landing we tried to drive them all from Landing and we fired on them and they fired on us and

they drove us back, there was some killed and wounded on both sides. We retreated from them and camped close to Stony Point and in a few days I was in the battle at Stony Point and there our Lieutenant Joseph Biby was badly wounded in the heel and leg but finally got well. Our Captain that I started with from Albemarle County Virginia took the smallpox at Cambridge and we left him there and he afterwards died & when we left Cambridge I was put under another Captain named John Thompson no relation to my first Captain as I supposed. I understood he lived somewhere Northward though I do not know where, at the end of my first two years which I served under the same Colonel Rutherford, and Captain John Thompson, I then enlisted for two years more and served the same out under the same Colonel Rutherford and Captain Thompson. I enlisted the second time as soon as my first Time was out at a place where we camped near the Delaware River I don't know what State I was then, before I had quite finish my second Tower [tour] I agreed and became enlisted a third time for two years more making six years I served the same out under the same Colonel Rutherford and Captain John Thompson when my three Terms of enlistment were expired making six years close service and at which time my said Captain John Thompson insisted that I should stand as a listed soldier seven months longer and I done so and served seven months more under my same Colonel and my same Captain. I was discharged finally from service in Louisa County Virginia at Colonel Boswell's honary [sic]. I received my discharge from my same Captain John Thompson for six years and seven months close servitude General Washington was at the place where I was finally discharged he was then going on towards York as I understood & don't recollect the precise time I was discharged but I think it was in the month of August or September and about a short time before I heard Corn Wallis [Cornwallis] [had been] taken [October 19, 1781] when I heard Wallis was taken I was then in Albemarle County Virginia where I first started from, the most of Time of my services was North of Virginia in the New England states and in the Northern states. I did not know always when I got out of one state into another. I was in the battle at Kings bridge [January 17, 1777]. I was at the taking Burgoyne [October 7, 1777 the Army was divided into three parts one part under Washington the other General Lee and the other I do not know who commanded. I was then under General Lea [sic], I was in the Battle at the White Plains [October 28, 1776] under General Washington I was at the battle at Flat bush [Battle of Flatbush, 22, August 22 – 23, 1776]. General Washington was not there when the battle was fought we were nearly surrounded by the enemy at that place and we had to run and rushed through the Enemy's Lines and forced through with assistance of our arms. General Washington came with reinforcements when we were on retreat we met him when we were retreating and I saw him myself. I do not recollect who was our principal officer during the fight. I do not know the number of my Regiment I think I did know while I was in the service but my recollection has left me in them particulars there was so long a time of my servitude that a great many things I believe has escaped my recollection and some times I can recollect more than I can at other times. I know of [no] person living by whom I can prove my services or any part thereof. I have not known whether I was within the provisions of the law for soldiers or that I could get on the right Track obtain the benefit of the act of Congress until of late I have been informed that I could. I have in some way lost my discharge and have no documentary proof. I hereby relinquish Every Claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the State in the United States.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this seventh day of November 1832

S/ James Campbell, JP

S/ Ambros Thacker



[f p 67]

State of Tennessee Fentress County: On this 13th day of May 1833 personally appeared before me James Campbell one of the Justices of the Court of pleas & quarter sessions for the County of Fentress & State of Tennessee, which court wind sitting is a court of Record, Ambrose Thacker a resident citizen of said County – a very old man he being unable to attend court from bodily infirmity, and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say. That at the time of making the original Declaration he then knew of no person by whom he could prove his services, but before the time of being sworn to his original Declaration he sent to Captain George Helm a citizen of the County of Fentress aforesaid who was in the receipt of a Pension and is now receiving a Pension for services as a regular Soldier of the Revolution, and received a Ticket from him stating that he Helm had seen applicant in the service, but that he knew not whether this applicant was a soldier in the Regular Line or not and that all he knew was that he saw him in service, this applicant was informed and believed said witness would do him no good, applicant has since the arranging of his original Declaration found out that a certain Thomas Kindred¹ whom he understood lives in Morgan County East Tennessee about 60 miles from him who applicant well knew in Albemarle County Virginia before and after the end of the Revolutionary war by whom he can prove as he has no doubt his entering into the service an [sic, and] many other circumstances of a consumptive and corresponding nature, this applicant states that some few years ago that said Thomas Kindred was at his house in said County of Fentress and stated that he then on his way to Kentucky and told applicant that he lived someplace in East Tennessee, but applicant did not remember where about in East Tennessee it was at the time of making his original Declaration to which this is an amendment nor that witness was living – applicant states that he was acquainted with two brothers of said Thomas Kindred in Albemarle County Virginia by whom he can prove the facts material Touching his service but he knows not where they are nor whether they are living. Applicant has some recollection of said Thomas Kindred's wife after the end of the war, and believes he can prove some corroborating circumstances by her.

S/ Ambrose Thacker, X his mark

[f p. 72: On April 29, 1833 in Morgan County Tennessee, Thomas Kendred, 73, gave testimony that he was partly raised in Albemarle County Virginia; that he was well acquainted at that time with a man named Ambrose Thacker; that he, affiant, was at Charlottesville sometime in the spring season in the year, he thinks 1775, it being an early part of the war, when he saw the troops march from Charlottesville in said County where he saw Ambrose Thacker march off with the troops; that he was acquainted with Ambrose Thacker after the war and understood that he had served for many years after marching off from Charlottesville and that he had been in the regular service. Kindred signed his affidavit with his mark.]

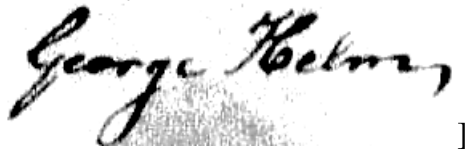
[f p. 76: On July 19, 1833 in Cumberland County Kentucky, Charles Thurman,² a revolutionary war pensioner, gave testimony that he was well acquainted with Ambrose Thacker who formerly

¹ FPA S4476

² FPA S31414

lived in the state of Virginia; that he, affiant, new Thacker in the service of the Army of the revolution; that he saw Thacker in the service at Winchester; that he does not recollect what Regiment Thacker served in but thanks he would was in the artillery Regiment. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[f p. 60. George Helm,³ 82, gave testimony in Fentress County Tennessee that he is a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution and that sometime in the year 1780 or 1781 he saw Ambrose Thacker in the service in Albemarle County that he does not know whether he was in the regular or militia service.

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[f p. 15: On June 28, 1838 in Fentress County Tennessee, Molly Thacker, 88, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Ambrose Thacker a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that her husband departed this life November 21, 1835; that she married him in Buckingham County Virginia in 1770 at the time of year of cutting the growing crops of tobacco off from the ground;⁴ that her husband died in Fentress County Tennessee; she signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 64: Nancy Kindred, 78, wife of Thomas Kindred gave testimony in Morgan County Tennessee on May 19, 1833 that she was acquainted with Ambrose Thacker and his wife in Albemarle County Virginia; that when Thacker left Albemarle County in the service he had an infant daughter only a few months old and that said child was a "sizable girl" when he returned from service; that Thacker's wife was a Miss Polly Vaughn before her marriage to Thacker.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the Virginia service. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing November 22, 1835.]

³ FPA S38824

⁴ Before the invention of flue-cured tobacco, tobacco was harvested by cutting the entire stalk also at the ground, stacking the stalks up in peer midst in the field and allowing them to cure in the sun.