

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Thurman W6267 Deborah fn53Ga.  
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/4/09

[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.]

State of Kentucky Green County: Sct

On this 27th day of February 1833, personally appeared in Open Court, before the Green Circuit Court, now sitting, (which is a Court of Record) John Thurman, a resident of Green County and State of Kentucky, aged 66 years, on the 20th of next April, who 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He states that he was born, as he has been informed by his parents and as it also appears, in the family register of his Father's on the 20th of April 1767, in the County of Buckingham and State of Virginia, that he removed with his Father & family to the County of Wilkes in the State of Georgia, when he was about seven years of age, or rather when he was in his seventh year. That as well as he can now recollect the time in the spring of 1782, and he thinks in April of that year, but it may have been in the spring 1781, but he cannot state confidently either the month or the year, he joined as a volunteer a company of Rangers or minute man, in the service of the United States commanded by Captain \_\_\_ Ellsberry, whose Christian name, he does not recollect. When he so entered the service, he was living with his Father in the County of Wilkes & State of Georgia, who then lived within about nine miles of Petersburg & within about fifteen miles of Washington (the County seat) -- He entered for no particular period of service -- He started in company with other man who had joined the company aforesaid, for Knox's Fort, which was situated about twenty-five or thirty miles of Washington -- Whether any officer was in Company with them, on their way to said Fort, he does not recollect -- On their arrival at the Fort he found there his Captain Ellsberry, and Colonel Elijah Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] who was the commanding officer -- Brigadier General John Clarke, son of said Elijah Clarke was also there, who has since been Governor of the State of Georgia. The place was called a Fort, but there was no stockading, when he arrived; but the soldiers were employed shortly after his arrival at that place and putting a stockading to guard against the attack of the Indians, who were then troublesome. The very night after he arrived at said Fort the Indians stole a parcel of horses, belonging to the men at the Fort, & that the applicant with about forty or fifty other soldiers the next day pursued them towards the Creek nation, whither they had fled; they overtook them, and about thirty miles on the waters of Oconee River, and a battle or skirmish ensued, in which three Indians were killed, and a white man, one of Ellsberry's company by the name of John Pope. Captain Ellsberry who was present then returned with the portion of his company, which was with him (for the others had been left to guard the Fort) to the said Fort. About ten or twelve days after the return to the Fort, the

Indians again made an incursion, into the Country and killed a brother of Captain Ellsberry, on his own farm, within a few miles of the Fort. Captain Ellsberry with a portion of his company, of which portion the applicant was one, again pursued & overtook the Indians and one Indian was killed -- General Clarke & son had in the meantime, left the Fort and gone home and in their absence Captain Ellsberry was the commanding officer -- After staying at the Fort for some time, for perhaps between one and 2 months, he this applicant was permitted by his Captain to return to his home, which he did for a few days, when he again returned to the Fort -- Some short time after his return to the Fort, Captain Ellsberry's company & under the company commanded by Captain John Freeman was by the order of General Clarke marched in a direction to the Country of the Cherokees. General Clark had understood that the Indians were about to march into the white settlements in Georgia, and make a formidable attack, and the object of marching the above named companies, was to guard the frontier settlements & check their intended invasion. The companies marched with their officers hated by General Clark, this applicant being with them. They crossed the Oconee River; & at a point which was called the five islands, they crossed Oakmulgee River [sic, Okmulgee River] -- They did not go to the Indian towns, because it was believed that the companies were not sufficiently strong to justify such a course. On the return they came a different route crossing the Okmulgee River at its junction with the Oconee, having been engaged in the expedition about 16 days. On the return to the settlement, the men engaged in said expedition, were permitted to return to their homes, but in a few days were again called out, by the directions of General Clark and several companies, (Captain Ellsberry's being one of them, & this applicant being still a soldier in that Company) were march to in nearly the same directions as in the other trip. When General Clark, with his men had arrived within about 40 miles of the Towns of the Indians, it was ascertained that a large body of Indians had marched towards the white settlements. Their route was ascertained & the General immediately directed that pursuit should be made, which was accordingly done; and on the waters of the Oconee River they were overtaken, and a severe battle ensued. It commenced in about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, & ended at about dark. The Indian force, as near as could be ascertained, consisted of about 140 and Clark's forces of about 100 men. About 80 Indians were killed, and 6 of Clark's men were killed on the field, & 5 only wounded -- of the killed was Captain Ellsberry. The present applicant was in the action & fought throughout the battle. After that battle by permission of General Clark, the men were permitted to return to their homes, but without any regular or written discharge. In 4 or 5 days, the applicant was again called out, by the order of the general & they were marched to the battleground this applicant having been placed in Freeman's company and buried the dead, from thence they ranged up and down the Oconee, guarding the frontier settlements. The applicant was out on another trip, for a short time, previous to Captain Ellsberry's death, which he has omitted to mention -- The applicant cannot state with precision the time that he served under Ellsberry & Freeman, but cannot state with Confidence, that amounted to at least 15 months -- After having been engaged for some time as above stated, in guarding the frontier settlements under Captain Freeman he was marched to Knox's Fort & there discharged by order of General Clark. He received no written discharge, He cannot state the time of his said discharge. He was young and inexperienced and did not anticipate the necessity or propriety of procuring a written discharge or of preserving the testimonies of even a verbal discharge. He recollects that General Clark & his son Brigadier General John Clark were in the Fort at the time, when all the men & this applicant among others were discharged, by a verbal permission of the General -- Some short time after said discharge, in the fall of the year, not long before the treaty of Shoulder-bone, the applicant was drafted as a

militia man, for 3 months he being then one of the Company of Captain Wiley Pope of Wilkes County, in Georgia and was marched to the point where said treaty was expected to be made & was afterwards concluded. He marched under said Pope, General Clark, being still the superior officer, to said point and the applicant was there when said treaty was concluded. The object, he supposes, in marching the forces of General Clark there, was to guard the whites from any outrages of the Indians, of whom a great body was collected at the treaty, on the Oconee River. Major Graves, he recollects was there and commanded a portion of the forces. He was near Augusta. The applicant served out his term of 3 months, and was at the end of the term aforesaid verbally discharged, on the treaty ground, with the greater portion of ~~whole~~ of General Clarke's men -- Some of the militia however remained; how long, he does not know, on the ground, under the command of Graves. That closed the service of the applicant & although he is not able to give the date of it, he supposes that the date of the treaty is known; nor is he able to state whether said 3 months service was after or before the treaty of peace between the United States & Great Britain.

The applicant removed to the State of Kentucky in the year 1794 & has resided therein ever since -- There is no person, that he knows of, in the State by whom he can prove his aforesaid services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity, except the present; & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

S/ John Thurman

[John Howe, a clergyman, and Richard A. Buckner and John Barret gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 38]

State of Kentucky Greene County

This day John Thurman of said County came before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, and being by me duly sworn according to law, deposed and stated by way of amendment to his original declaration for a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 That from old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot state and swear positively to the length of time he served as a soldier in the Army of the United States during the American Revolution, but that according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades --

Viz. I served as a private soldier, in a company of Rangers (he thinks in 1781) commanded by Captain Ellsberry for 15 months which was his first tour -- I served in the second tour being 1782 according to the best of his recollection 3 months in a company commanded by Captain Wiley Pope. In the first tour I served a Ranger mounted on my own horse in the 2nd tour at the treaty of Shoulder-bone I served as second Sergeant. The name of the Colonel who commanded the Regiment in which Pope's company was attached was Colonel Holeman [?] Freeman, who was also at the Fort spoken of in his original declaration, & commanded a Regiment there to which Captain Ellsberry's company was attached in like manner; Sworn to and subscribed before me a justice of the peace for said County this 21st day of August 1833.

S/ Saml. J. Cook, JPGC

S/ John Thurman

[fn p. 14: on March 16, 1853 in Green County Kentucky, Mrs. Deborah Thurman, 82, a resident of Taylor County Kentucky made application for a widow's pension under the 1853 act as the widow of John Thurman, a pensioner at the rate of \$40 per annum for his services in the

revolution; she states that her husband died in Greene County October 16, 1845; that she had married him in Washington County Kentucky on January 25, 1810; that they were married by a Baptist minister named John Chandler; that her name prior to her marriage was Deborah Rhea or Ray; and that she remains his widow.]