

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Hill W663 ¹

Elizabeth Hill

f54NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/4/11 & 12/30/15

[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.]

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State of Missouri, County of Cape Girardeau

A declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. On the Eighteenth day of March in the year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and thirty three; personally appeared before the Justices of the County court of the County of Cape Girardeau aforesaid in Open court Thomas Hill a citizen of Apple Creek Township in the County of Cape Girardeau and State of Missouri aforesaid aged Seventy two years against the 29th day of the present month, who first being 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 volunteered in the County of Lincoln² in the State of North Carolina in the month of August or September of the year 1777 and entered the service of the United States under the command of Captain Alexander [Robert Alexander] and was placed in the Regiment of Colonel Frank Lock [sic, Francis Locke], that he marched with said Regiment from Charlotte in the State of North Carolina to the ten mile spring (so-called) ten miles from Charleston South Carolina, after lying there some time, marched with said troops to a place on the Savannah River called Purrysburg, and after remained a while moved up the River keeping aside and watching the movement of the British forces on the other side of the River, and marched with said troops to a place called Brier Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779] to the assistance of General Ash [John Ashe]; But before any of the troops had crossed over to his relief General Ashe had fled before the British meeting the reinforcements to which this affiant belonged, and then returned and moved down the River to a place called the "two sisters" ferry, remained there three or four weeks, from thence moved down the River Purrysburg again, stayed there a few days with the regular troops under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln], then left the regular troops or the most of them with Lincoln and moved up the River again to the two Sisters ferry in company with a few regulars having four pieces of cannon along, stayed till the time of the nine months men had nearly expired and from thence removed six miles (as he thinks) to a place called the white house, to where General Lincoln and his army had marched; and there received a written discharge (as he thinks) under the hand of Colonel Locke or General Lincoln.

That afterwards (as he thinks) not twelve months after the above mentioned discharge, he entered under the command of Captain Isaac White in the County of Lincoln, State of North Carolina as a Company of rangers for the purpose of suppressing the Tories in the upper part of

¹ BLWt35825-160-55

² Lincoln County North Carolina did not exist during the time of the revolutionary war. It was created thereafter from Tryon County.

South Carolina and the southern part of North Carolina, in which said service he, this affiant, continued for the term of twelve months during which time he was in the engagements of Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780]³ with the Tories who had assembled there for the purpose of joining Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] Army. Also marched with said Company to Green River in pursuit of one Captain Floyd who had raised a Tory company but fled before the rangers; from thence joining Colonel William Graham's Regiment, marched to King's Mountain and was in that engagement [October 7, 1780],⁴ -- from thence marched down to Lincoln County and was there were dismissed by his Captain Isaac White without any written discharge.

Afterwards but does not recollect how long, he this affiant volunteered under Captain Thomas Davidson to prevent the British forces from crossing the Catawba of River at a place called Cowan's Ford [February 1, 1781]⁵ in North Carolina; the British forces under the command of Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] came on and crossed over it spite [sic] of the efforts of the American troops under the command of General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], who had but a few of his man at the Ford, at the time of crossing – here General Davidson was killed; he this affiant assisted in conveying the body away – from thence he with several hundred more, marched or moved ahead of the British to a place owned by one Tarrants, where another skirmish took place⁶ and the Americans beaten again. Afterwards a short time he this affiant volunteered again under the command of Captain Simmons [Richard Simmons], Captain of a Company of horse, and was commanded by Joseph Graham then a Major – Marched on with Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Army from somewhere about Salisbury in Rowan County North Carolina, and leaving the foot went to the raft swamp, and after some fighting dispersed a body of Tories there assembled: from thence marched to a place called the Brick house [November 15, 1781]⁷ close by Wilmington, where the British kept a kind of Fort and after making an unsuccessful attempt to rout them from the house, returned back and met the foot under the command of Rutherford as before stated, and getting a piece of cannon went back again for the purpose of beating the house down, but before reaching it, they had left and gone to Wilmington and we following, they left the town of Wilmington; And after remaining there are some little time word came that Cornwallis' Army were taken at York town and we were dismissed, this affiant without a discharge.

That he has no documentary testimony by which he can establish the aforesaid facts. That he the said Thomas Hill, does hereby relinquish all claims of any other pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State; That he said Thomas Hill removed to County of Cape Girardeau in the State of Missouri in the year 1810 [?],⁸ where he has resided ever since.

And to the Interrogatories propounded by the War department, and put by the court, the said Thomas Hill answers and say is:

I was born in the (present) County of Lincoln (then called Tryon) in the State of North Carolina on the 27th day of March 1762.

I have my age recorded in my family Bible at my house about 15 miles from this place, entered either by my father or his direction.

I volunteered first time under the command of Captain Alexander for the term of nine months at Lincoln County North Carolina; the second time, volunteered under the command of

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html

⁶ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brick_house.html

⁸

1880,

Captain Isaac White 12 months, also at Lincoln County North Carolina; the third time I joined Captain Davidson for the no certain length of time. The fourth time I volunteered under the command of Captain Simmons and joined him at Salisbury North Carolina for the term of six months.

I was acquainted with General Rutherford, a militia Officer, both at Purrysburg on my first tour of duty and also at Wilmington on my last tour with Colonel Frank Locke on my first tour at Purrysburg and during my first term of service as also at the last time at Wilmington. I was acquainted with General Davidson who fell at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River. I knew General Lincoln a regular officer and the principal commander of the Southern forces at Purrysburg and with Major Joseph Graham.

I think I was discharged the first time by General Lincoln or Colonel Locke; I think it was a written one, the other times I was dismissed without written discharges; the second time in Lincoln County by Captain White, the third was permitted to go without any regular dismissal [sic], the fourth time I was dismissed by Major Graham and Captain Simmons at Wilmington without a written discharge it being the close of the War. The written discharge I placed in the hands of Captain Thomas Davidson for the purpose of getting my pay; he (Davidson) died shortly after and I never have seen the discharge since.

I am known by C. P. Fulenwider, Esq., by John Hendricks Esq., to Colonel James Hendricks and to Hezekiah Rumsfelt all of whom I believe can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court March 18, 1833.

S/ Benjamin Bacon, D. Clerk

S/ Thos. Hill⁹

For Peter R. Garritt, Clk

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Alexander McLain¹⁰ of lawful age being duly sworn deposes and saith that when he volunteered into the service of the United States, or Colonies, in the month of August of the year 1777 into the company of Captain Robert Alexander in the County of Lincoln and State of North Carolina Thomas Hill who has subscribed the above declaration was also a Volunteer in said company, that they marched together, mostly for the term of six months, that they marched to the ten mile spring together, and there this affiant joined a rifle company, but being most of the time still in the same camp was permitted to mess together, occasionally as before, that during the six months they marched to Purrysburg on Savannah River, from thence to the relief of General Ashe at Briar Creek, and soon after when this affiant got wounded he was discharged having been in service between six and nine months; When he left said Thomas Hill still on duty in the camp &c. And further saith not.

S/ Alexr McLaen¹¹

[James Hendricks, a clergyman, and John Hendricks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[pp. 24-26]

State of Missouri County of Cape Girardeau: SS

An amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of 7th of June 1832. On the 22nd day of July in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before the

⁹ The handwriting of the signature is identical to the balance of the affidavit, consequently I do not believe it is the signature of the applicant.

¹⁰ [Alexander McLaen \(McLean, McLane\) S17575](#)

¹¹ The handwriting of the signature is identical to the balance of the affidavit, consequently I do not believe it is the signature of the affiant.

Justices of the County Court of the County of Cape Girardeau in the State of Missouri, in Open court made his declaration as an applicant for a pension for revolutionary [services], under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 on the 18th day of March 1833. And being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment or explanatory statements to the declaration made by him on the 18th day of March 1833 as aforesaid. That at the time he entered the service in August or September of 1777 he Volunteered to supply a call or contemplated draft on which said tour of duty he served as a private nine [?]¹² as set in his declaration above referred to. That he was discharged in the summer of 1778. That afterwards in the year 1779 or 1780 [he] is not positive which, in the summer season he volunteered as a private, to supply a draft to be made of the militia under the command of Captain Isaac White as set forth in his declaration above referred to, that he served as therein set forth a term of twelve months, and was discharged in the County of Lincoln by said Captain White without a written discharge. That afterwards in 1781 (he thinks) he volunteered as a private under Captain Thomas Davidson of the Militia to intercept the march of Lord Cornwallis at the Catawba River in North Carolina, and served under the command of said Davidson three months lacking a few days, that this tour was made without any special call, he serving with many that voluntarily joined the militia for the purpose above named.

That in the same [year] 1781 he this applicant volunteered into the Company of Captain Simmons in Rowan County North Carolina, Captain of a horse company and as a private served under said Simmons' command and Graham as Major for the term of six months and two weeks, six months being the time for which he volunteered; his the said Applicant's time having expired a few days before the news of the capture of Cornwallis was received. But that he said applicant continued in Camp until that intelligence was received when he was dismissed without a written discharge &c.

That he this applicant belonged to the militia and served in all the several tours of duty as a volunteer for the several times in his declaration mentioned. That he was with an embodied Corps, called into service by competent authority; that he was in the field during the time, and at the places mentioned in his declaration; and during the said terms was not employed in any civil pursuit. That he has no witness by which he can establish the facts set forth in said declaration except so much as he has proved by the affidavit of Alexander McLean as appended to said declaration &c.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the 22nd of July 1833
S/ Benjamin Bacon, Deputy Clerk

S/ Thomas Hill

[p. 12: On June 15, 1853 in Cape Girardeau County Missouri, Elizabeth Hill, 80, filed for her pension as the widow of Thomas Hill, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$85 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him October 11, 1805; that he died May 13, 1841 and that she remains his widow. She signed this application with her mark.]

[p. 10: On October 12, 1855 in Cape Girardeau County Missouri, Elizabeth Hill, about 80 years old, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Thomas Hill. She signed this application with her mark.]

[Facts in file: reference is made to the children of the veteran and his wife; the only children named in the file are William, Daniel, Henry, and Sarah who married a man by the name of

Breckenridge; there is another child named but the first letter of his or her name cannot be read, the remaining letters are "esson."]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$85 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia, 18 months in the Infantry and 6 months in the Cavalry. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]