Application of Thomas Hubbard for a pension under the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of Alabama Morgan County: on this 27th day of August in the year 1832
Thomas Hubbard a resident of the state and county aforesaid aged seventy seven years and nine months who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That I enlisted in the first Regiment of Virginia in the state line in the month of July or August 1775 under Captain John Fleming, Lieutenant Wm Lewis and ser [sergeant] John Pettis, the Ensign not remembered. The regt was commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry. I was a resident of the County of Goochland state of Virginia when I enlisted in said regiment for one year. Was marched to Norfolk and returned to Williamsburg in June 1776. Here I enlisted as a sergeant for the term of three years in the Continental Line under the same company officers and Colonel Isaac Read, I believe, commanded the regiment. Was marched to New York. On the march Colonel James Hendricks came to the command. Had some fighting on the island. The regiment was joined to Lord Sterlins [sic, Lord Sterling, aka, William Alexander] brigade. The army marched over King’s Bridge to the White Plains [Battle of White Plains, October 28, 1776]. Some fighting here. Passed through Philadelphia then to Brandywine [September 11, 1777?]. A battle here and at a place near the schoolkill [sic, Schuylkill River north of Brandywine, Pennsylvania] where the rain put a stop to the contest. [This engagement came to be known as the “Battle of the Clouds”, September 16, 1777.] I was aiding in the capture of the Hessians at Trentown [sic, Trenton, December 26, 1776 - January 3, 1777] some time after at the same place in an evenings fight. This day General Murcer [sic, Mercer] took command of the Brigade. In the night, marched to Princeton [January 2, 1777]. In the battle next morning General Murcer, Captain Fleming & Lieutenant Yates fell at the head of the brigade, myself wounded. Afterwards in two battles at a village called Quibletown [June 22, 1777] under Colonel Charles Scott, afterwards General. The next place of fight was Mud Island, [Mud Island Fort, Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, October – November 1777] upwards of twenty days with some assistance to the Redbank Fort [Red Bank Fort, Fort Mercer, [October 22, 1777]. I acted as sergeant, sergeant major and Quartermasters sergeant and Quartermaster and major. Have been mustered in each grade. In each place of combat above stated I had a part. I cannot name the officer who gave the appointment of Quartermaster nor the date but while the army lay at the Valley Forge [December 1777 – June 1778] I obtained Colonel Richard Parkers’ (who then commanded the regiment), Certificate of settlement of the accompts [accomplishments? accounts?] of said regiment which bears the date May the twenty fourth 1778. This Certificate I sent some years gone enclosed in a letter directed to the register of
the Virginia Land office, it may be there yet. I have received no pension annuity or any other support from government. Not all that was due me when I left the service. I write from memory only and may have stated facts not in line of regular succession.

Here I will describe the tours [tours] I made in the Militia and the first was under Captain Thomas Fleming from the County of Gooch-land [Goochland] in April or May 1775. This was a volunteer trip. Went to Williamsburg, York and Hampton. Second a volunteer Captain from Powhatan County. Went to Manchester, Petersburg and Hoods Point. Had some fighting. Third went as Lieutenant under Captain William Mayo. Joined General Gates at Rugeleys Mills [August 1780] and defeated next day. This commission was signed by Colonel John Harris Judge of Powhatan County court. On this tour I acted as adjutant to the third regiment of the Virginia militia commanded by Colonel Falkner [Faulkner]. Fourth, I marched a company from Powhatan County. I joined General Greene [Nathanael Greene] at Gilliford [sic, Guilford] Court House [March 15, 1781] and acted as brigade major to General Robert Lawson. I was taken prisoner with three other militia officers near Petersburg Virginia [Battle of Petersburg, April 25, 1781]. Confined in one house by order of the traitor Arnold [Benedict Arnold who after the death of General Phillips, which happened at the time [May 13, 1781], came to the command. I refused to address him for a parole tho [though] pressed to do so. Lord Cornwallis arrival some weeks after that superseded the command of Arnold. I then petitioned his Lordship for parole until exchanged which was granted, sent to us the next day, and we were set at Liberty. This being near the end of the war no ex-change took place that I heard of. Having no documents of any kind nor knowledge of any person now living by whome [sic] I might prove the facts required, I must refer your department to the publick [sic] journals of that times [sic], All of which is respectfully submitted.

Thomas Hubbard.

In addition to the declaration above there is a letter in Thomas Hubbard’s Pension File written by the Commissioner of Pensions. The letter is from the Commissioner to a Mrs. Hintz who evidently made an inquiry regarding Thomas’ service.

Letter to Mrs. North in the non-selected records of Thomas’ Pension File

November 13, 1928

Mrs. N. L. North
88 Greenville Street
Newnan, Georgia

Madam:
I advise you from the papers in Revolutionary War pension claim, S. 17227, it appears that Thomas Hubbard while residing in Goochland County, Virginia, volunteered in April or May 1775, under Captain Thomas Fleming and marched to Hampton, in July or
August 1775, he enlisted and served one year under Captain John Fleming in Colonel Patrick Henry’s Virginia Regiment.

He enlisted in 1776 and served as a sergeant in Captain John Fleming’s company Colonel Isaac Read’s Virginia Regiment and also served as Sergeant Major, Quartermaster-Sergeant in Colonels Isaac Read’s, James Hendrick’s, Charles Scott’s, and Richard Parker’s Virginia Regiments, he was in the battles of Harlem, White Plains, Trenton, Princeton where he was wounded, both battles at Quibbletown, Brandywine, Germantown and Mud Island Fort, and was discharged May 24, 1778.

Later in 1778 he served three months as Captain under Colonel Robert Good in the Virginia Militia; three months; 1779, he was a Captain of the Powhatan County, Virginia, militia and in the summer of 1780 was Lieutenant and Adjutant in Captain William Mayo’s company, Colonel Faulkner’s regiment; in 1781 he was Captain under Colonel Randolph [Beverly Randolph] and attached to General Robert Lawson’s Brigade as Brigade-Major; he was in the battles of Camden, Rugley’s [sic] Mills, and Guilford, and afterwards was taken prisoner near Petersburg, Virginia, he was held some time and paroled by General Cornwallis.

He was allowed pension on an application executed August 27, 1832, while a resident of Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama, aged seventy-seven years and nine months. In 1834, a son David was referred to. The soldier died July 31, 1841.

Respectfully, Winfield Scott Commissioner

Note: Thomas Hubbard applied for a pension on August 27, 1832. Based on that application he was awarded a pension of $120 per annum—full pay for a sergeant. This pension application was recorded as number 17227 and it is the application that seems to be most often associated with Thomas Hubbard. However, Thomas disputed this pension on the grounds he actually served at higher ranks than sergeant, namely regimental quarter master of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army and lieutenant, captain and major in the Virginia Militia. As a result of this dispute he resubmitted his application on January 28, 1834. This second application was accepted and superceded the first application. Thomas’ final pension was awarded at $296.67. Both these depositions are included in Thomas’ Pension File Number 17227. The original deposition is included in the “selected records,” and the resubmission is included in the “non-selected” records.

From the pension claim of Thomas Hubbard, number 17227
The Sate of Alabama, Morgan County
County Court for the said county January Term 1834

On the 28th day of January in the year 1834 Thomas Hubbard a resident of the state and county aforesaid aged seventy nine years who being first duly sworn doth make the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed on the 7th day of June 1832.

I enlisted in the 1st Virginia Regiment in the War of the Revolution under Captain John Flemming [sic, Fleming] in the month of June or July 1775 for one year. I was then a citizen of Goochland County, Virginia; the Regiment commanded by Col Patrick Henry & Major [Francis] Epps, other field officers not remembered. William Lewis and John Pettis were Lieutenants in Fleming’s Company & I have forgotten the name of the Ensign. The
company joined the Regiment at Williamsburg, and from there we marched to the Great Bridge [December 9, 1775]; from the Great Bridge to Kemps Landing where remained some time and marched to Norfolk where the British Fleet was lying; they had cannonaded the Town and burned part of it before our arrival and under the Direction of the Committee of Safety we burned the other part. After my enlistment Patrick Henry was elected Govr of Va and quit the Regt. [Henry resigned 28 February 1776, Brigadier General Andrew Lewis took command 1 March 1776, see M. Lee Minnis The First Virginia Regiment of Foot, 1775-1783, pp. 12, 13]

Sometime in June 1776 we returned to Williamsburg and on hearing of the Declaration of Independence had a Feu de joy [sic, French: Feu de joie, i.e., “fire of joy,” a salute fired by rifles in rapid succession along a line of troops (as to celebrate a victory)] at Williamsburg. [This could have been associated with an earlier celebration, May 18, 1776, after the signing of Virginia’s Declaration of Independence. See M. Lee Minnis, The First Virginia Regiment of Foot, 1775-1783, pp. 14, 15.] About the time of the Declaration of Independence the Regiment was reorganized and I enlisted under the same company officers in the Continental Line, 1st Virginia Regt and for three years as a Sergeant. The Regiment was commanded by Col Isaac Reed & I took up the line of march for New York; on the route, Col Reed left the Regt and Col James Hendrick[s] took the command. The day after our arrival at the Island of New York, above the city, a Detachment of British Troops attacked the American Lines near Fort Washington. We marched out to meet them, fired upon them, they retreated and we pursued them about two miles, when the enemy laid down in a Buck Wheat field and let us get close to them, they fired upon us & then run. [This was the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776] We returned to Camp. Our army took up the line of march to White Plains Genl Washington in command. Met the enemy at the White Plains and were defeated. [October 28, 1776] We marched up the country, crossed the Hudson & returned toward Phila. I was then in the Battle of Trenton on the 26th of December 1776 where the Hessians were taken, and no great while afterwards, the British came upon Genl Washington at Trenton & the two armies fired at each other across a millpond until after dark. Near midnight Genl Washington left a few men to keep up fires, and marched out upon Princetown [sic, Princeton], attacked and defeated the British at Princeton early in the morning. In this battle Genl Mercer, commander of the Brigade was killed; and Capt Fleming & Lieut Yates fell close by me. I was struck with a musket shot which broke two ribs but did not enter the hollow [chest cavity]. The next battle I was engaged in was under Col Charles Scott (afterwards Genl Scott). One Col [Mordecai] Buckner had been out & met a foraging party of the enemy & fled [January 23/24, 1777], for which he was tried & Broke [February 8, 1777]. Col Scott was sent out in pursuit, we met them in the day time and had a hard fight, and were beaten with loss [This could have been Thursday, January 30, 1777 or possibly Saturday, February 1]. The British then sent word to Quibbletown where we were stationed, that they would come the next Sunday [if the previous engagement had been Thursday, January 30, then the next Sunday would have been February 2, 1777, if it had been Saturday February 1, this next battle would have been Sunday, February 9] and drive our headquarters to the Devil. Sure enough on Sunday they came upon us about 10 o’clock about three times our number, and at it we went, they drove us about one mile to the woods when Col Scott told us to “give them Indian play.” We fought from tree to tree, and at length drove them back again & followed them one mile beyond our camp when it became too dark to follow longer & we returned to camp.
Sometime before the battle of Brandywine I was appointed Quarter Master of the Regt whilst Genl Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was Quarter Master Genl of the army. In that battle I had the wounded taken off the ground in Baggage Wagons and as our army retreated the wagons were taken & the wounded made prisoners. Capt Guthridge [Goodrich?] Crump of the 1st Va Regt was owner of one of the wagons taken by the enemy on that day, and as Quarter Master I gave him a certificate of the loss upon which he drew pay for his wagon which may yet be found with his papers or Genl Greene’s if in existence. I was afterwards at the Battle of Germantown and at Mud Island Fort [Fort Mifflin] (mouth of the Schuylkill) & remained in the Fort until battered down by the English Fleet & we abandoned it in the night. We wintered in New Jersey.

When I entered the service for the term here spoken of I had induced a younger brother (William) [William Hubbard W7830] to enlist and go with me. This brother had received a wound in the leg in the battle at Germantown, and it not being probable he would ever again be able to do service he was discharged about the 1st of May 1778, and being unable to get back to Virginia without help I obtained Col Richard Parker’s leave to resign my commission as Quarter Master. He then commanded the Regiment. He gave me a discharge and certificate that I had settled my account as Quarter Master of the Regt. This certificate was dated about the 24th of May 1778, and was about eight years ago forwarded by me in a letter to the Registrar of the Virginia Land Office at Richmond to get my bounty land promised on enlistment to all officers and soldiers according to their respective grade or rank.

The certificate of my discharge or leave to resign was forwarded by me on the 20th April 1833 to War Secretary Cass in a letter directed to him, in which I complained that I had not received my full pension due me under my first declaration, and I protested against being placed on the pension Roll only as a sergeant when I had held the higher office of Quarter Master and also several times had held the rank of Capt in the Militia in the service in the South & during the Revolution. I have received no answer from the Secretary of War. Both these certificates of Col Parker have as I understand been found since I made my last declaration for a pension; they show that I held then the rank of Quarter Master in the First Va Regiment and are conclusive proof of the fact & why I am placed on the Roll only as a Sergeant when in my declaration I had made out a claim for a higher rate of pension I am unable to determine. Justice, sheer justice is all I claim of this ungrateful generation.

It was my belief when I made my first declaration that the Quarter Master at that date held rank & pay as a captain & that the Regulations requiring those appointments to be filled from subalterns was made afterwards, and I am yet of that opinion, but of this I may be mistaken. I should however like to have the matter properly examined. It is probable that my appointment or some memorandum thereof may be found among Col Richard Parker’s papers; but when it is considered how long we had been out, how many must have been lost, from the day of our enlistment it ought not to be so hard of credit, that one might be promoted from the office of station of sergeant to that of Quarter Master, the more especially if he had been vigilant in his duty. At least it does appear that with the proof furnished by Col Parker’s certificates, my own affidavit and that of my neighbors, that the department might given some little credit. Perhaps I was refused because I would not become subservient to that part of the regulation requiring a clergyman to attest my [illegible word] to credibility.*
When I resigned my commission as Quarter Master there was a small arrearage of pay due me which with interest I claim.

When I made my first declaration for a pension believing that the department had sufficient evidence of my service & that my rank as Quarter Master was equal to that of Captain, and that I would be placed on the pension Roll as such, I merely alluded to several offices held by me in command of the Militia in the southern service during the Revolutionary War.

After my return to Virginia from the services above set forth I was much engaged in training the Militia of Powhatan County and a company having been called into services whose captain did not choose to go, I volunteered in the command as Captain for three months tour [1] under Col Robert Good. We marched through the country from Petersburg Va to the neighborhood of Manchester where the enemy were encamped. We were not able to attack them but guarded the roads & prevented their foraging parties from plundering & laying waste the country, but had no engagements during the tour. Afterwards & during the year 1779 troops were ordered out from same county for three months service [Tour (2)] and I again volunteered to command the company and my services were received by the company. I cannot recollect who commanded the detachment but several companies were marched together from Petersburg the place of rendezvous, to Hoods Point on James River, and whilst marching in the night time we met a detachment of the enemy & took a few fires at them and retreating; and next day heard that the British ran also. From Hoods Point we marched to Portsmouth and fired a few rounds at the British with in a Redoubt, and not being able to route them we retreated & returned home.

The county Court of Powhatan County then attempted to keep up forces by granting commissions as a court and appointing such officers as it was thought would be acceptable to the troops. The order came to raise troops to aid Genl Gates in the South, William Mayo of Powhatan was appointed Captain & myself Lieutenant of a company. We marched to Hillsborough North Carolina and was formed into Regiments. I fell into the 3rd Va Militia Regt commanded by Col Faulkner and was appointed adjutant of the Regt by Col Faulkner. We marched through N. Carolina & joined Genl Gates at Rugely’s Mills in the evening, and were defeated next morning by the British near Camden. This was in the summer of 1780, and we were nearly all disbursed upwards of two thirds of the Virginians went home. I collected together about one hundred fugitive troops without their officers and marched them through Salisbury to Hillsborough, and after remaining some time we were marched up to New Garden & placed under the command of Genl Stephens, where I remained until the men who had gone home were ordered back and made to serve out their time, and as much longer as they had taken up in going home & returning to camp. In this tour [3] I served as adjutant five months, my commission as Lieut was signed by Col John Harris, judge of the county court of Powhatan County.

Judge Harris afterwards appointed me Captain to command a company of troops raised to join Genl Greene then in North Carolina in the early part of the year 1781. We joined his army at Haw River in N. Carolina; I was commanded by Col Randolph of Va and attached to Genl Robert Lawson’s Brigade. Genl Lawson appointed me Brigade Major, and the army marched to Guilford Courthouse where we met with the British and gave them Battle in which our military fought better than I had ever seen them. This Tour [4] was for three months, and when ended we returned home.
Sometime after this it was reported that the British were near & myself with three other militia officers went out reconnoitering near Petersburg Va and were surprised by a party of the enemy and taken prisoner. We were detained some time and paroled by order of Lord Cornwallis under condition that we were not to take up arms until exchanged, and then set at liberty but were not exchanged until after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

I can prove my services in the Militia as Captain to some extent by Richard Harris of Madison County, Alabama & have no doubt there are numbers now alive who could also substantiate the facts herein above set forth, but I know no where to look for them on this vast continent. I have lived retired for upwards of thirty years. The commissions which I received in the Militia service I do not remember to have seen since the Revolutionary War. The very worthless wages which we received as compensation & called “money” was thrown away in a few years as not worth preserving.

No great while after the Revolution I settled id Bedford County, Virginia and at the time I settled I have now no recollection of having possession of my commissions in the Militia. I resided in Bedford Va until 1804 when I moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee where I remained until the year 1818 when I moved to my present residence.

I claim a pension as a captain having in the War of the Revolution held that rank.

I claim an arrearage of pay due me as Quarter Master in the 1st Va Regt at the time of my discharge, and although a pension certificate has been granted me as sergeant & I have been compelled to take the pension thereon up to the 4th Sept 1832 or get nothing, yet I claim a higher pension and will surrender the original certificate first granted on receiving what is justly due me, first deducting there from the amt paid me on the former certificate; and which I never would have received had I not supposed my discharges & other evidences lost, & which I since understand are in existence.

My rights have long been withheld by a seeming parsimonious government, but which have been wasting millions upon the present generation; and although at this late time, they have offered this relief, yet if your department are so hard to convince of facts as to delay your conclusions much longer, I shall probably exit from this world without you aid. Respectfully, /s/ Thomas Hubbard

* The following requirement regarding a “Clergyman” is from the Pension Act of June 7, 1832:

“Every applicant who claims a pension by virtue of service in the State Troops, Volunteers, or Militia, except those who belonged to the New Hampshire Militia and State Troops of Virginia, will make and subscribe a declaration similar to the forgoing, with the following additions, viz: ‘We, A. B., a Clergyman, residing in the _______ and C. D. residing in (the same) hereby certify that we are well acquainted with _______, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be ___ years of age; that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the days and year aforesaid.’”

Note: Thomas Hubbard’s pension of $296.67 per annum was finally determined based on the following service:

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 months Captain</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 months Lieutenant</td>
<td>$66.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 months Sergeant</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$296.67</strong></td>
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Thomas Hubbard is listed in the *Historical Register Of Officers Of The Continental Army During The War Of The Revolution* with the following citation, “Hubbard, Thomas (Va). Sergeant and Sergeant Major 1st Virginia, 13th February, 1776; Regimental Quartermaster, October, 1777 to 1st May, 1778; retired 30th September, 1778; was Captain of Virginia Militia in 1779 and 1780.” (Reference: Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register Of Officers Of The Continental Army During The War Of The Revolution April, 1775, To December, 1783 New, Revised, And Enlarged Edition*, Washington, D.C., The Rare Book Shop Publishing Company, Inc., 1914, p. 305.)

Two citations for Thomas are provided in the *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution*. These are:

2. Hubbard, Thomas, 1st Lieut., Powhatan Mil., oath May 18, 1780.

The muster and pay rolls of the First Virginia Regiment have been retained by the National Archives and the following citations for Thomas Hubbard’s pay and service are included in these rolls:

**Pay Roll for the First Virginia Regiment, Continental Army**
Jan 1778. James Hendricks, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master, paid $27.50.
Feb 1778. James Hendricks, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master, paid $27.50.
Mar 1778. Richard Parker, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master, paid $27.50.

**General Muster Roll of the Field and Staff Officers First Virginia Regiment, Continental Army**
Dec 1777. James Hendricks, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master.
Jan 1778. James Hendricks, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master.
Feb 1778. James Hendricks, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master.
Mar 1778. Richard Parker, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master.
Apr 1778. Richard Parker, Col.; Thomas Hubbard, Quarter Master