

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Lesly [Lessly, Lesley] W381
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

Mary Lesly
3/26/10: rev'd 8/1/23

f29SC

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 10]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County} SS On this 28th day of November 1832 Personally appeared in open court before me Charles F. Keith one of the Judges of Law and Equity in and for the State of Tennessee and for the seventh Judicial Circuit Now sitting Thomas Lesly a resident of the County of McMinn and State of Tennessee -- In the said County of Monroe and State of Tennessee aged 72 the 15th of April last who being first 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. The reason why he did not make application in said McMinn County is the following to wit he lives on the County line that divides said Monroe and McMinn Counties a part of his land is in such County but he lives nearer the seat of Justice of Monroe than McMinn County and one of his witnesses to wit Magness Tullock [sic, Magnus Tullock]¹ by whom he can prove a part of his actual service lives in Blount County Tennessee and is old and infirm and illy able to attend court and was not willing to go to the seat of Justice of said McMinn County and said Monroe County is between said Blount and McMinn Counties. He was born in the County of Antrim in Ireland on the 15th of April 1760² his father removed from there to South Carolina when he was a small boy he has no record of his age but gives it from recollection. He was living in the district of Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina when called into service (which is now the County of Abbeville) at which place in the month of June 1777 he volunteered as a minute man for twelve months under Capt. Joseph Pickens in Col. Andrew Pickens' Regiment of Militia. We rendezvoused at Thomas Lisly's in said Ninety Six district. We then marched to Ninety Six now called Cambridge we then returned to our place of rendezvous lay there some time then marched to the Rocky Spring in quest of Daniel McGirt and the company of Tories that he commanded they fled we then returned to our place of rendezvous we lay there some time and then

¹ [Magnus Tullock S6273](#)

² Here the veteran begins to answer the 7 interrogatories promulgated by the War Department to be put to each applicant for a pension. Those 7 interrogatories were as follows:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

marched to Harries's field [?]³ against the Cherokee Indians lay there a considerable time he thinks about two or three months we then returned to our former place of rendezvous laid there some time and reconnoitering the country after the Tories and Indians till our time was out we were then honorably but verbally discharged he served twelve months at that time.

Again while living at the same place in the first of December 1780 he volunteered in the Cavalry under Col. Andrew Pickens we had no Captain we rendezvoused at met together on Clarke & McCall's tract in the Indian land we marched to Rutherford County North Carolina he amongst others was ordered to guard a quantity of Negroes, horses and other property belonging to the Americans into McLinburgh [sic Mecklenburg] County which we did, and then returned and joined Col. Pickens at the Cowpens on the day [January 17, 1781]⁴ of the battle at that place Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] was commander in chief on that day we were then put under the command of Capt. Robert Anderson we then guarded a forge waggon [forage wagon?] as it was called and some wounded men to Gilbertstown [Gilbert Town] in Rutherford County North Carolina we then guarded the British prisoners to Catawba River we crossed at Sherrill's Ford we then was ordered to march to Mecklenburg County to where we had deposited the property and from there to meet Col. Pickens who he believes was made Genl. the next day after the said battle we went to said Mecklenburg County and attempted to join Genl. Pickens at the widow Torrance's⁵ in Roan [sic, Rowan] County it was on the day that the British crossed the Catawba River when we came in sight of Genl. Pickens men Col. Tarleton's troops were between us and the company Genl. Pickens had to retreat one way and we another he then went on and fought the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]⁶ and we Joined him again immediately after that battle in Mecklenburg County where on his way to South Carolina we marched with him till we crossed Broad River Capt. Anderson was then promoted to the office of Col. Genl. Pickens then ordered Col. Anderson Col. Clark & Colonel McCall to march through the Country by the way of the Cherokee Ford on Savannah River into Georgia and take no Tory prisoners but if they found any that needed killing not to spare them he went under the command of Col. Anderson the companies separated to meet at the Cherokee Ford we killed twelve Tories and met at the place appointed there was a number of Tories killed at that time we then marched through Georgia and on to Abbeville in South Carolina there Robert Carrithers [sic, Robert Carithers]⁷ was made Capt. and took the command of us we then marched through the Country to suppress the Tories and into the Indian country to suppress them there was no safety at home and the only security was in being under arms. We were then put under the command of Capt. Joseph Pickens and marched to the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781]⁸ he was in that Siege Genl. Greene was commander in chief at that place Capt. Pickens got mortally wounded at that place we were then ordered to go into the settlement of Abbeville to guard the settlement while the kept their wheat[sic??] which we did under the command of Capt. Robert Carithers we then joined Genl. Pickens again at Abbeville he was then put under the command of Capt. Moses Liddle [sic, Moses Liddell]⁹ we then marched to Bacon's Bridge and there joined Genl. Greene's Army Genl. Pickens Army lay about one mile below the bridge and Genl. Greene's about seven we lay there till we were verbally discharged which he thinks was in July 1782. He served at that time one year and Seven months and he served in the whole two years and Seven months to the best of his

Harries's field

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⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html

⁵ a/k/a Tarrant's Tavern, Torrence's Tavern, Torrance's Tavern

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

⁷ https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

⁸ [Robert Carithers W23779](#)

⁹ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html

⁹ [Moses Liddell W7698](#)

knowledge and belief. He lived at the same place where he entered the service about three years after the revolution he then removed into Pendleton district South Carolina he lived there till 1819 and then removed to McMinn County where he now lives. He never was drafted nor a substitute. He recollects the names of Maj. John Bowie Capt. John Moore Maj. Thomas Faro [sic, Thomas Farrar, Jr.?¹⁰], Lieut. Samuel Erils [sic, Samuel Earle?¹¹], Capt. Benjamin Tutt which he believes were all regular officers. He don't recollect the names or numbers of any Continental or militia Regiments except what is before mentioned. He never received a discharge nor a commission. He is known in his present neighborhood to Preston Starritt Esq. John Robertson Esq. John Hackney, John Hughs, James Hamilton, Alexander Gay and a number of others too numerous to mention all of whom he believes can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution. There is no clergyman living immediately in his neighborhood and he knows of none that he can procure who can testify to the part of his service.

He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service excepting Magness Tullock. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

S/ Thomas Lesly



Sworn to and Open Court 28 November 1832

S/ John B. Tipton, Clk

[Preston Starritt and John Robertson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

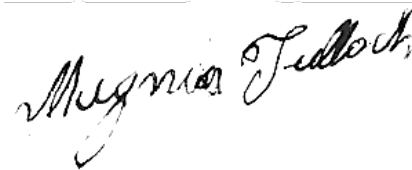
[p 13]

I Magness Tullock a resident of the County of Blount in a State of Tennessee aged 68 years do hereby certify that I became acquainted with Thomas Lisly in the district of Ninety Six now Abbeville County in the State of South Carolina in [p 8] about the year 1777. That I was at the Siege of Ninety Six in May 1781 as a volunteer soldier in the militia under the Command of Capt. John Cowan in Col. Robert Anderson's Regiment under Genl. Pickens command. That the said Thomas Lisly was in that Siege as a soldier. I saw him frequently during that time. I also saw him frequently after that time at Genl. Greene's headquarters near Charleston under the command of Genl. Pickens. He was always considered a good Soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John B. Tipton, Clk

S/ Magnus Tulloch



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State of Tennessee, McMinn County Declaration of Thomas Lesly

On this 2nd day of March 1844 Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Lesly a Resident of the County and State aforesaid Aged Thirty

¹⁰ [Thomas Farrar R3449](#)

¹¹ [Samuel Earle S21174](#)

Nine years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration that he is the son of Thomas Lesly who was a pensioner at the rate of \$80 per annum that his father the aforesaid Thomas Lesly died on the 22nd day of February 1839 leaving a widow and the following named Children that is surviving viz. James Lesly, Samuel Lesly, Marry [sic, Mary] Ann Lesly and Thomas Lesly and further declares that his mother Marry Lesly [sic, Mary Lesly] died on the 19th day of August 1843 he further declares that the family record exhibited to you for inspection is in his own hand writing of the names of his Children and their births born to Thomas and Marry Lesly this declaration is made to obtain the pension due the widow at her death under the act of Congress of the 7th July 1838.

S/ Thomas Lesly

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Jane M. Lessly born Oct 13 th 1783	Jane M Lesly born Oct 13 th 1783
Wm Harris Lesly born Jan. 15 th 1786	Wm Harris Lesly born Jan 15 th 1786
John Lesly born Dec 15 th 1787	John Lesly born Dec 15 th 1787
Peggy W. Lesly born Feb. 10 th 1790	Peggy W Lesly born Feb 10 th 1790
James Lesly born April 23 th 1792	James Lesly born April 23 th 1792
Samuel Lesly born Oct. 13 th 1795	Samuel Lesly born Oct 13 th 1795
Maryann Lesly born July 22 th 1798	Maryann Lesly born July 22 th 1798
Andrew Lesly born Oct. 31 st 1800	Andrew Lesly born Oct 31st 1800
Rebecah Lesly born Oct. 8 th 1802	Rebecah Lesly born Oct 8 th 1802
Thomas Lesly was [born] January 27 1805	Thomas Lesly was January 27 1805
Juliana McNabb born 4 th November 1815	Juliana McNabb born 4 th November 1815

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State of Tennessee McMann County }

On this 2nd day of March 1844 Personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace Mr. Samuel Lesly A resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 48 years who being 1st duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit that he was well acquainted with Thomas Lesly and was also well acquainted with his wife Marry Lesly and knew them to lived together as Husband and wife from affiant's 1st recollection of the time of their deaths which took [place] as follows Thomas Lesly departed this life on the 22nd day of February 1839 and his Wife departed this life on the 19th day of August 1843 Affiant further declares that he is the son of Thomas

Lesly and Marry Lesly and the 6th Son born to them.

S/ Samuel Lesesy



[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts¹² relating to Thomas Lessley [sic]
Audited Account No. 4527

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8/2/23

[p 2]

[No.] 167 [Book P] [12th of April 1785]

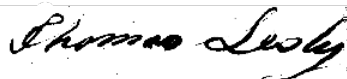
Mr. Thomas Lessley [sic] his Account of Duty in the Militia as Private Horseman per Capt. Pickens's [Joseph Pickens'] Pay Bill commencing in 1780 & ending in 1783 & for Waggon Service in Militia Account in 1780 Amounting to viz.

195 days at 20/ [20 shillings old SC currency per day]	£195
115 Days Waggon Service at 80/ Per day	<u>460</u>
[old SC] Currency	<u>£655</u>
Stg. [Sterling]	£93.11.5

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G. [Examined by] John McCall, Adjutant General]

Received the 12th of April 1785 the full Amount of the within Account in a Treasury Indent No. 167 Book P

S/ Thomas Lesley



[p 3: Restatement of the veteran's services as set forth above except in a slightly different format.]

[p 4: Printed form of Indent No. 167 Book P]

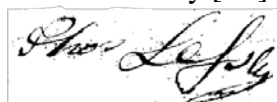
[p 5: Reverse of the above Indent bearing, among others, the following endorsement:

I do hereby Assign all my Right and Title of the within Indent over to Abraham Markley bracket illegible] 20th, 1786

Witness

S/ Wm Lenox

S/ Thos. Lessly [sic]



¹² The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AAs) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The number behind the 'pp' indicates the number of pages in the file and the 'Audited Account No.' is the actual Account Number assigned by the South Carolina Archives.