

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Kitchen (Kitchens) R5998

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/4/13

[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.]

[A note at the front of this file indicates that the claim was rejected because the veteran did not serve the required 6 months.]

State of Indiana Gibson County: SS

On this 20 day of August A.D. 1847 personally appeared in open court before me at my office in the State and County aforesaid Thomas Kitchen a resident of the state of Indiana in the County of Gibson aged 83 years 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 7 A.D. 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

I was drafted sometime before the battle of Guilford [Guilford] Courthouse [March 15, 1781]. I cannot recollect the precise date. I was placed on for they called the Bullock gard [guard?] while the battle was being fought.

I was drafted in Virginia and marched to North Carolina where Guilford's Battle was fought.

We pursued the enemy after the Battle but they would not stand for us again though we had to give them ground. I was very young when I was drafted.

So I cannot recollect precisely but I think it was in February before the battle was fought and we were soon discharged after the battle. I think the last of March or sometime in April. After that battle I was drafted and served under the following line of officers, General Green [Nathanael Greene] was the General of our Army Lawson [Robert Lawson] was the General of the Militia. Holcomb was our Colonel, Spencer was our Major, Chambers was our Captain during the battle of Guilford's Courthouse – but shortly afterwards he resigned and we were placed under another Captain whose name was Nelson. It was from him we got our discharge. The name of the first Lieutenant was Burke. I cannot mind the other Lieutenant's name.

There were four of us discharged on the same piece of paper. Henry and William Ingle and my oldest Brother John Kitchens and myself

I cannot recollect my age, by counting back But the way I have my age I was 83 the 27th of last April. I have no record of my age my father had no learning. My mother could recollect is the way I knew my age.

I was born and raised in Buckingham County Virginia married and resided in Campbell County Virginia about 4 years after the war I moved to South Carolina where I resided about 15 or 16 years. From thence to Georgia where I stayed about 14 years from thence I moved to Posey

County Va where I stayed about 2 years ever since I have been living here in Gibson County Indiana where I am living now. And my old neighbors can bear testimony to what kind of a character I have or have born among them.

I was drafted in Class No. 5. We were drafted in 10 classes.

I have never received one farthing for my services as a soldier only what I got for my certificate. I traded my certificate for about \$.25 to another soldier my brother-in-law (John Garrel) and I guess he paid his extra or Indent tax with it: When I went out to Guilford I took my small shotgun (for if I had not taken it with me they would have pressed it into service so I might as well take it.). I showed it to my Colonel, he said as I was a small follow I might keep it. But the rest of the officers took it from me, valued it and gave me a receipt for the valuation. And gave me a great heavy musket and cartridge box. They took my musket when they gave me my discharge, but never gave me back my little gun and I never got anything to do any good for my receipt. They asked me for my cartridge box. I told them I had none, so they said no more about it. I had thrown it away during our retreat at Guilford's battle. We were compelled to retreat at the top of our speed and it was so large and I was so young that I pulled out my cartridges slipped them into my knapsack and threw the cartridge box away.

I was drafted in Virginia Buckingham County and shortly afterwards marched to North Carolina to the Guilford's battle. We were shortly afterwards marched back to Virginia or just across the line or just as we came up out of the flatboat on the bank of the River Dan Captain Nelson gave us our discharge. I was there discharged without any money for my services to work my way home four long days journey. We had to beg our way and almost starved to death. – I recollect one day (I think about 2 days before our discharge) when Colonel Holcomb was eating his supper in the evening. I went up towards where he was eating – when one of his guard presented his musket with the bayonet on it and told me to stand back. "Let him come in and warm [""] said the Colonel. I went in and stood looking at him, [""] here [""] said he handed me a piece of bread and meat. I jumped at it for I was almost starving. And if that Colonel would come to my house now I would divide the last meals victuals I had with him.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on any pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

I know of no surviving witness by whom I could prove my services perhaps all who served with me are dead, it is so long ago or if they are living, I could not get to them. I am so feeble I was drafted for the time of during the War or during my life. We were called minute men and were furnished with a gun – And were to be ready to march at a moments warning. So we were shortly afterwards ordered to March immediately to North Carolina where the Guilford battle was fought. I was not in the battle but was placed on guard as I before stated.

I can be qualified to what I have stated but I will not be qualified to anything that I cannot recollect precisely.

S/ Thomas Kitchens, X his mark

Amendment to the declaration according to the orders of the war Department
State of Indiana Gibson County: SS

On this 23 day of August 1847 Thomas Kitchen personally appeared before me at my office the undersigned Justice of the Peace and who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and loss of memory and the length of time – and owing to my never expecting to receive anything after being so discharged without pay, I cannot swear precisely to the precise length of time I served But to the best of my recollection I did not serve less than one month or 6

weeks. I was called out so many times every time the Militia was called out it was for 3 months but sometimes we would be discharged one week or in 2 weeks (or rather dismissed for the present for we were liable to be called out any minute) I recollect our trip to Guilford's Court house took us about 6 weeks.

You may say I was in the service from the spring 1781 till the fall of 1782, liable to be called into service at any minute during this period. And whenever I was called I marched at the command of my officers.

And for the above mentioned service I claim a pension.

S/ Thomas Kitchen, X his mark

Interrogatories of the court according to the order of the Department

1st Where and in what year were you born?

In Buckham Co. VA [Buckingham County?] I cannot recollect the year only by counting back.

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

I have none – My father had no learning and never kept a record. The way I can mind my name my mother could recollect it.

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

I was living in Virginia have lived in South Carolina in Georgia and in Virginia and have been living for the last 27 or 28 years in Gibson County Indiana where I am now living

4th How were you called into service?

I was drafted

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.

General Green was our head General, Lawson was the General of the militia, Holcomb was our Colonel Spencer was our Major Chambers was our Captain, who resigned shortly after Guilford Battle when Captain Nelson was put in his place from whom I received my discharge. Burks was our first Lieutenant I cannot mind the other one's name. I was drafted in Virginia marched to North Carolina where I was in service when the Battle of Guilford was fought. I was on Bullock guard and was marched to the River Dan where I was discharged as I before stated.

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

I received a Discharge from Captain Nelson on the bank of the River Dan my oldest brother kept the piece of paper on which for of us were discharged, he could not divide it Henry & William Ingold and my brother John Kitchens and I were all discharged on the same piece of paper.

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.

The Reverend Lewis Duncan and John M Boren Mr. Duncan has known me for the last 28 years – and Mr. Boren has known me for the last it will soon be 12 years they have been my near neighbors.

[Lewis Duncan, a clergyman, and John M Boren gave the standard supporting affidavit.]