

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Thomas S3780 Elizabeth fn22NC
Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Dyer County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions September Term 1833

This day appeared in Open Court Edwin A. McCorkle one of the Executors of William Thomas deceased who made oath in due form of law, that he is advised and believes that his testator died on the first day of April 1833 – that he had been a citizen of Dyer County, Tennessee for three years before his death and that he before his death had made his declaration for a pension in order to avail himself of the benefit of the act of Congress passed on the 7th of June 1832 – which has been returned for informality and that the said William Thomas had departed this life before he had an opportunity of amending his said declaration.

And the said Edwin A. McCorkle further declares and says that he has long been acquainted with the said William Thomas deceased and that he has always been reputed & taken by his acquaintances to have been a soldier of the revolution and a man of good character and undoubted sobriety and that the substance of his aforesaid declaration is herein set forth – which the said McCorkle believes to be true from having heard the said William Thomas rehearse the same transactions and the events of his service many years before the passage of the act of 1832. The substance of which declaration is as follows – The said Declarant stated that he was born in the County of Rowan in the State of North Carolina on the 3rd day of September 1761 – where he continued to reside until the close of the revolutionary war. He stated that he entered the service of the United States and served under the following officers – he stated – that sometime in the year 1780 he was drafted to go into South Carolina to serve a tour of three months against the British. The company to which he belonged was commanded by James Purviance, his Lieutenant was Able Armstrong, Ensign John Lucky, he rendezvoused at Salisbury N. C. when the command of the Regiment was taken by Col. Martin Armstrong, at this place the troops joined General Rutherford who took command of the whole. After lying there a while, they were marched on to meet General Gates, whose Army they fell in with after crossing Pedee River in South Carolina, from thence they proceeded to Rugeley's Mills not far from Camden, where he was detached under Colonel Isaacs to join General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], who was lying at the Catawba River. After remaining there a while they heard of the defeat of General Gates, when they were marched up the Catawba River, where they were overtaken by a body of British, who attacked the troops and defeated them – from thence the declarant returned home. Shortly after this the declarant was again called out, his time of service not being expired, by General William Davidson when they went to Mecklenburg [County] where he remained until the expiration of his term of service & regularly discharged by Major John Johnston which discharge has since been lost. Declarant further stated that sometime in 1780 – he was called into service to go against the Loyalists in the State of North Carolina under Col. Hugh Brevard, they were marched towards the South fork of Catawba [River], here they were engaged for some time against the Tories, some of whom they took prisoners and dispersed others, he further stated that they then returned home – he further stated that either in the last of the year 1780 or first of 1781, they were again drafted to serve a tour under General Davidson against the British under Cornwallis, who were pursuing General Morgan after the battle of Cowpens. They were marched under General Davidson to the Catawba River in N. C. and were stationed at the Ford to oppose the crossing of Cornwallis, shortly after they took their station here the British came up and commenced a passage of the River about day break, when the action commenced, the British horses [?] repulsed them and in the retreat he saw General Davidson a few minutes before he was killed, after this event they were ordered to retreat by Major William Polk – he stated that he then returned home. He was again called out under Colonel Francis Locke to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] in Virginia. They accordingly marched from the Yadkin in N. C. and shortly after joined Greene, he remained with his Army until the term of service was up and was discharged in N. C.

and returned home having served three months. He stated that he then remained in Iredell County N. C. until the year 1791 – when he removed to Sumner County Tennessee where he remained until 1799, when he removed to Wilson County Tennessee – where he remained until the year 1830 – when he removed to Dyer County, Tennessee where he resided at the time of his death. He stated that he was 71 years of age on the 3rd day of September 1832 – according to a copy of the record of his birth taken from his father's family Bible in N. C. which he had in his possession. That he had no documentary [evidence] to prove his service (his discharges having been lost). He referred further in his declaration to Henry Thomas to prove three months of the service – whose affidavit proved the performance of three months of the time mentioned in said declaration. And the said Edwin A. McCorkle states that the said Henry Thomas is now dead. He stated that his name was not on the pension [roll] of any state. And the said Edward A. McCorkle Executor as aforesaid hereby relinquishes any claim whatever for a pension or annuity except the present and the said Edward A. McCorkle refers the court to John Rutherford & Theodorick C. Haskins citizens of Dyer County as to the character & reputation of said William Thomas as well as his own character – and the said record further states to James Thomas of Gibson County, whose affidavit, will be hereto attached.

S/ Edwin A. McCorkle

one of the Executors of William Thomas, Dec'd

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court 24th of September 1833.

S/ W. L. Mitchell, Clerk County Court

State of Tennessee, Dyer County

This day personally appeared before me George W. Tinkle an acting Justice of the peace for Dyer County, James Thomas of Gibson County, who is a credible & respectable man & about 78 years of age, and at the residence of the said Elizabeth Thomas in Dyer County and the said James Thomas made oath that he was well acquainted with the said William Thomas, being his brother, for whose service a pension is claimed, in the foregoing declaration, and that the said William Thomas served as a soldier in the war of the revolution, that he knows said William Thomas was twice drafted during said war for three months tours and marched to join the Army as required and that he believes he served two full tours of three months each, that the said William Thomas stood as a minute man and was called into service as is stated in the foregoing declaration, he believes the facts of the foregoing declaration are strictly true. He further states that from disease, age & bodily infirmity & loss of memory he cannot state the year or month when said William Thomas was drafted.

He states that said William Thomas departed this life on the 1st of April 1833 in Dyer County. He further states that he knows, that Elizabeth Thomas who makes the foregoing declaration to be the widow & relic of William deceased.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 2nd day of July 1834.

S/ George W. Tinkle, JP

S/ James Thomas

[Elizabeth Thomas, made oath that she was the widow and relic of William Thomas having married him on May 19, 1791 in NC. Her affidavit likewise contains a recitation of the services claimed by her husband in his declaration (which is not in the file)].