

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Lesly W381

Mary

fn29SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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State of Tennessee, Monroe County

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 then 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 1760 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 12 months under Captain Joseph Pickens in Colonel 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 laid 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 marched to Harnes's field 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 12 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 [could be trail] 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 Colonel Pickens at the Cowpens on the day of the battle at that place General Morgan was commander in chief on that day we were then put under the command of Captain Robert Anderson we then guarded

1 [Magnus Tullock S6273](#)

a forge wagon as it was called and some wounded men to 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 Colonel Pickens who he believes was made General the next day after the said battle we went to said Mecklenburg County and attempted to join General Pickens at the widow Torrance's² in Roan [sic, Rowan] County it was on the day that the British crossed the Catawba River when we came in sight of General Pickens men Colonel Tarleton's troops were between us and the company General Pickens had to retreat one way and we another he then went on and fought the battle of Guilford 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 Captain Anderson was then promoted to the office of Colonel General Pickens then ordered Colonel 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 Colonel Anderson the companies separated to meet at the Cherokee Ford we killed 12 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]³ was made Captain 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 Captain Joseph Pickens and marched to the Siege of Ninety Six he was in that Siege General Greene was commander in chief at that place Captain Pickens got mortally wounded at that place we were then ordered to go into the settlement of Abbeville to guard the settlement while he kept their wheat[sic??] which we did under the command of Captain Robert Carithers we then joined General Pickens again at Abbeville he was then put under the command of Captain Moses Liddle [sic, Moses Liddell]⁴we then marched to Bacon's Bridge and there joined General Greene's Army General Pickens Army lay about 1 mile below the bridge and General 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 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 Major John Bowie Captain John Moore Major Thomas Faro [sic, Thomas Farrar, Jr.?⁵], Lieutenant Samuel Erils [sic, Samuel Earle?⁶], Captain 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

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

3 FPA W23779

4 FPA W7698

5 [Thomas Farrar R3449](#)

6 [Samuel Earle S21174](#)

Sworn to and Open Court 28 November 1832

S/ John B. Tipton, Clk

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

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 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 Captain John Cowan in Col. Robert Anderson's Regiment under General 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 General Greene's headquarters near Charleston under the command of General 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

State of Tennessee, McMinn County

On this second 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 39 [?] 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

Jane M. Lessly born Oct 13th 1783

Wm Harris Lesly born Jan. 15th 1786

John Lesly born Dec 15th 1787

Peggy W. Lesly born Feb. 10th 1790

James Lesly born April 23th 1792

Andrew Lesly born Oct. 31st 1800

Rebecah Lesly born Oct. 8th 1802

Thomas Lesly was [born] January 27 1805

Juliana McNabb born 4th November 1815