

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Curtis: W6748

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected]

State of Tennessee}

White County} SS.

On this second day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty three, personally appeared before George Welch, Esquire, an acting Justice of the peace for said County, Thomas Curtis a resident of said County and State of Tennessee, aged about ninety two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of an act of Congress passed June 7 1832:

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

He entered the service of the United States in the Malitia as a volunteer under Captain Hugh Tinnen [or Tinnian], at Hillsborough in Orange County North Carolina, was marched from there to Cross Creek [now Fayetteville], under the Command of Col. James Thaxton, there were about five hundred men under the Command of Col Thaxton [sic: James Thackston], - at or near Cross Creek, Col. Thaxton was joined by General [Griffith] Rutherford, - There intelligence was received that Col [Richard] Caswell had defeated the Scotch [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, 27 Feb 1776], and we were directed to intercept the enemy on their retreat, and accordingly we took about eighty prisoners, - The whole force was then marched back to Hillsborough, and the prisoners were placed under the charge of Captain Archibald Lytle. William Williams acted as Lieutenant, and the Ensign name not recollected. in Capt. Tinnen's company during the this service. applicant acted as a drum Major during this service which was for three months and eight days. He lived in Hillsborough, Orange County, North Carolina when he entered this service, and cannot now recollect the year or month when he entered this service, or the year or day when he left it, But it was before Independence was declared by Congress. On our return to Hillsborough as before stated my term of service under Captain Tinen expired, and then joined Captain Archibald Lytle to whom was given the charge of the prisoners taken as before stated. I continued to act as Drum Major. Captain Litles company remained at Hillsborough until orders were received from Congress to take the prisoners to Halifax. Capt. Lytle then march with the prisoners to Halifax & put them in jail at Halifax. We were then marched back to Hillsborough, and my term of service under Captain Lytle there expired, which was three months and five days. Cannot recollect the time of entering or leaving this service. James Armstrong acted as Lieutenant, and Ralph Williams acted as Ensign in said Company. He received no written discharge for either of the before named tours of service.

Some time after, the year cannot be recollected, but it was not longer than six months after this applicant was discharged by Capt Lytle, that orders came for men to be raised to go against the Cherokee Indians. Col Ramsey then raised a troops of about five hundred men, and this applicant again volunteered as a malitia man and under Captain William Williams, who joined Col Ramsey and were marched by him from Hillsborough the place of rendezvous, to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury NC], where the Regiment lay some considerable time. While Col Ramseys Regiment was yet at Hillsborough, the place of rendezvous, Independence was declared by Congress. From Saulsbury the Regiment was marched by Col Ramsey up Catawba river and camped at the Green Spring at the head of a creek that runs into Broad river, and when we decamped from that place we received orders from General Parsons to return to Hillsborough, which Col Ramsey with the whole troop accordingly done, and while at Hillsborough this third tour of service of applicant expired. He served during this tour as a drum major, which was for three months and thirteen days - received no written discharge and cannot recollect the time of entering or leaving this service. After this term of service I married one Mary Allison of Orange County, who is now living and resides with me, and was my faithful companion while I was afterwards engaged in the service of my country.

The next tour of service was when the call came for men to go to the South with General [Horatio] Gates. Applicant agreed with one Henry Mason to go as a Substitute in his place, and he accordingly went to Col Thomas Taylor and told him to put his name down in the place of Henry Mason which was done - and he received from Col Taylor a permit to travel and to draw rations at any public store until he joined the army at head quarters, which he did shortly after at Clarks Ridge. Here he joined the company of Captain James Farquhar. Col Ramsey was there and then in Command. More privileges were extended to applicant because of his acting as the Drum Major, which he did during this tour. From Clarks Ridge we were marched by Col Ramsey to the South and we encamped at the Miry Spring, at which place Col Ramsey, General Williamson, and Captain Farquhar came to this applicant and asked him if he would be willing to give up the drum and take a gun - to which he agreed and immediately he received the appointment of Orderly Sergeant, in which capacity he acted until the end of this tour of service. From the Miry Spring we were marched to Lynch's Creek from thence we marched to the Black Swamp, and from thence to the Hanging Rock, and from thence to Rougeley's [sic: Rugeley's Mill] where we remained until the engagement with the British in which General Gates was defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. Col Ramsey had command of the Regiment in which I acted. Applicant recollects of seeing during this service General Gates, General [William] Smallwood, General Williamson and Baron De Kalb. While lying at Rougeley's he was appointed to go and inspect some new recruits, and while engaged in that business and before it was finished, the drums beat for the battle and he could make no report. He was then selected to go in the advance light infantry under a Captain whose name he cannot now recollect. General Williamson had command of this advance party - he was near General Williamson when he was killed [see note below]. after the defeat he made his way home the best way he could, and reached home the last day of August. he entered this service of this first of May previous and cannot recollect the year in which this service was performed was four months engaged in this service and served as herein before stated.

While in the first tour of service under Col Thaxton, he got a boat load of flour sunk in Deep river, and at the river the Scotch had tore up the Bridge so that it was rendered unpassable, and produced a halt until it was replaced. And at Cross Creek the British Flag was standing when we arrived, which was ordered by Col Thaxton to be cut down and the American flag substituted.

He has no documentary evidence of his service and received no discharge for the last tour of service. When he entered this last service he expected it was for three months but he served four months as before stated. He knows of no person now living by whom he can prove any of the before named service, except his wife who knows of his service or that he was out in the army under General Gates. After Gates defeat he knew of no Officer to whom to apply for a discharge. All of the before mentioned services were rendered in the Militia of the State of North Carolina.

Applicant states that he was born in the year 1742 at a place called London in Pennsylvania, near the foot of the Laurel Hills. He has no record of his age.

He lived in Orange County in Hillsborough North Carolina during the times when he was called into service as before stated - remained in Orange sixteen years after his service, moved to the head of broad river and lived one year, and then returned to Burke County and lived thirteen or fourteen years and then moved to Buncombe County North Carolina, then back to Burke County, then to Buncombe again North Carolina where I remained some time, the time not recollect, then to Blount County Tennessee & lived there about eleven years from thence I moved to White County Tennessee where I have remained ever since and where I now live. Have lived here near sixteen years.

He entered the service as herein before stated three times as a volunteer and once as a substitute for Henry Mason.

There were no regular Officers along during my service in the three first tours herein before stated. In the last tour of service General Gates commanded as herein stated, Baron DeKalb, Gen'l. Smallwood, General Williamson were along and in the troops when I arrived as herein stated. does not recollect the number of any of the Continental Regiments.

I never received any discharge in writing from any of the before mentioned services

was verbally discharged by his commanding officers. My appointment as drum Major and as an Orderly Sergeant were verbal and conferred by the officers in command as herein before stated.

I have resided in this neighbourhood about fifteen years and George Welch Esquire, John Allison, Jesse Stewart, Barnett Kemp and John Ditty live near to me and can testify to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim for a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid          Thos his2mark Curtis

NOTES:

There appears to be no other record of a Gen. Williamson at the Battle of Camden. Col. Ramsey could not be positively identified, but there was a Col. Ambrose Ramsey from Chatham County NC.

On 24 Mar 1838 Mary Curtis, 80, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Curtis 6 May 1776, and he died 28 June 1836.