

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Bledsoe W68

Margaret

fn49NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber— besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Tennessee, Hawkins County: Magistrates Office 24 of April 1834

On this 24th day of April 1834 personally appeared before me John J. Walling an acting Justice of the peace for the County & State aforesaid, Thomas Bledsoe, a resident of Lee County Virginia aged seventy four 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, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. This Applicant states that he was born as well as he can now remember, some time in the Month of March in the year 1760 in the State of North Carolina, but what County he does not know his father had removed when he was very small & if he ever heard what County he has now forgotten it and that he has no record of his age. This Applicant further states that from North Carolina his father moved into what is now the State of Tennessee, then a Territory and settled about 7 miles from the Long Islands of Holston [River] on Ready [sic, Reedy?] Creek and at this place his father was living when this Applicant entered the service of the United States, that he entered the service as a volunteer as well as he now remembers in the year 1778 the month he does not now remember, under Captain Anderson, that the object of this call for volunteers was to guard & protect the frontier settlers from the attacks of the Indians & Tories who had taken shelter among them in the mountains, having been driven from the lower Counties. The volunteer company to which this applicant belonged was marched to a Fort on Clinch [River] called Blackmore's Fort, & from thence into the Indian Country in pursuit of the enemy & after remaining in the Indian nation for some time, spying after the movements of the enemy they returned home. This Term of service lasted three months, as well as he recollects, Isaac Shelby was then Colonel of the County, has well as he remembers. This Applicant further states that soon after he returned home the situation of the affairs of the Country rendered it necessary for another call for volunteers to ward off & quell the mediated attacks by the savages & Tories, that he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain John Sawyer, that in performing this service, that they entered the Indian nation, ranged the mountains & marched the Country in every direction in quest of the Indians & Tories & horse thieves, who on the disbanding of the Militia had again become very troublesome, that during this expedition they were not stationed at any particular place but were continually in active service for at least six months, this was in the latter part of 1778 or the beginning of 1779 as well as he now recollects. This applicant further states that in the same year of 1779 as well as he can remember he again volunteered under the same Captain to go in pursuit of a party of Indians, who had broken in on the frontiers & had taken away with them as prisoners this applicant's brother, that after pursuing for some time, they came up with the rear guard of the Indians who gave notice to

the advance party & they escaped, taking with them the prisoners & he was not heard of till he was exchanged at the falls of the Ohio, that after the company ascertained that they could not rescue the captive, they changed the direction of their march to spy after other parties of Indians & Tories; who were lurking in the mountains & would, when they thought there was no force to oppose, slip in on the frontiers & murder & steal. This Term of service lasted not less than three months, that is as well as he can remember, it might have been longer. This applicant further states that whenever a party of Indians would break on the settlements, it would produce a call for volunteers who had to remain in active service from one to nine months according to the magnitude of the danger that arose [?], before the fears of the frontiers were quieted & the enemy driven from their lurking places. This applicant further states that in the year 1780 he again volunteered under the same Captain John Sawyer, with the view of marching to King's Mountain, but as the whole forces of the frontier Country were in arms & about to march to King's Mountain, it was thought prudent & that the safety of the settlers required it, that while some were marching against the British & Tories, some should remain & watch the movements of the Indians & Tories, & accordingly, Captain Sawyer's company one of which was the applicant was ordered to remain to guard the frontiers & spy after the Indians; which term lasted three months, he states that during the absence of the volunteer companies from the frontiers & for some time after their return, the company to which this applicant belonged were continually marching along the frontiers & scouting in the mountains for the protection of the settlers. This Applicant further states that shortly after the return of the victorious volunteers from King's Mountain, quiet & peace appeared to prevail along the border settlements, for a short time, but disturbances again broke out, by the sudden approach of the Indian Leader Logan & his party to the frontiers; who committed some murders & depredations, before they could be resisted & thus it again became necessary for volunteers to be called out to rid the Country of the enemy, that for this purpose this Applicant again volunteered under his same Captain Sawyer, they marched directly in pursuit of the party who had commenced their retreat through the Mountains, with their booty of horses, taken from the settlers, that they did not overtake the enemy who escaped with their booty & after pursuing them for some time, the company were commanded to give over the pursuit & scout & spy through the Country & mountains after Indians & Tories, that they caught several Tories & Indians whom they executed, that from the mountains they returned along the borders of the frontiers spying & scouting after the Indians & Tories for not less than nine months with scarcely a day intermission. This applicant further states that to give a more particular account of the marches & movements of his Company, than he has done would be out of the power of any one & much more so this Applicant who is now old & infirm & has been so afflicted that his recollection of those times is very imperfect, for the movements of an Indian spy is among the mountains & in the woods without any place of destination is all that he has said & can say, is that during the whole time of his services he was in the woods & among the mountains & was not stationed at any other place, except Fort Blackmore. This applicant further states that he cannot swear positively to the length of time he served, for his recollection is nearly gone, but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods above stated, making in all two years & for such services he claims a pension, for he believes he would be safe in saying that from the year 1775 to 1783, he was in almost continual service, as an Indian spy. This Applicant further states that he never received a Commission or discharge from the service. This Applicant further states that in addition to the Officers above named he remembers there were in command Colonel Sevier, Colonel Arthur Campbell & some others whose names he cannot now recollect, he further states that there is no Clergyman in his neighborhood. This Applicant further states that he now lives in Lee County Virginia & is unable to attend to Court on account of his weakly condition, it being some distance to the Court house & that the reason he applied in Hawkins County is that he now lives near the line & formerly lived in Hawkins & that the nearest magistrate to him lives in Hawkins. This Applicant further states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his services, but that he is known in his present neighborhood to William Walling, John Rolin who can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services during the Revolutionary We. He

never received a discharge.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency of any state, save (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of Tennessee.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me.

S/ Thomas Bledsoe, X his mark

S/ John J. Walling, JP

[William Walling, a pensioner, and John Rollen [signature looks like "Johannad Gollens"] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 28]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Magistrate's Office August 1834

Personally appeared before me __an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Thomas Bledsoe an applicant for a pension and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amended statement to his Declaration for a pension hereto annexed. This applicant states that he refers to the first Term of service mentioned in his Declaration which was three months under Captain Anderson that said Declaration contains as full & perfect account of the circumstances of said Term of service as he is at this time able to give. He further states that he entered said Term of service in obedience to a call made by the government for volunteers to defend the frontiers from the Indians & Tories and that he considered himself in the service of the United States, that the Company to which he belonged was raised for the express purpose of protecting the frontiers by being stationed in forts & scouting after the Indians, and account of which is given in his Declaration. This Applicant further states that the second Term of service mentioned in his Declaration which was performed under Captain Sawyer contains as full and perfect account of said service as he is able to give but that he was mistaken and caused to be put down a longer period than he had served under that engagement, that since his Declaration was made out he studied the matter over & found out that he was mistaken, that it was only three months or a little longer, that he had served in the first engagement under Captain Sawyer, and the way he was led into the mistake was that he blended with his first term of service under Sawyer another Term of about three months which he had served, without any call from the Government, but this Applicant states that the first term of service under Captain Sawyer above mentioned in the circumstances of which are detailed in his Declaration was entered into in obedience to a call for volunteers by the Government, & that, they were considered in the service of the Government. He states that instead of six months as mentioned in his Declaration, this term of service was only three months. This Applicant further states that some of the terms of service mentioned in his Declaration were discharged [indecipherable word] in defense of the settlers without any call by the Government as far as he has any knowledge about the matter, and he states that the reason he put them in his declaration without mentioning that fact is that he thought & was advised that it made no difference that it would all be considered a service for which he would be allowed, but in this amended statement he has undertaken to distinguish & mark out the different terms of service. He further states that the third Term of service mentioned in his declaration marked in the margin No. 3 was entered into & discharged as a case of emergency without any call by the government, that it was a sudden encroachment of the Indians therefore as this was not a call by a competent authority or as the Department has instructed him he cannot be allowed for such service he strikes it out from the time for which he claims a pension. This Applicant further states that the term of service mentioned in his declaration marked in the margin No. 4 was undertaken & discharged in obedience to a call for volunteers by the government for the purpose of marching to Kings Mountain – as is stated [several lines obliterated by ink blots or other imperfections in the paper] was ordered by competent authority to remain as is also stated in his Declaration, this term was three months and was discharged in the service of the government. This Applicant further states that the Term of service mentioned in his Declaration

marked in the margin No. 5 was another term without a call from the government but was entered into suddenly as the exigency required as is also stricken out from the time he claims. This Applicant further states that although he actually served two years as mentioned in his Declaration, yet according to the instructions & rules of the department as made known to him through the letter of the Commissioner of pensions to the Honorable Samuel Bunch herewith returned he cannot swear positively to the length of time he served as having been called out by competent authority but to the best of his memory he served not less than the periods mentioned in this amended statement & referred to in his Declaration making in all nine months & for such service he claims a pension. He further states that he is unable to prove only by his own oath that he was called upon by competent authority to do the aforesaid military duty for the said 9 months as he has heretofore stated. This Applicant further states that he is now very poor & infirm & stands in need of some compensation for services rendered in his youthful days & hopes that said compensation may be made if it can be done consistently with the rules of the Department.

S/ Thomas Bledsoe, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year 1st above written.

S/ John J. Walling, JP

[fn p. 9: On September 6, 1845 in Scott County Virginia, Margaret Bledsoe, 83, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Bledsoe, a revolutionary war pensioner; that to the best of her recollection she married him on November 4th, 1788 [last digit very unclear]; that her husband died November 12, 1833; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 14: affidavit containing the statement that the marriage of Thomas Bledsoe to Margaret McDonald was solemnized by John Anderson, JP on November 4, 1787.]

[fn p. 17: family record]

"Thomas Bledsoe was born in the ___

Marget Bledsoe was born the 10th day of July 1762

Thomas Bledsoe and Marget Bledsoe was married November the 6th 1787

Isaac Bledsoe was born the [illegible] of November 1788

Abraham Bledsoe was born the 17th of May 179_ [last digit torn out and missing]

Nancy Bledsoe was born the 13th of November 1791

Harry Bledsoe was born the 8th of March 1793

Mary Bledsoe and Rachel Bledsoe was born February 17th 1795

Thomas Bledsoe was born 17th of February 1797

Elizabeth Bledsoe was born 26th of June 1798

Sampson Bledsoe was born 15th of January 1800

Abraham Bledsoe was born the 17th day of May 1790

Jos B. Wallen was born the 26 September 1793"

[fn p. 31: on March 6, 1849 in Scott County Virginia, Thomas R Bledsoe of said County gave testimony that he is the nephew of Thomas Bledsoe, a revolutionary pensioner; that he distinctly recollects that Nancy Bledsoe the 3rd child of Thomas and Margaret Bledsoe his 3 months older than himself; and that he is 59 years old as of February 13, 1849.]

[several affiants state that the widow was "Margaret McDaniel"]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]