

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Greer (Greer) W7567 Susannah fn87NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/2/08

North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

On this 18th day of June A.D. 1853 personally appeared before me the undersigned one of the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina Susanna Greer a resident of Steele Creek Congregation in the County and State aforesaid aged 83 years past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the acts of Congress passed July 7th 1838 – March 3rd, 1843 – June 17th, 1844 and July 29th, 1848 & February 3rd, 1853 – That she is the widow of Thomas Greer deceased who was a resident of said County and a Soldier of the Revolutionary war and Served in the American Army a considerable length of time (Some two years and upwards) as commissary – Deponent well remembers that when she was a small girl during the latter part of the Revolutionary war a Slaughter pen was established at her father's house and She often saw Thomas Greer her late husband with his assistance at Said Slaughter pen laying in a Supply of beef & for his division of the Army After Deponent's marriage with her said husband She often heard him talking of events that occurred during his Services in the American Army one fact She remembers distinctly that viz that at the time General Gates was retreating from Camden in South Carolina, her Said husband who then had charge of the Baggage Wagons & provision wagons belonging to the Army, met him and was ordered by Gates to cut his horses loose from the wagons and run for his life. That the British were near at hand and hot pursuit and would be upon him directly; but her husband refused to run and stayed with his wagons – Deponent has no recollection of the names of the officers under whom her said husband Served, nor does she know of any one now living by whom she can prove the facts – neither as she any documentary evidence in Support of her claim – Deponent further states that her father lived about 7 miles from Charlotte NC during the Revolution but was too old to take part in the war: owing however to his Strong attachment to the American cause, his house was made a place of general resort for the Whigs who came there to consult together and transact their business – That she remembers to have frequently seen at her Said father's house a young man by the name of Andrew Jackson, then a resident of the Waxhaw Settlement about 30 miles distant; that she was told by the family that Jackson came there with his friends for the purpose of affording the British who were advancing upon that Settlement. This was impressed upon Deponent's mind from the fact that it was after her first acquaintance with young Andrew Jackson, that her acquaintance began with Commissary Thomas Greer at her father's house.

Deponent further states that her maiden name was Susanna Spratt: that she is the Second wife of her Said husband Thomas Greer That she was married to him on the 30th day of April 1789 by General Robert Irwin deceased who was then a Justice of the Peace for Mecklenburg County NC. Deponent further States that her said husband Thomas Greer died on the 27th day of August A.D. 1828 leaving Surviving him this Declarant his widow who has not intermarried since the death of her husband the said Thomas Greer.

That she now offers as evidence of her marriage to the said Thomas Greer her family Register which is in the handwriting of Larkin Stowe of Gaston County NC who transcribed it from the original family Register which was in the handwriting of her husband the aforesaid Thomas Greer which transcript was made Some 35 years ago and that the original register is now lost – and that the register referred to is hereunto attached.

And for the purpose of prosecuting his claim I hereby constitute and appoint A. S. Wallace of York District South Carolina & William F. Davidson of Charlotte North Carolina my true & lawful attorneys with full power to act in as full and ample manner as though I were personally present: to appoint one or more Substitutes under them to examine all the papers and documents on file in the

Department at Washington City or elsewhere hereby ratifying & confirming all that my said attorney's shall lawfully do in the premises --

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year above written. Declarant further says that She was ignorant of the pension laws and did not know until a few years back that She was entitled to draw a pension for the Services of her husband said Thomas Greer and being in easy circumstances she neglected to present her claim.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ W. H. Neal, JP

S/ Susanna Greer

Family record:

Thomas Grier (Greer) was born June 24, 1744

On April 24, 1781, he married Hannah (last name not given) who was born March 2, 1761 and died March 22, 1788

On April 30, 1789, he married Susanna Spratt, daughter of James Spratt, she was born January 13, 1770 and died July 4, 1853

Children of Thomas and Hannah

Margaret born March 13, 1782

James born October 6, 1783, died March 6, 1845

Thomas, Jr. born December 26, 1785

Alexander born March 21, 1788

Children of Thomas and Susanna

Hannah born September 8, 1790, died Feb. 5, 1791

John Spratt born March 8, 1792, died Sept. 6, 1822

Samuel born Aug. 8, 1795, died Oct. 26, 1824

Andrew born Oct. 9, 1797, died Aug. 16, 1850

Katharine McKnight born Dec. 11, 1799, died March 20, 1828

Mary or Mary B. born April 11, 1802, died Sept. 5, 1824

William McKee born Aug. 20, 1804

Zenas or Zenas A. born Nov. 14, 1806

Susannah or Susan N. Whyte born July 17, 1810, died December 6, 1834

[On March 9, 1853, Thomas McClain [he signs his name clearly as "Thos. Maclean"], 89, of Gaston County gave a supporting affidavit stating that he did not personally serve in the Revolution but his brothers John (who was killed at "Blufords Bridge") and William McClain¹ (who was pensioner) did serve; that he, Thomas, well recollects Thomas Grier serving as a commissary during the war; that he heard his brothers say they served with Grier on a tour under General Rutherford to Ramsour's Mill.]

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County

Before me personally appeared Colonel Thomas J. Greer aged 67 years who being first duly Sworn on oath says that he is the son of Thomas Greer late of Mecklenburg County deceased whose widow Susannah Greer is now an applicant for a pension, and that he has always understood and believes that his father the said Thomas Greer was a Commissary in the Army of the Revolution and such he served the United States against the common enemy from the time he entered the Service in the year 1778 or 1779 until the close of the war, but to give the particulars of his fathers Said Service deponent cannot, but has often heard his father and other Soldiers of the Revolution who resided in deponents neighborhood in said County speak of his father's Service in the Revolution as a

1 May be William Maclean FPA W3572

commissary, viz. James Knox² Captain William Hutchinson³ & others. And that he Served under Colonel Irwin afterwards General Irwin who commanded the militia of Mecklenburg County North Carolina in which County the Said Thomas Greer lived, and was with General Gates at his defeat at Camden, but was not in the Battle but met Gates at his retreat – who ordered him to cut the horses from the wagons and retreat as the British were in hot pursuit, and immediately galloped off – Deponent's father then ordered a retreat of the wagons and with a Small guard kept in the rear brought off 17 wagons & teams to Charlotte North Carolina a distance of some 70 miles from the scene of action. He also furnished General Smallwood's Army and adopted his plan of Saving beef by hanging it up in a dark room, a practice he always kept up until his death. Said that General Smallwood preserved his beef in a wire Scrum hung in the open air and that his father was generally engaged in Service from the mountains to the Seaboard in North & South Carolina, one tour of which was performed at the City of Charleston SC neither can he say what Battles he was in as his Services were long and arduous and always duly appreciated by the community Since deponent's first recollection – Deponent further says that the family register which is now surrendered and Support of the marriage of the said Thomas and Susannah Greer the present claimant – was transcribed from his father's original family record some 36 years ago by Gentlemen by the name of Larkin Stowe now of Gaston County NC who was teaching School in the vicinity of his fathers, and that he knows the said transcription to be correct by frequent comparison with the original family register, which is now lost and that the births of their children as well as the date of their marriage he believes to be strictly 18th day of June 1853.

S/ Wm H. Neal, JP

S/ Thos. J. Greer

2 FPA S7126

3 FPA W10133