

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Blair W891

Jane

fn27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/30/10

[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 Williamson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October term 1832

On this 3rd day of October 1832 personally appeared before us Wright Stanley, Jabez Owen & George Shannon Justices of the quorum of the court of pleas and quarter sessions of Williamson County, Thomas Blair a resident of said County, aged 68 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of an act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. I first entered the service as a volunteer into Captain John Ballard's Company in the year 1779 I think in the month of March while residing in Lancaster County South Carolina. This company was attached to Colonel, and under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter]. I entered into this company for a twelve month Tour. After having rendezvoused at one Major Barkly's on the road from Camden to Salisbury, we marched about the time above named down towards Charleston to the Hanging Rock where we joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Marshall, here we remained but a short time. From thence we marched with Marshall's Regiment of horse troops, (Ballard's Company being also horsemen) down towards Camden on the Wateree River.

General Sumpter at this time late with his militia on the East of Camden. We acted as Rangers and scouting men. After serving for some months in this service on the Wateree River and about Camden, we were marched back to Lancaster County where we recruited. We then had orders to march down about the Rocky Mount with the British and Tories were ravaging the country of Camden district. This was the year previous to the Battle of Rocky Mount. We then about the month of July, marched down on Lynches Creek where the Tories collecting in bodies were doing great damage to the property of the Whigs. We ranged about the country and dispersed the Tories. Then we marched back to Lancaster, after being out until the latter part of September. We then marched down to Granies [?] quarter again at [sic, after?] the Tories, where we served one month & a half. We then returned home. We then crossed the Wateree River and marched over on Tiger [sic, Tyger] River where the Tories under one Captain Rump had collected. We after marching about from one place to another dispersed them and returned. We were out in this service upwards of two months. We had many and various other excursions with the Tories during my 12 months tour. Whenever we heard of any Tories doing damage to the

citizens or country we immediately marched against them and always dispersed them, and after routing them we would march home. In the whole of this 12 months Tour I was not more than two months at home all put together. I volunteered for 12 months and received a discharge for 12 months service signed by Captain Ballard.

I next, and immediately after my twelve months tour was expired, which was in March 1780 entered into Captain Dunlap's company in consequence of the division or class of the company. We marched under Captain Dunlap from Lancaster down towards Pedee [River] to a place called the three Sisters where General Sumpter lay with his Army, where remaining a few days, General Sumpter marched us to the White Church where a body of British were lodged. We made an attack upon them, endeavoring to dislodge them, but failed. Next day we took some wagons of provisions and the men that were guarding them. From there we marched to a place called the Indian head where we remained until my Tour of one month was out when I received a discharge from Captain Dunlap and was disbanded. I then returned home where I entered Captain Dunlap's Company according to class we marched to a place called orange burgh [sic, Orangeburg] where we remained on duty until my tour of one month was out. I next served one month being pressed to drive the wagon. General Sumpter lay at this time in five miles of my father's at a place called Harper's old Field.

I have stated three tours of one month each. The first commenced about the first of April. The second about the first of May and the third in the wagon service about the first of June, each Tour continuing through the respective month. I then entered some time in July of the same year being 1780 into Captain Stephenson's Company and served one month. We marched to a place called the four hole Bridge. General Sumpter about this time crossed the Catawby [sic, Catawba] River at Land's Ford in about one quarter of a mile from my Father's. Captain Stevenson with his men including myself joined him at Land's Ford and were marched immediately to the Hanging Rock where a body of British and Tories were stationed. We arrived there after traveling all night, about daybreak Sunday morning, when we attacked them and drove them from their entrenchments, getting the possession of two field pieces, and all their baggage when suddenly a reinforcement appearing, compelled us to retreat leaving the field pieces behind. After returning to Harper's old field we were disbanded and I got a discharge from Captain Stevenson for one month service. It will be seen I have stated 16 months service But, as during my 12 months Tour, I lost about two months from the service, which will reduce the number to 14 months, I shall state that as the amount of my service.

Where and when were you born? I was born in Entram [sic, and from] County Ireland, and in the year 1764.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? My age was recorded in my father's family Bible which was burned with his house during the revolution.

Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolution, and where do you now live?

I was living in Lancaster County South Carolina when first called into the service, having left Ireland at 6 years of age with my father settled in Lancaster SC where I lived until 1812 when I removed to Williamson Tennessee where I have been living ever since & now live.

How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if so for whom? I volunteered in my first tour of twelve months; and in my other tours of one month each, (with the exception of my last under Stevenson, in which I volunteered) I entered by the classing of the men, it having fallen to be my lot.

State the name of the regular officers that were with the men where you served; and Continental

& militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. There were no regular officers with the troops where I served. There was ___

I have stated the general circumstances of my service

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given & what has become of it? My first discharge was signed by Captain Ballard, my others by Captain Dunlap all of which are lost

State the names of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I can state John Marshall and Gilbert Marshall Esquires, Captain John Sudberry and Jesse Cox who can Testify to character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier etc.

I know of no person in this County who can prove my services as stated. I have no documentary evidence of my services. I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State.

Sworn to in open Court third of October 1832

S/ Thos. Harden, ? Clk

S/ Thomas Blair

[Garner McConnid [?], a clergyman, Ruffin Brown, John Mallory and Jesse Cox gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 12: on August 10th, 1839, in Maury County Tennessee, Mrs. Jane Blair, aged 74, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 stating that she is the widow of Thomas Blair; that she married him July 16th 1788 in the state of South Carolina, Lancaster District; that her husband died May 2, 1836 and that she remains his widow. "She further deposeth and saith that she can produce no documentary evidence only her family Bible which is in her possession and always has been from shortly after the marriage of the aforesaid Thomas and Jane Blair; -- which contains the ages and births of her the aforesaid Jane Blair's children, and that the record in the same has not been altered nor changed nor ever intended to be given in evidence for her the aforesaid Jane Blair and [indecipherable word or words] on record in said Bible as follows, Daniel Ferguson Blair, born February the 18th Friday in the year of our Lord 1791 -- Taylor Harper Blair -- born April the 5th Sabbath, in the year of our Lord 1795 -- Thomas Simpson Blair, born January the 5th in the year of our Lord 1797." The widow signed her own name to her application.]

[fn p. 15: on the reverse of the actual page from the family register is the following entries:

"Sarah D. Taylor was born March the 4th, 1799

" Wm Taylor was Bor4n August 23the 1759"]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$43.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private in the South Carolina militia.]