

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Coghill S15785

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, County of Caroline S.S.

On this 6th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me Thomas H Pitts a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Essex in the state of Virginia, Thomas Coghill, a resident of the United States in the county of Essex and state of Virginia, aged over seventy 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 act of congress, passed 7th June 1832 –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated viz – that he joined a volunteer troop of cavary for twelve months, in the month of October 1780 commanded by capt Jas Upshaw [James Upshaw], lieutenant Spencer Roane & Ensign or Cornett William Jones. He joined the sd company at Frank Ramsay's old Field in Essex County and marched from thence to Fredericksburg in Va, where he remained with sd troop during the winter. Early in the Spring of 1781 the sd troop was attached to a regiment of cavalry commanded by col John Mercer [John Francis Mercer] and Maj Lee, & marched to Hanover Court house, thence to old James Town va, where they had a battle with the enemy under Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton]. The enemy proved too strong for us, & we had to retreat and went to Hickory Neck Church [sic: Hickorynut Church 8 mi NW of Williamsburg], where we remain about 4 weeks – thence we marched to Hubbard's old field in Gloucester County va, thence to Gloucester Court House & thence to Sowel's Tavern [Seawell's Ordinary] in the same County. He we met the enemy and had a skirmish with them and Cornett Jones was taken prisoner, and Lee Roy Dangerfield was appointed in his place. About two miles from Sowel's Tavern we had another skirmish with the enemy and forced him to retire into Gloucestown on York river. Myself, Lewis Evans & Richard Kay, were taken prisoners in this engagement, & were carried by the enemy to York Town, where they detained us one night & then put us in the prison ship, in which we were kept till the surrender of Corn Wallis [sic: Cornwallis] in October [19<sup>th</sup>] 1781. A few days after his surrender, we were discharged by the enemy & I returned home, having served twelve months, including the time of my imprisonment. He states that he received no discharge from his officers – that it was about the middle of August when he was captured by the enemy; that he has no record of his age, but was born as he has always understood on the 9th May 1763 in the County of Essex & state of Virginia and has resided there ever since with the exception of the time he was in service, and one year immediately after the close of the revolution, which he spent in the adjoining County of Caroline & state aforesaid. The sd Coghill states that he resided at the time of his entering the service on the same spot in county of Essex & state of Virginia where he now resides, that he has no documentary evidence of his service and that he knows of no person now living who can testify to his service from a personal knowledge of it, but there are many persons now living advanced in life, who can testify that they have always heard of his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State

[signed] Thomas Coghill

NOTE: A document in the file states that Coghill died on 17 Jan 1851.