

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Brooks S1795

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee } October Term 1832

Hawkins County }

On this 1st day of October, personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County & State aforesaid, Thomas Brooks a resident of Hawkins County & State of Tennessee aged 72 years last May, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress passed June 7th, 1832 That he enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 15th day of January in the year 1779 with Col James Shelby and served in the Regiment of 12 months men, under the following named officers, Col John Montgomery who commanded the Regiment, & some of the Captains commanding companys in said Regiment were Capt. [Jesse] Evans, Capt. [Isaac] Taylor, Capt. Keller [sic: Abraham Kellar]. That at the time this regiment was raised, a Regiment of Militia was likewise called out & placed under the command of Col. Evan Shelby that these forces under the above named officers were collected & called into service for the purpose of reinforcing General [George Rogers] Clark in the Illinois That when he enlisted he lived in what is now called Sullivan County in the State of Tennessee that he intered the service as a twelve month's man but actually served about 16 months, that is, he was not discharged till the 29th of May 1780 This applicant further states, that after his enlistment he was marched with his Regiment in company with the Militia to some point on Holston river, he thinks not far from the mouth of what is now called Big Creek [near Amis TN], that here they embarked in canoes & descended Holston river for the purpose above mentioned, that in their decent they killed all the Indians that attempted to resist or flee, burnt down their towns, burnt down their corn cribs & drove away their cattle [10-20 Apr 1779]. This applicant states that the first Indian town they burnt was called Chiccamauga [sic: Chicamauga], situated on the Tennessee river that here they killed about 3 Indians all the rest having fled at their approach. That the Militia under the command of Shelby returned home from Chiccamauga & this applicant with his Regiment was continued down the river, that after this they landed at a place called Nick-a-jack [Nickajack] where they camped all night, & from thence they passed through the Suck in Tennessee river [about 5 mi NW of present Chattanooga], that some where between the suck & the mouth of the Tennessee, after they had landed to camp for the night, they saw two canoes loaded with skins & three Indians in each, ascending the river on the opisite side, that the Indians were hailed but did not stop when this Declarant & a few other men entered their own canoes & made pursuit, that the Indians were overtaken & captured & they & their cargo taken to the camp – that a guard was placed over them, but some time in the night they made their escape, leaving their canoes & skins. That they decended the Tennessee into the Ohio, thence into the Mississippi, thence up the Mississippi to the mouth of a little river called Ocher formerly called Chuschusca thence up the Ocher about 6 miles to a French town called Ocher where they landed & rested about 20 days & then reentered their canoes & returned in the Mississippi, thence down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Ohio, then up the Ohio to the mouth of the Wabash to Opost or Vincennes caled Opie – here they landed & rested a few days & marched across the Country from Opie to the Mississippi river, which they swam, there being no canoes, & burnt the Sars & Fo[?]es towns & cut down their corn, that after they had burnt these towns they returned to Opie, where they had left their canoes & from thence back to the French town Pancho & Chota where he remained till he set out for home, which made about 5 months. he served as a volunteer. This Declarant further states that after he returned home from the Illinois expedition he again entered the service of his Country as a substitute on an expedition to the South, that he entered under Capt. Thomas

Wallace & Col. Sevier, Col. Shelby – that he served under this engagement about 2 months, that this was in the year 1780. That from this out he served during the Revolutionary war as an Indian Spy, that he spent a part of his time at fort called Givens fort [possibly Given's Station about 1 mi SW of Danville KY] which was under the command of a certain John Williams & a part of his time at another fort called Rices fort, situated about 6 miles below the North Fork of Holston river. That from these forts he in company with others would go in pursuit of the Indians who would commit murders & depredations on the frontiers. That he had his discharge for some time, but finally lost it so that he cannot now produce it. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State

Thomas hisXmark Brooks

I William Carmack [pension application S9193] residing in Lee County & State of Virginia do hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with Thomas Brooks who has sworn to & subscribed the above Declaration for a great many years, that I believe him to be 72 years of age, that he served with me as a mess mate in an expedition down the Holston river to the Illinois for the purpose of reinforcing General Clark in that Country that the said Brooks & myself were not together when he enlisted, that all those that were enlisted rendezvozed on the long Island of Holston [at present Kingsport TN] some time in March, that at this place I met with the said Brooks & entered the service with him under Capt James Shelby, that I marched with the said Brooks to the mouth of Big creek where we remained a short time & then we embarked in mass down the Holston river for the purpose above stated, that I have heard read the above Declaration sworn to & subscribed by the said Brooks, that I have personal knowledge of the events mentioned by the said Brooks till we arrived at Vincenes – here the said Brooks was sent on an express & after this I never saw him till after the revolutionary war, when I saw him at his own house, that from my knowledge of the said Brooks all those facts stated by him of which I have no knowledge I believe to be true

William hisXmark Carmack

[This page appears to have been separated from others before and after it.]
that at this place General Clark had captured Governor Hamilton [25 Feb 1779] & his suit. this Declarant further states that at Vincennes they Wintered, & early in the Spring this Declairant & four other men, with L Williams were sent with an express to Ocher that he remained at Ocher till the arrival of his Regiment from Vincennes & General Clark from the falls of the Ohio, that when joined by his Regiment & General Clark, they marched to the protection of Pancho & Choto two French town situated on the Mississippi river about 3 miles apart on oposite sides of the river, that it was understood that these towns would be attacked by the Indians called the Surs & Fores & in this they were not rong-informed for the whites had not been long stationed at the towns till the said Indians desended the river & made their attac, that the Indians were driven from the town at which this Declairant was stationed [one or two illegible words] an attac on the other French town that this Declairant together with the other men were conducted to the rescure of the other town but on their arrival the Indians had retreated & made their escape. This Declairant further states that he remained at these towns guarding them, till he was discharged, which was given him on the 29th of May 1780 by Richard Beshener [sic: Richard Brashear], That after he received his discharge, he volunteered under Col. Montgomery on an expedition in pursuit of the Sur & Tores. that Col Montgomery set out on this expedition with about 700 men besides an Indian Chief called Bateast with about 50 Warriours, That with this force he ascended the Mississippi river to the mouth of the Illinois, thence up [illegible word] Illinois about 200 miles to an Indian [illegible word at end of page]

State of Tennessee }
Hawkins County }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for said County and State

Thomas Brooks, who being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that, by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades For one year, four months and fourteen days I served as a regular in the service of the United States: For five months I served as a volunteer For two months, I served as a substitute in a Southern expedition. For two years I served as an Indian spy; and for such service I claim a pension Thomas hisXmark Brooks
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of February 1833