

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Boon W23656

Mary Boon

f&A72SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/31/10: rev'd 11/15/16

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Illinois Clark County: Sct.

At the December Term of the County Commissioner's court in and for the County of Clarke and State of Illinois, began and holden at Darwin in the County and State aforesaid on Monday the third day of December A.D. 1832 came Thomas Boon, aged seventy-two years, and to in open court, being first duly sworn according to law, made, on oath, the following Declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress relating to the Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution passed on the 7th day of June A.D. 1832 -- That is to say --

I, Thomas Boon, was born in the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina on the 22nd day of April A.D. 1760. My Father, Thomas Boon, in the year 1764, moved into Ninety Six district, now Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina. My first Service was rendered while South Carolina which yet a British Colony. At the early age of eleven or twelve, I think in August in the year 1770 -- I went for the purpose of aiding some of my friends on their way in an Expedition against, I think, the Cherokee Indians, who had murdered the family of one Kelin Smith on the frontiers of South Carolina, at a place called Dewitt's corner. This Expedition was under the command of General Andrew Williamson and we overtook and defeated them at a place called the Keewee Towns [sic, Keowee Towns] where we erected a Fort called Fort Rutledge¹ and left it under the command of one Captain Tutt [Benjamin Tutt] and then we returned where I arrived on the 18th day of December 1770. For this Expedition I subsequently received the sum of eight dollars which is every cent I have ever received for my Services, either from the State of South Carolina or from the United States or either of them -- I think it was in the year 1775 I volunteered to accompany an Expedition under Captain John Pervis [sic, John Purvis] against East Florida² -- Our company crossed the Savannah River at Augusta -- thence we marched to and crossed at Big ferry on the Ogeechee River -- thence to a place called eat fish and at eat fish where we encamped for the night some Tories stole about one hundred head of cattle from us -- The Tories crossed with the cattle (Beef cattle) at Fort Barrintin [sic, Fort Barrington] on the Altamaha River on their way to join the enemy in Florida -- Our commander ordered fifty men to pursue and if possible to overtake the Tories which the party effected some distance beyond the Altamaha and brought the most of the cattle back to the encampment. We

¹ Fort Rutledge was located where Clemson University is now. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortrutledge.htm>

² Veteran appears to be describing events which occurred in what is called the Third Florida Expedition in March through July 1778. http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/campaigns/1778_thirdfloridaexpedition.htm

then resumed our march and crossed the Altamaha at Indian Bluff some miles below Fort Barrington where the Tories had crossed with our Beef cattle -- we then marched to near the mouth of the St. Mary's River where we encamped a few days awaiting for boats to come around from Georgia to take us across the River. We eventually crossed over to the South side of the St. Mary's and remained encamped several weeks and were finally dismissed in the month of October of the same year --

I returned then to Edgefield district and remained till hearing that the British had taken the Town of Savannah and that a party of them were then on their way to Augusta Colonel Leroy Hammond raised a party of 300 or 400 of the neighboring militia in order to impede their progress. The men thus raised by Colonel Hammond were volunteers and of those I was one -- We commenced our march to a place called Bogga=gat [sic ?]³ but finding our forces too small to risk an attack from the British we returned to a place called McBean, a distance of ten miles, but hearing that the British were approaching and would probably surround our camp we marched towards Augusta. We afterwards understood that the British arrived at the encampment which we had left about one hour after we had left it. The British took Augusta the next night, it having been partially defended by General Howe. I subsequently enlisted to serve as a substitute for one John Pound. I enlisted for a period of sixteen months. I enlisted under Captain John Moore at a place called Fox's Hill. Whether I enlisted as a Regular or into one of the three Independent Companies of South Carolina I do not know -- but I am inclined to think it was the latter. While we lay at Fox Hill General Ashe [John Ashe] from North Carolina encamped within about two miles of us. I went to his camp at night to see an acquaintance who I had understood was with him -- Ashe was on his way to intercept the British. In a day or two after Ashe had gone we left Fox Hill to join Ashe -- when we got to Summerlin's ferry we heard that Ashe had been defeated⁴ at the mouth of Brier Creek. It was said by our men that British gold had done as much toward Ashe's defeat as British arms. We then recrossed the Savannah towards Charleston in which direction we had heard a party of the Enemy had gone. General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] was at this time commander in chief though General Williams [sic, Andrew Williamson] was still with us. Our Army had now increased to about six thousand men, including volunteers and militia. We now marched day and night till we arrived at Bacon's Bridge and on the night on which we arrived there we were fired upon by some Tories. By this time we had got between the British and Charleston. The British then, in order to elude the pursuit of the Americans, took another route towards Charleston, crossing the Edisto River towards the mouth of Stono. We then shifted our course about ten or fifteen miles from Edisto River we overtook a party of about two hundred or two hundred fifty men who appeared to have been the rear guard of the Enemy or to have straggled from the British in some manner. This party of British had with them two ox wagons and several hogsheads of rum. The men were sent as prisoners to Orangeburg Jail. I well remember that among those prisoners was one William Cunningham⁵ a son of the Tory General Robert Cunningham of South Carolina. When we arrived at the mouth of Stono (or Stono ferry) we found that most of the British had crossed over with the exception of some Tories and British who remained in possession of a small Fort at the mouth of Stono. The

³ *Bogga-gat*

⁴ The Battle of Brier/Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/briercreek.htm> & <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁵ William Cunningham, also known as "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, is thought to be the nephew of Robert Cunningham, not his son as stated by the veteran.

ground in rear of the Fort being very swampy we retired to about the distance of six miles and encamped. An attack was now meditated against the British. General Moultrie [William Moultrie] was to come round from Charleston and attack them by water while General Lincoln was to attack them at the same time by land. I cannot recollect the date of the Battle of Stono⁶ but know that we left our camp in the night and when near the British Fort (it being near light in the morning) we heard the report of cannon at sea. General Moultrie not arriving the attack was commenced without him by General Lincoln. The Engagement lasted I should suppose something like one hour and a half. I well know it lasted sufficiently long for me to complement the British with Sixty three Balls. We were, however, finally compelled to retire, We wounded the British commander, Maitland, in the hip. We afterwards heard that the firing was caused by General Moultrie, who, on his way to the attack, had fallen in with some British Boats laden with clothing and provisions for the Enemy, and that he had captured them and taken them Back to Charleston, which was the cause of his not arriving to the attack on Stono in season to cooperate with General Lincoln. I think the British left that place soon after the Battle just related and went to a place called Bluford [sic, Beaufort]. Soon after this we were ordered back to Fort Independent (or Independence) on the Savannah River -- six miles below the Cherokee Ford. While at Fort Independence many Tories and British were brought to White Hall [the name of Andrew Williamson's plantation]. General Williamson sent to Fort Independence for a Sergeant, Corporal, and twelve men as an additional guard and I was one of that guard. I remained at White Hall till, I think, in the summer of 1779, when the company to which I belonged was marched to Savannah which was at this time in the possession of the British -- At about half way from Augusta to Savannah we were joined by Colonel Parker with a small body of Virginia Regulars. We reached Savannah and encamped within a short distance of the Town, immediately on the West of the French forces, under Count d'Estaing. At Savannah we found Count Pulaski. I do not remember the precise date of the Siege of Savannah [September 16-October 9, 1779]. But to the best of my recollection it was early in the month of October in the year 1779.⁷ I well know, however, that on the night before the attack was to be commenced we were ordered to be ready at a moment's warning -- On that night we were joined by two hundred men, called the Charleston Grenadiers but where they were last from, or on what business they had been, I do not know -- About an hour before day on the morning on which the attack was made, we were ordered to parade. We were marched to the attack before day break in the morning. A small Detachment was ordered to dislodge a party of British who build a Fort in a small Dutch settlement called Yamacraw [sic, Yamacraw] Settlement a little short distance from the Main Town of Savannah but precisely the distance I cannot tell. The Expedition against Yamacraw was commanded by Colonel Laurens [John Laurens] and Lieutenant Colonel O'Rea [sic, Peter Horry] -- I well remember that I and John Moore under whom I enlisted, together with one Joseph Reed and his son, Isaac Reed had just mounted the parapet at the very moment that a retreat was ordered by General Lincoln, the two Reeds on one side of me and my Captain, Moore, on the other and at that moment the two Reeds were shot and fell ~~dead~~ from the parapet, the son following first and the father on the top and across the son. In this engagement Count Pulaski was shot with a grape shot through the Breast just under the Shoulders. I helped to lay Count Pulaski on a litter which was made of a Blanket, some pine poles, some pine boughs, upon

⁶ June 20, 1779 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/stonoferry.htm>
http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_stono_ferry.html

⁷ The Siege of Savannah occurred roughly from September 16, 1779 to October 9, 1779.
<http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916.htm>

which he was carried to the Hospital. He, Count Pulaski, lived that day (that of the Battle) the next day and on the next day he died. I was never at the Hospital but I understood it to be about three miles ~~North~~ South of Savannah. We then returned to Augusta where we wintered. In the Spring we started to go to White Hall where we were to be discharged But hearing on the way at Ninety Six and Charleston were both in possession of the British our Captain, John Moore, dismissed us on the way. I then returned home to ~~Edgefield District~~. I was afterwards engaged in several occasional Excursions against the Tories and foraging parties of British and Tories -- But in all of them I was a volunteer. I once served five months or more under Captain Joseph Vincent. In that expedition we crossed the Savannah and drove a small party of Tories with provisions for the Enemy into a small Fort called Fort Golphin⁸ at Silver Bluff. We took the Fort and then went to Augusta. Here we found General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] (who had superseded General Williamson) and joined him to go in search for and to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who was somewhere in the North part of South Carolina. We found him at Columbia in South Carolina. From thence General Pickens with all under his command started in pursuit of the British who having evacuated Ninety Six were on their way to Charleston. Not being able to intercept the British, we returned home. I would here state that under the Enlistment under Captain John Moore I not only served out my time faithfully but several days longer. --

The court then put the following Interrogatories to the said Thomas Boon -- To wit --
Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born in the County of Halifax in the State of North Carolina in the year 1760 --

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer -- I have no record of my age except that written in my Father's family Bible

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- When I enlisted I was living in Edgefield District in South Carolina. I lived after the war or while in South Carolina, then for a short time in Tennessee and for a period of more than fifteen years in the County of Logan in the State of Kentucky. I now live in the County of Clark and State of Illinois --

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer -- When I enlisted under Captain Moore I did so to serve as a substitute for one John Pound -- But on all other Expeditions I was a volunteer --

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

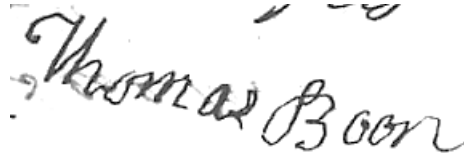
Answer. The General Circumstances of my Service I have already stated so far as I recollect them. I remember the name of many Officers but to say whether they belonged to the Regulars or Militia is not in my power -- I recollect General Greene, General Pickens, General Lincoln, General Williamson and General Ashe, Colonel Leroy Hammond, Colonel Butler, Colonel Warford [sic Wofford], Major (formerly Captain) John Purvis, Captain John Moore, Captain Benjamin Tutt, Henry Kee (or Key), Captain Boid [sic, Boyd ?], Captain James Casey, James McCoy, Thomas Jones and Joseph Vincent -- Lieutenants John Montgomery, Thomas Prince, Charles Earle Adjutant --, ___ Crafton -- Count d'Estaing and Count Pulaski.

⁸ Sic, Fort Galphin: May 21, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortgalphin.htm>

And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I do declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State -- I have no documentary evidence of any Service and I know of no person whose testimony I can procure who can testify to my services. I never received a Discharge and that for the reasons which I before stated. In conclusion I would beg leave to say that having Enlisted while a mere youth, and occupying the station of a private it is impossible for me to speak of the movements of the Main Army or the immediate objects its commanders had in mind, with any degree of certainty. This I do know, that, I was always ready to march at the call of my Country -- I fought for her in her darkest hours; and I know that the noble sight of a happy (a great) and [indecipherable word, looks like "grording" [growing?]] Republic, is enough to repay the friend of his Country for a life of toil -- But cheering as is the sight, it cannot banish Individual and immediate want -- An old age of poverty has overtaken me and I now merely ask of those whose freedom I and their fathers fought, a small pittance to blunt the sting of poverty, during my few remaining days -- I would also state that it has been so long since the occurrence of the events of which I have spoken, and not having near a history of that period gone more than forty years I cannot speak with entire certainty as to dates -- Subscribed and Sworn to in open court the day and year aforesaid

S/ Jacob Harlan, Clerk

S/ Thomas Boon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Boon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ Thomas Boon".

[p 30: John Boon, Wm McCabe, Lieuallen Elam, Thomas T. Weathers, Joseph Combs, John Wood, Jas. McCabe, Wm Woods, Zeno A. Ashmore and John Combs [and a whole bunch more as listed on p 31] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Isaac Hill, a clergyman, also gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 17]

State of Illinois Clark County: Sct:

This day personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Thomas Boon who deposeth and 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 stated below and in the following grades. I said for a period of six months as a private under Captain Purvis who acted as Major -- and I served for three months under Captain James Casey and Colonel Leroy Hammond -- I served also as a private under Captain John Moore for one year and four months and for such service I claim a pension when I served under Captain Moore I enlisted, but whether it was in the Continental Establishment or in the State Troops of South Carolina I cannot say. I remember that I enlisted under Captain Moore about three months before Ashe's defeat at Brier Creek. My term of Enlistment was out a few days after Charleston had fallen into the hands of the British. It is my impression that I enlisted into one of "three independent companies of South Carolina," but I cannot speak with certainty of these companies Boise had command of one Benjamin Tutt of one and Moore of the other. I served as a militia man except when under Captain Moore -- When I served under Captains Casey and Purvis Leroy Hammond was our Colonel. I cannot find a witness by whom to prove my service. The Siege of Savannah in which

Count Pulaski fell took place during my service under Captain Moore -- I was in the Battle of Savannah -- The Battle of Savannah took place many months after the Battle of Stono. At Savannah our Colonel was Laurens, Lieutenant Colonel Oree [sic, Peter Horry] -- the dates I cannot speak of with more precision that I have in this and in my first declaration stated all that I can remember.

Sworn to before me this 14th May 1833

S/ U. Manly, JP

[p 49-51: William Woods, a resident of Clark County Illinois but formerly a resident of Logan County Kentucky, testified in support of the veteran's application stating that while living in Logan County Kentucky, he became acquainted with the veteran and two other veterans of the revolution, Chapman Taylor and Nathan Johnson.⁹ The witness states that he heard the three old men often talked of their experiences in the revolution and that they were fellow soldiers.]

[p 21: On March 1, 1841 in Clark County Illinois, Mary Boon, 73 as of the 22nd day of July 1840, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Boon, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him September 10, 1790; that they were married by a justice of the peace, Esquire Lassiter, in Burke County Georgia; that she is unable to obtain any record proof of her marriage to Thomas Boon; that her husband died March 9th, 1836 in Clark County Illinois; and that she remains his widow. She signed her claim with her mark.]

[p 59: on March 1, 1841 and Clark County Illinois, William Woods a resident of said County gave testimony that ends 1791 he became personally acquainted with Thomas Boone and Mary On his wife and the County of Burke, State of Georgia; that said Thomas Boone was the affiant's stepfather.

William Woods]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years service in the South Carolina militia as a private; his widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

⁹ I did not find federal pension applications filed by individuals of the name Chapman Taylor or Nathan Johnson in which they claimed service in the revolutionary war in the South under any of the officers named by this veteran.