

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Andrews: S6506

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia Bedford County Sct.

On this 25th day of February in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of the County of Bedford the same being a Court of record now sitting Thomas Andrews a resident of the said County of Bedford and State of Virginia aged Seventy one 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That about the first day of June in the year 1780 being a resident of the County of Cumberland in said State he was drafted into service in the Militia of the State of Virginia and was marched from Cumberland Courthouse where the company rendezvoused under the command of Capt. Ballou, Lieut. Robert Anderson and Ensign John Nowlin. He was marched from Cumberland Courthouse aforesaid through the counties of Charlotte, Halifax & crossing Staunton River at Coles ferry to Hillsborough in the State of North Carolina where they joined the army then under the command of Gen'l. [Edward] Stevens. This company was then attached he thinks to the 4th Virginia regiment commanded by Col. [George] Stubblefield. His Lieutenant Colonel was named [Joseph] Spencer who was afterwards either killed or taken prisoner at the battle of Camden [in South Carolina, 16 Aug 1780]. The army remained at Hillsborough for several weeks. In a few days after the arrival of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates it was marched from thence to a place called Rangeleys mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill] about 12 miles from Camden where they joined the continental troops commanded by Baron De Kalb on the night before the battle of Camden. He was engaged in the Battle at Camden. He recollects that Gen'l. Stevens had his horse shot in the engagement. he was within a few feet of him at the time. after the defeat of the american army many of the militia returned to their homes. He the said Thomas Andrews with about one half the company to which he was attached returned to a ferry (the name of which he does not recollect) on the Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] River. There a good many of the militia got together and whilst there he thinks they were commanded by a major of the continental army whose name he does not recollect. From Pedee he with his company was marched to Hillsborough and from thence to Guilford [sic: Guilford] Courthouse where they were stationed guarding military stores which had been collected at that place. He remained there until about the 1st of November 1780 when he was honourably discharged having served five months. He believes that he was drafted to serve only 3 months, but such was the weakened condition of the army after the battle of Camden (great numbers of the militia having returned to their homes) that he with others was retained and served as stated above for five months. He received a discharge but it has been lost. He can prove this service by Anthony Lipford who was in the same company with himself and whose affidavit is hereto annexed. He knows of no other person now living by whom he can prove this service

In the month of December in the year 1780 being still a resident of said county of Cumberland he again entered the service in the militia of the State of Virginia as a substitute for one Robert Smith and served for the term of three months. He was marched from Cumberland Courthouse under the command of Richard Allen Captain and Moses Arnold Lieutenant through Petersburg and joined the army at a little Town called Suffolk The British were there in possession of Norfolk. a few days after he joined the army about fifteen hundred men were detached amongst which was his company to a place called the Long Bridge [sic: Great Bridge] where they were stationed to guard the bridge and prevent the British from crossing. This detachment he thinks was commanded by a Colo. Downman. the names of the other field officers he does not recollect. They remained at Long bridge for some time until the British army cut off the ordinary communication between their detachments and the army stationed at Suffolk, when they retreated across the Dismal Swamp a distance of about seven miles across logs and again joined the army at Suffolk. afterwards they were employed in watching the movements of the Brittish at Norfolk untill his term of service expired and he was

discharged some time in the latter part of March 1781. He received a discharge but it has been lost. He does not recollect by whom it was signed. He can prove the service of this tour of duty by John Willard who was in the same company with himself. he knows of no other person by whom he can prove it. About the last of April or first of May in the year 1781 being still a resident of the said County of Cumberland he again entered the service in the Militia of the State of Virginia as a substitute for a man who lived in Cumberland but whose name he does not now recollect and served a term of three months. He was marched from Cumberland Courthouse under the command of Capt. Robert Anderson and joined the army commanded by Gen'l. LaFayette at a place called the Barracks 12 or 15 miles below Richmond. From thence they were marched northward and at a place called the Raccoon ford on Rapid Ann [sic: Rapidan] River they formed a junction with Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne's army [10 June 1781]. After the junction of Gen'l Wayne's Army they marched in pursuit of the British who had just left a place called Pointy fork on James River [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence of the James and Rivanna rivers]. The advanced guard of the army came up with British at James Town and there had an engagement [6 July 1781]. He does not remember who commanded the regiment to which he was attached He was in Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson's brigade. He remembers a Colo. Holcombe [sic: John Holcomb] and a major [illegible] both of Prince Edward County who were with the army and who probably commanded the regiment to which he was attached, but of this he is not certain. He was discharged near Richmond he thinks about the first of August 1781 having served as before mentioned a term of three months. His discharge has been lost. He knows of no person now living by whom the tour of duty last mentioned can be established. In answer to interrogatories propounded by the Court he says

1st That he was born in the County of Cumberland and State of Virginia on the 12th day of December 1761.

2nd He has a record of his age transcribed by himself from his fathers register which (his fathers) is now in the possession of his brother in law in the State of Georgia.

3rd As stated in his declaration when he entered the service he resided in Cumberland County Va. In the year 1782. he removed to Prince Edward County in said state, and in the year 1787 he removed from Prince Edward to Bedford County where he has resided ever since.

4th As stated in his declaration he was drafted the first Tour. The second Tour he served as a substitute for Robert Smith. The third Tour also as a substitute for a man whose name he has forgotten.

5th The names of the Regular officers with whom he served & the continental & militia regiments that he served with & the general circumstances of his services are stated as fully in the preceeding part of this declaration as he is now able to state them.

6th As stated before, he received discharges but they have been lost.

7th He is known to Captain Henry Brown, Colo. David Saunders, James Mitchell and many others who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Thomas Andrews

NOTE: The pension certificate states that Thomas Andrews died 31 Aug 1853. Additional details about him are in the pension application for William Robinson: R8909.