

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Thomas Tart S7676

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of North Carolina, Sampson County

On this 15th of August, 1833, personally appeared before us, James Bennett and John King, two of the justices of peace in and for the County aforesaid, Thomas Tart, a resident of Sampson County in the State of North Carolina, aged 72 years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain 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 as near as he can recollect, it was in the month of June, 1779, a draft was to take place in the Company to which he belonged, for the term of nine months; that the Company was to furnish six men; that in order not to stand the draft, the Company made up two hundred Dollars Continental money to any one who would volunteer. Rather than be drafted he took the money & volunteered under command of Captain Wm [William] Williams;¹ & that himself & what men were drafted from the regiment rendezvous[ed] at Windsor, Bertie County and remained there about a week, and from Windsor they were marched to the town of Hallifax [sic, Halifax] in Hallifax County [sic, Halifax County, North Carolina]. Before they arrived at Halifax, they met some continental officers who took command of the Militia. When they arrived a Halifax, there was a considerable army stationed there. He was then placed in a regiment commanded by Colonel Hogan,² Major Hogg, Captain Redding Blount [sic, Reading Blount]³ and Lieutenant Rueben Wilkinson. They were stationed there as much as three or four weeks. They then Marched from Halifax to West Point Fort on the north river, & as he understood, to fill up the 3rd North Carolina Regiment; that they marched under command of the continental officers already named; that when the regiment got to New Kent County, Virginia, Lieutenant Wilkinson, as he supposes, got a parole to visit his father in said county, & took him along with him to wait on him. After staying with the father of Lt. Wilkinson for some time, they went on after the army, but never overtook them until they got to West Point. They went through Richmond, Fredericksburg, Alexandria in Virginia, Georgetown, Baltimore, Philadelphia, [and] Princeton NJ. They staid all night. Lieutenant Wilkinson slept in a Tavern & he slept in a cottedge [sic, cottage?]. When they arrived at West Point they found their regiment back of the Fort on the commons; that the Regiment was there encamped in their tents until the balance of their time of service expired; that he believes there was several armies stationed about in that country. On the opposite side of the River & some where above them on the River; that there was a large chain stretched across the river, as he understood, to prevent the British shipping from going up River; that he never was in any battle; that nearly all the time for which he volunteered he had to wait on his Captain and Lieutenant in their tent until Lieutenant Wilkinson & a Lieutenant Yarborough of another company fought a duel, and Lieutenant Wilkinson was wounded in the left arm; that he had to attend him while under the Doctor. They went up the River to a town called New Windsor where there was a hospital. While there under the Doctor, their time of Service expired & the Company [was] discharged & his comrades that left home with him—viz—William Watford,⁴ John Kale, John Hoggard [sic, John Hoggard],⁵ Patrick

Hogard, & Nathan Cobb returned home to Bertie County North Carolina without him; that his Lieutenant told him to go to Philadelphia where he would find Colonel Hogan who would give him a discharge. When he got to Philadelphia, he understood that Colonel Hogan was promoted to the rank of General; he ordered him to be inoculated immediately with the Small pox & sent to the hospital in Philadelphia; that before he got well of the Small pox he was taken with the putrid Fever; that his life was for some time despaired of; that Doctor Jackson principal & Doctor Reid assistant Superintended the Hospital.

When he was able to leave the hospital, he returned to General Hogan wrote a discharge & gave [it to] him & told him he might go home, but yet feeble and left alone, he was at a loss what to do. He was told that he could get employ[ed] on board a letter of marquee bound to the West Indies on a trading voyage. He done so & went on board the Ship *Jay*—formerly called the ship *Liverpool*—they sailed from the port of Philadelphia & when they had left the Cape of Delaware, about three Days they captured an English Brig laden with supplies to the English army at Halifax N. S. [Nova Scotia] & sent her to Alexandria in Virginia. They sailed then to an Island called Eustatia [sic, Eustatius] or Saint Eustatia [sic, St. Eustatius] where they unloaded their Tobacco & Slaves—& loaded the ship with salt & returned to the United States. The ship was commanded by Captain Herman Coulter & John Douglass; Lieutenants Tanner & Fisher. When we got as far as Chester on the Delaware River the ice prevented her going any farther; that he went to Chester & worked with a shoemaker for his victuals till he got his share of the prize money. When he returned to his father's house in Bertie County North Carolina bring absent one year & ten months.

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 or (if any) only on that of the agency of the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Tart

S/ John King, JP

S/ Jas Bennett, JP

Questions asked the applicant by James Bennett and John King, two of the Justices of The Peace & Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Sampson County, North Carolina:

Question 1st: Where & what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Nansemond Country in the state of Virginia, the 7th of February, 1761.

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

Answer: I have it on a slip of paper from my father's large Family Bible.

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

Answer: When I was called into the service, I lived with my father in Bertie County. I was absent by land & sea for one year and ten months. After my return, I married. I moved into the state of Virginia near where I was born & staid one year, then I moved back to Bertie County & from thence about thirty three years ago, I moved to the place where I now live on the north side of Kill Peacock Swamp & east side of The Great Coharie, Sampson County N. Carolina.

Question 4th: How were you called into the service, were you drafted? Did you volunteer? Were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer: When a draft was pending for a term of nine months & our company was to furnish a quota of six men—the company offered to give any men that would go two hundred Dollars Continental money—so rather than run the risque [sic, risk] of being drafted, I took the money & volunteered for a term of nine months.

Question 5th: State the names of some of the regular offices who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer: Colonel Hogan and Major Hogg, commanded the Regiment where I served & Captain Redding Blount & Lieutenant Rueben Wilkinson commanded the company to which I belonged. I have no recollection of any militia regiments, neither do I remember who the officers were that commanded at West Point. Our regiment was encamped on the commons back of the Fort, & the soldiers of the fort & the soldiers of the regiment had no communication with each other & my employment was to wait on the Captain & Lieutenant.

Question 6th: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I rec'd a discharge from the army from Colonel then General Hogan in Philadelphia after my return from waiting on Lieut. Wilkinson. I know not what has become of it. When I received it, I had no idea of it being of any advantage to me & I then entered on board the Letter of Marque on a cruise to the West Indies.

Question 7th: State the name of person who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer: I know of no person who can testify at this time as to my service as a soldier of the Revolution. A few years back I could have done so. I don't know whether any of them are yet alive or not & if alive, I know not where they live. As to my character for veracity, I will state the names of Thomas Thornton Sr. & Westbrook Lee, who have know me for about thirty three years, the time that I have resided in this county.

¹ This may be the Captain William Williams of the North Carolina Continental line whose heirs filed for bounty land in the petition found in file # B.L.Wt. 2202-300.

² James Hogun was an officer in the North Carolina Continental line. Born in Ireland (date unknown), he settled in Halifax County, North Carolina in 1751. He was appointed a major in the Halifax militia on April 22, 1776. On November 26, 1776 he was appointed the colonel of the Seventh North Carolina Continental Regiment and was with Washington at the Battles of Brandywine and Germantown. In 1778 he recruited a regiment of North Carolina Continentals which he marched to White Plains but was soon ordered to West Point to help build the fortifications there because his regiment was too poorly armed to serve in combat. On January 9, 1779, Hogan was voted a Brigadier General by the Continental Congress and on March 19, 1779, he succeeded Benedict Arnold as commandant of Philadelphia. In late 1779, he marched his brigade to Charleston, South Carolina to participate in the defense of that town and was taken prisoner there when Charleston was surrendered on May 12, 1780. Imprisoned at Haddrell's Point, he refused the British offer to be paroled declaring that he would suffer the same hardships as his men. It is thought that his real reason for refusing parole was his fear that his men would be recruited by the British to fight in the West Indies. Hogun's health failed him at Haddrell's Point and died there on January 4, 1781. William S. Powell, ed., *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* (Chapel Hill, The University of North Carolina Press, 1988), Vol. 3, p.163-4.

³ A bounty land claim was filed by the heirs of Captain Reading Blount based on his services in the Revolution. See Bounty Land claim BLWT289-400 T

⁴ William Watford filed his for a pension. See S3463

⁵ Hoggard filed his own pension application. See R4804. Hoggard's application is supported by the affidavit of a William Watford, who claims to have been a fellow soldier with Hoggard.