

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Ashbrook S31528

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana

Owen County, Sct.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of the act entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828 I Thomas Ashbrook of the County of Owen aforesaid do hereby declare that I enlisted in the continental line [see endnote], of the army of the Revolution for and during the war, and continued in its service untill its termination at which period I was a private soldier in the 2nd Rifle Regiment under General Dark and Colonel Bullett The said Company commanded by Captain McCarty in the Virginia line. And I also declare That I afterwards rec'd. a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed 15th May 1778.

And I further declare that I was not on the fifteenth day of May 1828 on the pension list of the United States, nor have I ever been on the pension list roll, nor have I ever received from the United States one cent or any other sum for pension from the declaration of Independence to this time.

Witness my hand this 22nd day of November 1831 Thomas hisXmark Ashbrook
N.B. The most convenient B. Bank U.S is at Louisville Kentucky.

State of Indiana

Owen County [illegible abbreviation] Owen Probate Court February term 1834

On this 10th day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Honourable John Dunn sole Judge of the Probate Court of said County (said Court being a Court of record and now sitting) Thomas Ashbrook a resident of said County, aged seventy six 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 Aact 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 towit that he volunteered in the company commanded by Capain Edward McCarty, John Vandever Lieutenant and a man commonly called Cut bullet ensign of said County, the Colonel who commanded said Company was by the name of Dark, who commanded the second rifle Regiment as well as applicant recollects; the General was by the name of Mathews [probably Militia Col. Sampson Mathews] that said company was raised in Hampshire County Virginia on the South branch of the Potomac river, that the time he so entered the service as aforesaid was about the 20th day of June 1781 that the term for which he so entered the service as aforesaid was three months, that they marched across the Potomac to near the state line between N Carolina & Virginia, during this march he recollects the bridges were burnt across some small rivers he thinks one was called Dan River another Buncum, and from thence to near Williamsburg to a place called Bottoms Bridge" three quarters of a mile from the town aforesaid where they rendezvoused, till the term of service expired, and the term of service being out, the officers of the company solicited earnestly that we should not return home but stay and defend the Country from the enemy as that soldiers at this time were scare [scarce] and the demand great, and accordingly the company remained under the command aforesaid for an indefinate period as applicant believes That we remained at this place four or five weeks, from whence they were marched by Gen'l. Mathews in the night to a place called Allen's Ornery [sic: Allen's Ordinary] for the avowed purpose of taking a small British piqueting, the number that was taken to this place was three hundred as applicant believes, that they were halted in the lane and permitted to set down in plattoons on their heels in the fence corners, when and where the British Light Horse came on us and Mathews came riding back and as

he passed said to us "fight them boys to the 17 generation" we jumped over the fence on either side of the road, and many of us fired on the light horse who pursued Mathews, fifteen of our number was killed and some wounded, after this Col. Dark succeeded to the command of the company in the place of Mathews on the side of the lane on which applicant was there was a Peach Orchard – that Allens Ornary aforesaid was about six or seven moles from Yorktown, that they were marched after this by the Goveror of Va. by the name he thinks of Nelson [Thomas Nelson, elected 12 Jun 1781], to near the River nearer to Yorktown, from which place they commenced the works for the battle at that place [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], which was soon after, that he was in the battle of York town from the beginning to the end thereof; that while he was here and during the battle he saw three ships blow up [the *Charon* and other vessels off Yorktown, 9 Oct], two in the evening and one in the morning.

That after the battle they were marched in the direction of home, forming a part of the guard, guarding the prisoners down to near Winchester to the Barrocks in Bartley [sic: Berkeley] County where they were discharged, that in this second period he seved three months making in all in the service six months as a volunteer, that the regular soldiers came to them at "Bottoms Bridge" – herein mentioned.

That in one or two days after the discharge last aforesaid he again entered the service as a substitute for one John Been (alias Bein) in the company of Capt. Voss, Lieut. Geo. Bell [George Bell] at the Barracks, the term of the service was three months, the company last aforesaid remained here to guard the prisoners, and in which applicant remained till his tour was out and he was again discharged, his discharge received the last two tours above described were lost about thirty years since That before he returned home after the expiration of the above term of service and as well as applicant recollects it was three or four days he again entered the service as a substitute for one Mathew Pigman in a company commanded by Capt. Elisha Bell and Levi Ashbrook Lieut. that if his memory serves him correctly this company was drafted near the barracks, that the term for which he became a substitute in this company was three months that their employment was to guard the prisoners taken at Yorktown, that this term expired and applicant was again discharged, which discharge is also lost

That after the expiration of this term of service he again entered the service as a substitute for one William Johns in the company of John Perrill and Levi Ashbrook Lieut. that this company was raised in the county of Hampshire where applicant joined it, that they were marched to the Barracks aforesaid and remained there till tour expired being for three months and applicant was again discharged, which discharge is also lost –

The the terms of service aforesaid were in order of time shortly after one another that they were all performed between June 1781 and October 1782, the whole of which time this applicant lost by reason of the war that fifteen months of this time he was in the actual service of the United States during which term he served as a private and for which he claims a pension

That he was born as he is informed and believes in the County of Hampshire in the year 1758 as he believes. That he has no record of his age. That he lived in Virginia 28 years in Pennsylvania 2 years, in Kentucky 36 years in Ohio about four years and in Indiana about 7 years where he now resides. that during said period he lived in Hampshire county on the Potomac in Va. at Red Stone old fort in Pen [Fort Redstone at present Brownsville PA], in Borbon [sic: Bourbon] Nicholas and Harrison Counties Ky. at Old Chilicothe Ohio and in Owen County Ia –

That he is now old and his memory much impaired by reason thereof that from this cause he cannot be more possitive about the dates of the different service, That he knows of no person by whom he can prove his service, except by his own oath. 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 in the union, that he procured an individual about 18 months since to make an application to the war department for a pension for him which was returned, and which he has not seen since nor cannot now procure to send back to the department

Thomas hisXmark Ashbrook

NOTE: I could not find any Continental officers with the names mentioned by Ashbrook. The fact that his tours were for three months each indicates that he was actually in the militia.