

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of John Thrift W9516                      Elizabeth                      fn33NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves

State of South Carolina, Pickens District

On this the first day of October in the year 1832, personally appeared in open court, before the Honorable Richard Gantt, in the Superior Court of Sessions and, Common Pleas now sitting in Pickens Court House, John Thrift a resident of the State and District aforesaid, aged 73 years on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January next, 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 the seventh of June A.D. 1832

To wit; The said deponent entered the service in the Revolutionary war as a volunteer, and serve two campaigns, as hereinafter stated, both taken together amount to some small time over six months of actual military service. First, the said deponent entered as a volunteer some short time before the Battle of Kings Mountain under the following officers, himself being a common soldier, -- Col. Benjamin Cleveland, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Herndon, Major Hartgrove, Major Benjamin Herndon and Captain Abram Morse [could be "Abram Moore"], other officers not remembered. That, further, said deponent was a resident of North Carolina. That he started from Wilkes Court House, crossed Catawba River then Green River, then Broad River at the Cherokee Ford. Col. Cleveland had gone on ahead of the foot soldiers and in command of his Horse, was present at the Great Battle of Kings Mountain and returned with some hundreds of British soldiers and Tories taken at Kings Mountain. Colonel Cleveland, met his Army of Foot at the Cherokee Ford, on Broad River. The deponent John Thrift was amongst the Foot soldiers who met Colonel Cleveland at the Cherokee Ford. Said deponent with the Army marched back and carried the prisoners taken at Kings Mountain to Housertown [sic, Hausertown]<sup>1</sup> afterwards he was discharged from service, having been three months in the Service.

Again, one year or thereabouts after the battle of Kings Mountain, this deponent, John Thrift, entered the Service of the common cause of American liberty, as a volunteer, under the following named officers: General Rutherford, Major Thomas Magure (or Macquire) Captain Thomas Morris and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant James Ireland. We took up arms when the Army assembled at Salisbury. Was living then in Rowan County, N. C. -- marched from Salisbury to Finsdales [?] Ferry on Pee Dee [sic, Pedee River], was stationed near the Pedee about two weeks made several marches along Pedee in quest of Tory parties and was engaged in checking and keeping them down, during which time we crossed the Cape Fear River about 20 miles below the mouth of Cross Creek during this second Campaign under General Rutherford this deponent was some time more than three months in actual military service as a volunteer, before he was discharged, and the Army broke up. Both campaigns make the time amount to some more than six months of service under arms.

The deponent 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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afore said.

In Open Court

S/ William L. Keith, Clerk

S/ John Thrift, X his mark

[Nimrod Sullivan, a clergyman, and Jesse Neville gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of South Carolina, Pickens District

Personally appeared, before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace &c John Thrift of the said District who has applied for a Pension under the act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – and being duly Sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was born near Petersburg in the State of Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of

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<sup>1</sup> According to at least one history of the Moravian Church, the settlement of Bethania in North Carolina was originally referred to as Hausertown due to the early presence there of a family by the name of Hauser. [The Moravians in North Carolina: an authentic history - Google Books Result](#) by Levin Theodore Reichel.

January 1760 as he has been informed by his parents: That he would has no record of his age – That at the time he was called into the service he lived in Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina – during the war he moved into Roan [sic, Rowan County] & lived in it till it was divided he was in Iredell at the division & lived there till the year 1804. He then moved to York District in South Carolina lived there six years till 1810 – when he moved to Union District in this State where he lived 12 years till 1822. -- he then moved to Pendleton District, & has lived in that part of Pendleton now the Judicial District of Pickens for the last 11 years. He is very poor, infirm and illiterate, a memory much impaired, with a wife very much afflicted, he has got at so great a distance from his companions during the Revolutionary War, that he does not know of a single living witness, there is none that he has heard of or can procure. He is personally acquainted with Colonel Joseph Grisham, Col. David McKinney who commanded the Regiment he lives in Lieutenant Colonel Jesse McKinney of [illegible], Jesse Neville,<sup>2</sup> who is a near neighbor & who says he is satisfied that I was at the Battle at King's Mountain from many circumstances which he knew to be as related, as we have often conversed about our troubles during the Revolutionary War.

Also acquainted with William L. Keith the Clerk of the Court – and William B. Sloan the Sheriff of the District of Pickens. And confidently uphill to all to whom he is known as he does not know any man who would not willingly testify to his credibility.

Sworn to and subscribed this third day of June 1833 Before me.

S/ Nathan Boon, JP

S/ John Thrift, X his mark

[On October 10, 1844, Elizabeth Thrift of Pickens District, South Carolina, filed for a widow's pension stating that she was about 94 or 95 years old; that she was the widow of John Thrift who served under Captain Morris in Col. Cleveland's Regiment; that they lived in Caswell, Rowan, Wilkes and Iredell counties in North Carolina at different times and afterwards moved to Union District South Carolina and from thence to Pickens District 23 years ago; it's that she married John Thrift near Grassy Knob in Wilkes County North Carolina, the marriage was performed at Squire Sanders by a Baptist minister by the name of Petty; that they were married in March of 1781; and that her husband died on August 2, 1840. Further she states as follows:

“She also declares further, that she has no record of her marriage, nor does he know that she ever had it, but if so, in moving about so much from place to place it is lost; she presents herewith, an old slip of paper containing a record of the births of a portion of her children, amongst which will be found recorded, “Mary Thrift was born October the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the year of our Lord 1784.” Which was her second child; Elizabeth Thrift being her oldest, was born near three years before the birth of Mary; her birth was recorded in an old Prayer book by one Peter Smith which book is lost by some means or other in her rambles. The births of Marthey ( as it is written) and Mary Thrift, as shown by the record of the slip of Paper herewith sent, was recorded by one Alexander Whitaker, and this said slip has been in her care ever since, kept in an old Testament.”

[data from the referenced slip of paper

“Marthy Thrift was born July the 12 Day in the year of our Lord 1781

Mary Thrift was born October the 4 Day in the year of our Lord 1784

Susannah Thrift was Born June [illegible] Day in the year of our Lord 1791

John Allen Thrift was Born february [illegible] Day in the year of our Lord 1794

Allen Hevy was born Jenuary the 28 Day in the year of our Lord 1797

Elizabeth Thrift Hervy was born January 12<sup>th</sup> day in the year of our Lord 1817]

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2 [Jesse Nevill \(Neville\) S21899](#)