

Portrait of a Revolutionary War Soldier

Thomas Camp

It is fairly well established that Thomas Camp was born in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia on the 15th of June 1757. He enlisted as a private for 3 years at the age of 20 along with his younger brother James in the 2nd Virginia Militia Regiment under Captain Phillip Taliaferro's company sometime in January 1777. After about a years' service, Governor Patrick Henry requested that the Regiment be transferred to the Continental Line. Col. William Brent commander of the Militia consulted with the Regiment, after an almost unanimous vote (With only one dissenter.) they became part of the 2nd Virginia State Regiment under Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg as part of the 1st Virginia Brigade under the 5th Division and were quickly marched north to Valley Forge.

He fought at the Battle of Monmouth as part of a Regiment of "Picked Men" (These were light infantry composed of the very best soldiers. One company was produced by each regiment which then served in detached duty) under Colonel Walter Stewart and General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. The Camp brothers were part of the Middlebrook Encampment in New Jersey during the winter of 1778-1779. In the spring of 1779 again as a part of a force of "Picked Men" they were marched north to the ruins of Fort Montgomery (Just south of West Point) under General Wayne. On July 15th, General Wayne led a 3 prong, surprise midnight assault on the British fortifications at Stony Point, the southern gateway to the Hudson Highlands. Thomas Camp as part of Wayne's southern prong, served in the 1st Regiment under Col. Christian Febiger. They waded across Haverstraw Bay on the Hudson River and took the heights of Stony Point in a daring bayonets only assault (Any man who fired a shot was to be put to death instantly). In the spring of 1780 most of the Regiment was disbanded at Williamsburg including Thomas & James. In the summer of 1781 the Regiment was briefly reconstituted and sent to the siege at Yorktown under Colonel Charles Dabney where Thomas Camp finished his service as a sentry. The Regiment was disbanded in 1782.

In 1783 both Thomas and James received their Land Bounty's. In 1786 on the passing of his brother James, Thomas inherited his Bounty. In 1818 nearly destitute at the age of 61 he was allowed a pension on his service. He married Martha Westray in 1789, she would go on to receive his pension starting in 1848. His youngest son Cavil Camp was named after his favorite officer, Lieutenant Cavil. His oldest son Humphrey Stafford Camp fought in the Battle of Craney Island at Norfolk during the War of 1812 and his grandson David Collin Camp was killed in the Battle of Greenville in North Carolina during the War Between the States. Thomas passed away in 1825 and is buried in an unknown location on his farm in Southampton County, Virginia.

By Michael T. Mangum (4th great grandson)