

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Bounty Land Claim for Thomas Winder Ewell BLWt2497-300                      VA Half Pay  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 7 December 2023.

Know all men by these presents, that I Sarah E Hays of Bottetourt [sic] County Virginia do hereby constitute, nominate and appoint William Helm of Jeffersonston Virginia my true and lawful attorney, to prosecute any claims to land and money that may be due from the State of Virginia and United States, or either, on account of the Revolutionary services of Thomas Winder Ewell a Captain in Col. George Gibson's [BLWt1985-500] Regiment in the revolutionary army [1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Virginia State Line]; and to demand and receive from the Secretary of War at Washington any Warrant at the General land office, in order to obtain certificates of scrip in lieu thereof, which he is authorized to receive, sell and assign. Said attorney is also authorized to demand and receive from the State of Virginia, or the United States, any Half pay or Commutation and interest that may be due by virtue of any Law of Congress now in existence, or by any law which may pass during the session of the present Congress. Hereby ratifying & confirming whatever my said attorney may lawfully do in the premises, As witness my hand and seal this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1834  
Sarah E. Hays

STATE OF Virginia        }  
COUNTY OF Botetourt }

I, Sarah E Hays heir at law of Thos Winder Ewel Deceased do, upon oath, testify and declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that s'd. Thos Winder Ewel did enter the service in 1776, and served as a captain in the Regiment No. one under the command of Colonel Geo Gibson, of the Virginia State line; and that he continued in the service aforesaid until the end of the War

I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to Capt Thos Winder Ewel on the part of the United States; nor do I believe that he ever received it, or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever: [power of attorney follows. signed Sarah E. Hays]

I Hereby certify that I knew Thomas Winder Ewell from about Dumfries [in Prince William County] in Virginia, well, He was one of several I think who having been in the Marine Service, entered Gibsons Regiment in 1776: He was about the second captain Captain in that Regiment in which I was third; when I was promoted in 1780, by the ~~General~~ Assembly of Va, and sent to the South, I left the said Ewell in that situation. About that time or very soon after, the two regiments then Called state Regiments being much reduced, were consolodated and reduced to one, and took the name of Dabneys Legion [Charles Dabney R13624]; Ewell I always understood, and have no doubt of the fact, was one who continued in that corpse to the end of the War, and his brother Charles [Charles Ewell W9432] became a Supernumerary; If there was any other Captain Thomas Ewell, in that or any other corpse, I confess I knew him not, nor do I beleive there was  
John Nicholas [S46397] late Capt Revl'y Army  
[21 Nov 1835]

The Deposition of Angus Rucker [S19068] (aged about eighty four years) taken before me a magistrate of Madison County, in the state of virginia, at the House of the said Rucker, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 1836: to be read as evidence in a now depending in the circuit Superior Court of Henrico County: between Jesse B Weems administrator of Thomas Winder Ewell deceased Plaintiff, against the Commonwealth of Virginia, defendant: This deponant answereth the following interrogaries as follows: Question by Plaintiff Were you acquainted with Thomas Winder Ewell, an officer in the army of the Revolution, if you were, state what you know about his services: when he was into the army. In what Regiment did he serve, and particularly did he serve untill the end of the War: that is till the 22<sup>d</sup> day of April 1783:

answer: I was very intimately acquainted with Thomas Winder Ewell, he was a Captain in Colonel George

Gibsons Regiment in the winter of 1776-7: he serve I as a Captain in said Regiment, about three years or as long as the Regiment remained in the Northern army; I was also a Captain in the same Regiment and during the time became very intimately acquainted with said Ewell, about the beginning of the 1780; Gibsons regiment, as well as the second Virginia Regiment became so much reduced in numbers, that they returned from the North and were consolated, and formed into one Regiment, and that Regiment, and that Regiment was placed under the command of Colonel Dabney, and Thomas Winder Ewell took command of a company in said Regiment, untill it was disbanded on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of April 1783: to the best of my Recollection and belief;

Question by same If you think he served untill the end of the War, what are your reasons for so thinking  
answer: I superintended a hospital at Beaver Dam in Goochland County, and I believe said Ewell was stationed at the Point of Fork on James River [at the confluence with Rivanna River]; I went to see the officers there frequently, I saw him in service from time to time, and I as much beleive he was in service when he said regiment was disbanded, at the close of the War, as if I had been there and seen him discharged,

Question by the same, When and where did he die, and who is his administrator;

Answer: I always understood from said Ewell that he was a native of Prince William County Virginia and that he lived in Dumfries in said County when he entered the army; His sister Sally Ewell has frequently called at my House, when she was travelling through to my Neighbourhood; She informed me that her brother the said Ewell died in Dumfries shortly after the War of the Revolution, and that he left her his estate; I do not know who is his administrator, and further the deponent saith not

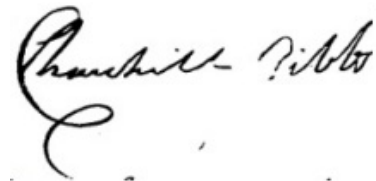
Angus Rucker

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The online image is illegible at the places indicated by \*.]

I Churchill Gibbs [S46002] of the County of Madison in the State of Virginia one of the surviving officers of Gibsons Regiment of the revolutionary Army do hereby certify That I became acquainted with Thomas Ewel an officer of said Regiment in May 1777 that he joined the Regiment at that time having as I understood raised a company of men, and was at that time I think a Captain I think it possible he was appointed a Captain in the latter part of 1776 or the early part of 1777 and having raised his quota of joined the Regiment in May 1777 as before stated. He marched to the north and returned to Virginia in January in 1780 in May 1780 we met in Williamsburg. I never heard of his being in the service after that time and presume he was considered a Supernumerary officer to the end of the war

Sworn & subscribed to before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Madison in the State of Virginia this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 1834.

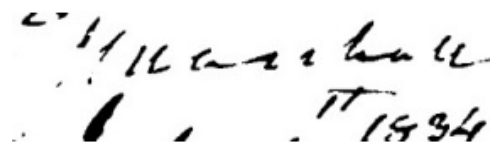
Wm Walker J.P.



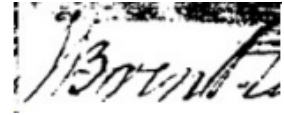
I was very well acquainted with Capt. Thomas Ewell during the war of our revolution. I became acquainted with him soon after his regiment which was I believe the first or second in the state line marched to Portsmouth[?] he must have entered the service when the regiment was first raised. I saw him frequently and never heard that he resigned. I left the army myself in 1781, but have understood and believe that Capt Ewell continued in the service.

[John Marshall, S5731, Chief Justice, US Supreme Court]

July 21st 1834



I do Certify that Thos. W. Ewell served as a Capt[\*] the first of January 1777 untill the first of 1782.  
Given under my hand at Dumfries [\*] 1783  
[William Brent] Colo



[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). Other online images in this file are illegible.]

Prince William County Court. January 5<sup>th</sup> 1835.

On the motion of Jesse C. Weems, it is ordered to be certified that it was proven to the satisfaction of the Court, on the 3d day of February 1834 that Thomas Winder Ewell deceased (and “not Thomas Ewell dec’d” as mentioned in said order) was a Captain in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson during the Revolutionary War and that he served until the close of the said war, and that he died in the town of Dumfries in this county of Prince William in the year 1784 having previously duly constituted and appointed his father B[?] Ewell [Bertrand Ewell] and his mother and brothers and sisters his only heirs and devisees. It is further certified that shortly after his death, his said heirs and devisees conveyed by Deed all their interest in the Estate of the said Thomas Winder Ewell to Sarah Ewell, and that she is since dead, having previously duly constituted and appointed her Niece Sarah E. Hayes her heir at law, and that the said Sarah E. Hayes now residing in Bottetourt County, Virginia, is the only person entitled to the benefit of the Military Land of the said Thomas Winder Ewell for his Revolutionary Services. It is also certified that Charles Ewell Executor of Sarah Ewell is dead, and that Administration has not since been granted in the Estate of the said Sarah Ewell. A Copy Teste. Jn Williams [illegible word or abbreviation]

[From [Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com](#) in the file for Thomas Winder R14052. “Mason L. Weems” was Mason Locke “Parson” Weems, author of *A History of the Life and Death, Virtues and Exploits of General George Washington* and *The Life of General Francis Marion*. “Heath” was James Ewell Heath, Auditor of Virginia.]

I was intimately acquainted with the family of Colo. Jesse Ewell of Prince Wm County from the year 1786 and onwards Colo. Ewell was rich and had a large family. His Sons were Bertrand, Jesse, James, Thomas and perhaps others. His Daughters Charlotte and Fanny. His Sons James and Thomas were physians [sic] and resided here many years with their families—each of them were some years younger than myself. James married Miss Robinson of the Eastern Shore. Thomas married a daughter of Mr. Stoddart of George Town. Bertrand and Jesse were farmers in Prince William County, and about my Age. Fanny married the late Rev’d Mason L. Weems. Colo. Jesse Ewell was the Uncle of Major Charles Ewell who I think served in the War of the Revolution. There were other Ewells with whom I was not acquainted—one of whom a Colo. had a Daughter married to a Gentleman by the name of Heath.

Lund Washington Sen’r/ W. City 26<sup>th</sup> Ap’l. 1848.

Washington, April 26th 1848.

I hereby certify, at the request of Mr Purcell, that my wife, is a daughter of the late Doctor James Ewell. Doctors James and Thomas Ewell, formerly of this district, and the late Col. Jesse Ewell of Prince William Co. were sons of Colonel Jesse Ewell of Belle-Aire, Prince William Co. Virginia.

E. Kingman

NOTES:

The present Thomas Winder Ewell is often confused with Capt. Thomas Ewell (R14052). Transcribed pension and bounty-land applications show that there were two Capt. Thomas Ewells from Virginia. Several pension and bounty-land applications of soldiers claiming to have served in the 1<sup>st</sup>

Regiment of the Virginia State Line and in Dabney's Legion include discharges signed by "Thomas W. Ewell." It is therefore very likely that Thomas Winder Ewell was a Captain in those regiments. Among the applications claiming service under a Capt. Thomas Ewell, however, four describe service in different regiments: William Cooper (S47186), Alexander Jones (S34939), John Maddox (S38183), and Edward Moody (W2156). They describe the following service:

At Petersburg VA attached to Col. Abraham Buford's Continental Regiment in late 1780

At the Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC on 15 Mar 1781

Afterward attached to Col. Samuel Hawes's Virginia Continental Regiment

That there were two Thomas Ewells is also proved by their wills. Thomas Ewell died in Princess Anne County early in 1796, and Thomas Winder Ewell died in Prince William County in 1784. The federal file of Thomas Winder Ewell includes a copy of his last will and testament dated 26 May 1780 and proved on 2 March 1784, leaving everything to his "ever honoured Father Bertran Ewell" during his life and to his mother, Frances Ewell, thereafter, and after her death to his brothers and sisters. He appointed as executors his brother-in-law John Murray, and friend, Evan Williams. By another document copied in the file, and in accordance with a wish of Thomas Winder Ewell shortly before his death, all the property was transferred to his sister, Sarah Ewell, by the heirs in the above will, named as follows: Bertrand Ewell, Charles Ewell, Solomon Ewell, Elizabeth Murray, Ann Taylor, Hannah Ewell, Thomas Thornton, Jesse Ewell, and Thomas Chapman. The file also includes a copy of the will of Sarah Ewell dated 3 May 1816 and naming other family members. Among the 78 pages in the federal file are other items of genealogical interest.