

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Thomas R10502

f28VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/29/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

### State of Virginia

On this 6th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Albemarle County now sitting John Thomas of the County of Albemarle and State of Virginia, aged seventy-six years on the 8th day of April last, 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 June 7th 1832.

That in the spring of 1779, the month not recollected, he entered service as an Ensign in the militia in the County of Albemarle the Company commanded by Captain John Martin, the name of the Lieutenant was Nathaniel Garland – that the company was mustered and stationed at Albemarle Barracks, acting as a Guard in part, to the troops of Burgoyne stationed there – that he remained with his Company in service at the same place during the tour which he is certain was not less than two months, perhaps as much as three, – Captain Martin emigrated from Virginia as far back as 1789 or 90 – and the declarant has understood has become from extreme old age, childish; Lieutenant Garland has been dead upwards of 30 or 40 years. At the end of this tour the declarant was discharged with the Company. As evidence of the correctness of the foregoing statement, the declarant refers to the affidavit of Colonel James Lewis<sup>1</sup> of Tennessee hereto annexed.

That in January he thinks of 1781 he was again called into service as Ensign in the militia, and again stationed at the Albemarle Barracks, that the Company to which he was attached was commanded he thinks by James Garland, who being accidentally shot, the command during the remainder of the tour devolved upon the declarant. Whether Garland's was a Lieutenant's command, or whether the Lieutenant was absent, he cannot say, though he well recollects of assuming and exercising command of the company after Garland's death, until the tour was ended and they were finally discharged. – He is under the impression that about the time he was called into Service for this tour, Burgoyne's troops as they were called, were removed to Winchester, and he the declarant with others were held in service at the Barracks for the purpose of guarding the public stores, and other public property &c; this tour he thinks was certainly not less than two, and perhaps as much as three months.

That in the month of September 1781, he received an order from Colonel Nicholas Lewis of Albemarle to take under his command a certain number of men and to gather cattle for the Army to be sent to Yorktown; that in obedience to this order, he was engaged for some time and collecting together and sending to the Army at Yorktown cattle – that the order he received from Colonel Lewis was written and expressed that the declarant and the men to be detailed for this

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<sup>1</sup> FPA W303

service should, as in all such cases, have credit for a tour of duty, – he has lost or mislaid the said order of Colonel Lewis.

He was born in the County of Amherst, State of Virginia on the 8th day of April 1757 where he resided till the year 1778 in which year he removed into the said County of Albemarle where he has lived ever since.

He thinks there were no field officers attached to the militia in service at the times he was stationed at the Albemarle Barracks, there were some regular or Continental troops in service at the barracks at the same time commanded as well as he recollects by Colonel Edmund or Edward Taylor and Major John or Thomas Roberts.

He has a record of his age at his own house made by his father in the New Testament.

He cannot ascertain, after the lapse of so many years, what has become of his Commission of Ensign, he has either lost or mislaid it.

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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Thomas

Whereupon the following interrogatories were propounded by the Court to the Applicant in open Court, –

1. Where and in what year were you born?

A. I was born in Amherst County Virginia on the eighth of April 1757

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

A. I have a record of my age in the testament at my house

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

A. When called into Service I lived in Albemarle County, Virginia where I have lived since the revolution, and where I now live.

4. How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

A. I was drafted.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

A. He recollects the names of no regular officers except Colonel Taylor & Major Roberts nor does he recollect to what Regiment or regiments he was attached.

I do hereby certify that during the revolutionary war with Great Britain that I resided in the County of Albemarle State of Virginia, in which County & State I now reside in, and that I was during the period above mentioned several times at the barracks in the aforesaid State and County near Charlottesville which was established to keep save several thousand German and British prisoners, and that I understood that John Thomas of the aforesaid County and state was serving at the barracks as an officer, what grade not recollected, and that a certain John Martin and James Garland were also officers serving there as I understood, the latter being accidentally killed by one of the sentinels (Mansfield) as I was informed.

Given under my hand this 28th of January 1833.

S/ John Wingfield

I do hereby Certify that during the Revolutionary war with Great Britain that I served two tours, three months each at the barracks establish near Martinsville Albemarle County & State of Virginia for the purpose of guarding several thousand British & German prisoners and that during that time John Thomas of the County & State aforesaid served at the same place as a military officer but the grade of office not now remembered, and that a certain John Martin & James Garland were also there serving as military officers, the latter of which was accidentally killed by one of the sentinels on guard. Given under my hand this 25th January 1833

Micajah Wheeler, Sr.,<sup>2</sup> X his mark

The affidavit of James Lewis of lawful age saith that he recollects that Captain John Thomas of Albemarle performed a tour of duty as an Ensign at Albemarle Barracks under the command of Captain John Martin to guard Burgoyne's Prisoners, I at that time lived at the Barracks and acted as a commissary this tour was performed as well as I recollect in the year 1779, I also recollect that he afterwards served another Tower [tour] at the same place under Captain James Garland as an Ensign as well as my memory serves me, this tour was performed in the year following, there was one circumstance I recollect that while Captain James Garland was serving that or another Tour of duty he got shot <sup>and died</sup> by a Sentinel while he was going the Rounds he Garland being the Officer of the day and did not answer when challenged by the Sentinel; I do not recollect the length of the tours but believe they were not shorter than a month each nor longer than two months I also recollect to have heard it stated that Captain John Thomas and others that Colonel Nicholas Lewis, gave him an appointment or Commission to detail men to collect and drive cattle to our Army at Yorktown while they were Besieging Lord Cornwallis and which finally terminated in the capture of him and his Army; this Foraging Party as well as I recollect were allowed a tower of duty as compensation for their service, that his Captain Thomas (then an Ensign) and all the men that he detailed and went with him to drive the cattle to Yorktown were allowed each a tour of duty for this service. I can also further state that I have been Intimately Acquainted with Captain John Thomas for upwards of fifty years and believe he would not make a Faults Statement on any account and further this Affiant sayeth not.

S/ Jas Lewis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jas Lewis". Above the signature, there is some faint, illegible handwriting that might be "Con copy".

The affidavit of John Garth<sup>3</sup> of the County of Scott and State of Kentucky this deponent saith that he was well acquainted with John Thomas generally called Jack Thomas of the County of Albemarle State of Virginia that during the Revolutionary War said Thomas acted as an Ensign in the County of Albemarle and at the Barracks, that this deponent recollects that he was at the Barracks twice when he was acting as Ensign once when John Martin acted as Captain and at another time when James Garland acted as Lieutenant, that this deponent recollects that when the said Thomas acted as Ensign in pressing cattle for the use of the Army that said Thomas did in that capacity press him to assist him in gathering the cattle which he did and drove them to his father's farm for this service he always understood that the said Thomas would be entitled to [a] Tour of service as though they had been performed in the Army. The length of time that said

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<sup>2</sup> [Micajah Wheeler S6362](#)

<sup>3</sup> FPA S31056

Thomas served as Ensign in the Barracks this deponent cannot certainly say but believes he could not be less than two tours and in pressing cattle he acted for one tour.  
January 28th 1833

S/ John Garth

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Garth." The signature is written in black ink on a light background.

[f p 3: On February 22, 1853 in Baltimore City Maryland, Warner Thomas, executed a power of attorney in which he states he is the son of John, son of Albemarle County, a revolutionary war pension applicant.]