

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Ransone R17293¹ Margaret Ransone f206VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/7/12: rev'd 6/9/19

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 12]

State of Virginia Mathews County

On the 6th day of October 1836 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid Margaret Ransone who was Margaret Gwyn a resident in said County and State aged eighty-three years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836.

That she is at present the widow of Thomas Ransone, who was a Lieutenant in the revolutionary War. He entered the service of the United States [in] 1776 under command of Captain Peter Barnard at the time Lord Dunmore came to Gwyn's Island [Gwynn Island], that he then was Lieutenant under the said Barnard and so continued until the end of the War. That he entered the service as a Militia man, but afterwards enlisted under Captain Barnard: that he resided in Mathews County when he entered the service (where he resided all his lifetime.)

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Ransone in the year of 1777: that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Ransone died in the year 1817; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

S/ Margaret Ransone, X her mark

[p 44]

I Matthias Gayle a resident of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia do upon oath testify and declare that sometime in the latter part of 1776 or 1777 Captain Peter Barnet [sic, Peter Barnard] raised a volunteer company in the parish of Kingston (Gloucester County) for the term of three years (as well as I recollect) in which Thomas Ransone enlisted and was commissioned a Lieutenant, sometime afterwards he was under command of Captain Barnet, marched to the North, there he remained until 1779 or 1780 – then he returned to this County with Dr. Barnet and afterwards Captain Barnet commanded a militia Company in the County aforesaid and I do not recollect whether Ransone continued under his command or not and further I say not

S/ Matthias Gayle, X his mark

[Attested in Mathews County Virginia June 14th, 1737]

¹ Virginia Half Pay

[p 53]

In Council 17th day of April 1777

Ordered that Thomas Ransone be appointed first Lieutenant in the County of Gloucester for Continental service in the room of Mordecai Cooke, who has failed to recruit his quota of men, and that he received of the said Cook his quota of recruiting money. Bond executed

Executive department

Richmond Virginia March 20 1837

The above is a true copy from the Council Journal

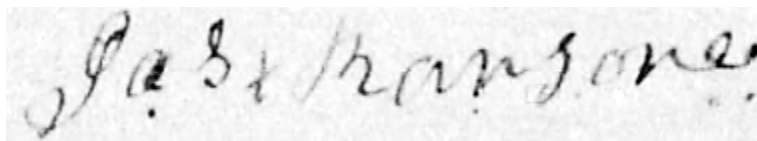
S/ Wm H Richardson, Secretary

[p 167]

I James Ransone a Resident of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia do upon Oath testify and declare that I was well acquainted with Thomas Ransone late a Resident of this County and was very well acquainted with his handwriting and I am Very Certain that the hand Writing in the Old prayer Book² where the names of the Children are Registered which he had by his wife Margaret which the Magistrates have alluded to in their Certificate is the Hand writing of Thomas Ransone deceased.

Given under my hand and seal this 24th day of July 1837

S/ Jas Ransone

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jas Ransone". The ink is dark and the paper is off-white with some texture.

[p 96]

To his Excellency David Campbell, Governor of Virginia and the Honorable Council. Your petitioner James Ransone one of the heirs-at-law of Lieutenant Thomas Ransone late of the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, Respectfully represents to your Excellency and the Honorable Council, that his father Thomas Ransone entered the service early in 1777. That he received his appointment as Lieutenant from the Honorable Council early in that year, he believes as he has been informed about the middle of April. But of these matters he prays your Excellency to have the Journal examined about that period. I am certain however from what I have heard my father say and from the report of tradition and the neighborhood. That he entered the service about the period and served in the Continental line of the Army from three to four years and afterwards served a considerable time in the militia. Your petitioner has been informed that Captain Barnard has received bounty land. Lieutenant Ransone entered the service at or about the same period as Captain Barnard with whom he served and quitted the service at the same period as I have been informed. He further represents to your Excellency and the Honorable Council the Heirs of Lieutenant Ransone have never received Land Bounty and pray that an order may be issued allowing it. Should your Excellency and the Honorable Council be satisfied that the Claim is just. In support of which he herewith files affidavits of William Diggs, Matthias Gayle, Josiah Pugh, Isaac Smith and George Callis all of them men of veracity and respectability. He prays that this petition and the evidence filed may raise the favorable consideration of your Excellency and the Honorable Council and that Land Bounty may be allowed as prayed for.

² I did not find this document among the documents in this file.

And your petitioner as will ever pray &c &c
S/ James Ransone

[p 99]

[State of Virginia, Mathews County]

I Isaac Smith³ who was born and raised in Gloucester County, Rensselaer Parish now Mathews County do upon oath testify and declare that I knew and was well acquainted with Thomas Ransone who was born and raised in this parish we were boys together and I also knew and was well acquainted with Peter Barnard who resided in this County, sometime in the fall of 1776 Peter Barnard raised a Volunteer Company for the period of six months called a minute company in which Thomas Ransone enlisted in obtain the appointment of Lieutenant and after that term of enlistment had expired Captain Peter Barnard commencing making up another volunteer Company for the period of three years in which Thomas Ransone again Enlisted and hope to get the quantity of men and after the company was made up Ransone obtained a commission as Lieutenant I think they got as many men as they wanted in the spring of 1777. I do not recollect whether or not the Company was made up under the State or Continental Line Though I think it was made up under the Continental Line I do not know the Regiment it was attached to – Sometime after Captain Peter Barnard had got his company properly organized he marched into the North as I understood and Ransone with him where they remained until the winter of 1779 or 80 I am not certain which. Then they both returned to this County and the term of their enlistment having expired they both went into the Militia service where they continued until the end of the War.

S/ Isaac Smith

[attested August 28, 1838]

I Matthias Gayle⁴ of Mathews County State of Virginia do upon oath testify and declare that I was well acquainted with Thomas Ransone Late a resident of this County and I also know that he at belong [sic, did belong?] to the United States service during the Revolutionary War. He entered the service in 1776 under Captain Peter Barnard who commanded a Volunteer Company which he had made up for 6 months it was called a minute company, and after the time for which that company was made up had expired Captain Peter Barnard raised a another Volunteer Company for the period of 3 years in which Thomas Ransone again enlisted. I think he held in Commission as Lieutenant under Captain Barnard in both of the above mentioned periods of service. I think that Captain Barnard got his quantity of men under the last period of service sometime in the latter part of the spring or the early part of the summer of 1777 – and after the Company was made up Captain Barnard march of [marched off] for the North and Ransone with him when they remained until the winter of 1780 as well as I now recollect at which time they both returned to this County together and after the time for which the Company was made up had expired they both went into the militia service where they continued until the close of the War. I do not recollect at this time whether on no the Company was attached to the state or Continental line nor neither do I recollect the number of the Regiment that they belonged to.

S/ Mathias Gayle

[Attested September 5, 1838]

³ [Isaac Smith S11427](#)

⁴ [Matthias Gayle S16818](#)

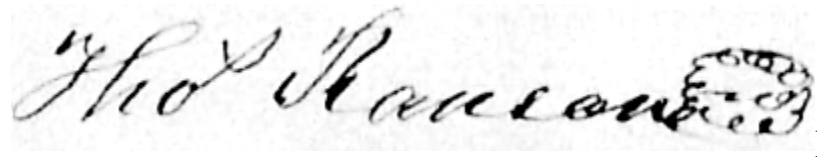
[pp 101-107 Josiah Pugh⁵, William Diggs⁶, Richard Hurst⁷ and George Callis⁸ each gave an affidavit dated September 5, 1838 reciting the same facts as Gayle and Smith above.]⁹

[p 107]

I Matthias Gayle of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia and a pensioner of the United States do upon oath make the following statements meditorial [sic] to some made by me before Relative to the services of Lieutenant Thomas Ransone in the Revolutionary War, I know that he entered the service of the United States as a Regular Officer in the Spring of 1777 and continued in the same for more than 3 years he never left the regular service until sometime in the fall of 1780 he was a Lieutenant: when he left the Regular service and then he went into the Militia service where he continued until the War ended. I saw him after he entered the Army I was well acquainted with him he was attached to the Continental line

S/ Mathias Gayle

[p 163: Claim dated October 8, 1850 made by Thomas Ransone of Gloucester County Virginia as administrator of Thomas Ransone Deceased, formerly a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tho Ransone", followed by a circular seal or stamp. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 15]

Case of Lieutenant Thomas Ransone's administrator

This is a claim for Half Pay under the Act of 5th July 1832 – Lieutenant Thomas Ransone having died on the 18th day of April 1818

The facts of the case are as follows

Lieutenant Thomas Ransone was commissioned as lieutenants in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment on the 6th day of October 1777, as will appear by reference to official papers filed with Memorial, which is a copy from the Executive Journal of Virginia under date the 19th of March 1778.

He went with the said Regiment to the North and remained in service while said Regiment was with the Continental Army at the North as will be shown by reference to the regular Rolls of said Regiment on file in the Pension Office.

All these facts are proved by the most satisfactory testimony (see the Depositions of William Diggs, Matthias Gayle, Josiah Pugh and Isaac Smith filed with Memorial) – that the 2nd Virginia Regiment was with the Continental Army at the North up to September 1779, will appear by reference to the Muster Rolls of the said Regiment on file in the Pension Office.

⁵ [James Pugh W5588](#)

⁶ [William Digges S8327](#)

⁷ [Richard Hurst S9593](#)

⁸ [George Callis W14444](#)

⁹ James Ransone's petition and all of the affidavits given by the veterans in support of his claim were certified by the clerk of court as being true copies of the originals in his files. Consequently, none of the signatures on the affidavits are the actual signatures of the affiants.

The Commissioner however must be satisfied, that when Lieutenant Ransone left the service, he left it as a Supernumerary. He may however have left the service as a supernumerary, or he must have resigned. The Court of Appeals has expressly decided in Marston's case 9 Leigh 42, that a resignation was not to be presumed "that if the Commonwealth alleges it, the burden of proof rests upon her." Therefore under the authority of this decision, a resignation cannot be presumed. But if a resignation could be presumed, it would be peculiarly unreasonable in the case of Lieutenant Ransone. The 1st and 2nd Virginia State regiments marched to the North to join the Continental Army in the fall of 1777 and remained with the Continental Army at the North until the fall of 1779 (See Barbour's record, Doc. 191, 1st Session 22nd Congress page 4) during this time these regiments were in every hard-fought action at the North, from that at Brandywine to the victory of Monmouth Court House (See Barbour Rep., Doc. 191, 1st Session 22nd Congress).

It is a matter of well-known history, that during this service, these regiments became so reduced that in the fall of 1779 a large proportion of the Officers were compelled to retire as supernumeraries and that in December of that year both Regiments were ordered back to Virginia, where they were disbanded – When the 1st Regiment was ordered to the North in 1777, it consisted of 830 men rank and file when ordered to Virginia in December 1779, it contained but 195 men including noncommissioned officers (see Report of Board of Officers, Doc. 191, aforesaid page 53). – The 2nd Regiment having been all the time with the 1st, and in the same engagements, shared a similar fate, as the same document will show.

Now during all this hard service, Lieutenant Thomas Ransone is known to have remained at his post, until the Regiment returned to Virginia and was disbanded.

In May preceding an act had been passed by the General Assembly of Virginia promising Half Pay for life to such officers as should remain in the service until the close of the War, or until they became a supernumerary – Lieutenant Thomas Ransone of course knew, that by resigning he would forfeit all claim to Half Pay. He also knew that he must necessarily soon retire as a supernumerary, as the Regiment to which he belonged had become reduced to a mere handful of men. It is under circumstances precisely like these, that the Court of Appeals in Marston's Case decided that a resignation is not to be presumed.

But in this case it is perfectly unnecessary to insist upon the principle that a resignation is not to be presumed, inasmuch as Lieutenant Thomas Ransone is proved beyond all reasonable doubt to have remained with the 2nd Virginia Regiment until it was disbanded. Now how could there well be stronger proof that Lieutenant Thomas Ransone became supernumerary.

The evidence in the case, shows that Lieutenant Thomas Ransone was afterwards in the service, as a Lieutenant in the Militia until the close of the War (See Depositions before referred to). Now as this evidence has no direct bearing upon the claim to half pay, except to show that Lieutenant Thomas Ransone went to the North and returned with the Regiment, which was the 2nd Virginia Regiment, it is not deemed necessary to take much notice of it in this place. When he became supernumerary in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment, his title to Half Pay became complete, on the condition that he should reentered the service if required. In May 1780, the General Assembly passed an act authorizing the Governor to call out any number of Militia not exceeding 20,000, and provided that the field officers should be chosen from the Militia field officers in the Counties, or from the supernumerary officers who had acquired experience in the Regular Service (10 Hen. Stat. 310). In September 1780 Colonel Martin advertised for such a supernumerary officers as were willing to reentered the service to report themselves &c (See copy of advertisement marked Z and herewith filed)

It is evident and conclusive from the testimony that Lieutenant Thomas Ransone reentered the service, under this call, as it is well-known that many of the supernumerary officers of the State line did reenter the service as militia field officers. The [indecipherable word] of Thomas Bressie¹⁰ and Nathaniel Walch [sic, Nathaniel Welch R18894¹¹], not long since determined and cases of this kind. But it is perfectly immaterial whether Lieutenant Thomas Ransone was Lieutenant of Militia to the close of the War, by virtue of being called into the service as a supernumerary, virtue of an appointment as a militia officer of his County. If in the former capacity, it only proves that when called upon to reentered the service, he complied with the call. If in the latter capacity, it has nothing to do with the case, except so far as the fax goes to rebut any presumption that he resigned his commission in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment. If he had become so tired of the service as to resigned his commission in the 2nd State Regiment, it is not probable he would have voluntarily gone back to the service either as a supernumerary under Colonel Martin's call or as a County militia Officer, as soon as it was discerned there was more hard fighting to be done.

By reference to the list of claims a loud in your office, you will find nearly all the officers belonging to the 2nd State Regiment, or their Representatives have received the Half pay due for their services – and there is no good and valid reason why the claim of Lieutenant Ransone's administrator should not be allowed, but on the contrary reason and justice both demand its allowance and payment.

Therefore as the attorney for the administrator of Lieutenant Thomas Ransone deceased, I asked for the allowance of half pay due his services in the War of the Revolution.

S/ James Murdough, Atty for admr. &c

Portsmouth Virginia December 7th 1850

[p 7: Finding by the court in Mathews County Virginia dated July 11, 1853 in which it is found that Thomas Ransone who was reputed to have been a Lieutenant in the State line during the revolutionary war died intestate in Mathews County Virginia in the year __leaving the following children and heirs, to wit:

- (1) Thomas, who died intestate without issue
- (2) Daniel, died intestate leaving the following children: (A) Caroline who married James Gwyn; (B) Lucy who married Thomas Ash; (C) William A.; (D) Thomas R.; (E) Mary who married Thomas Green; (F) Martha; all still living and over 21
- (3) Henry, who died intestate without issue
- (4) James, who died intestate leaving the following children: (A) Susan, who married James H. Oliver, both deceased, leaving an infant, William Oliver; (B) James; & (C) Elizabeth, who married Thomas Johnson; James and Elizabeth are still living and over 21
- (5) Martha, married John B. Roberts, both deceased, leaving the following children: (A) Thomas, who died leaving the following children, all minors: John, William, George & Thomas; (B) William; (C) Richard; & (D) Martha, died an infant; that William & Richard are still living and over 21
- (6) Lucy, married William A. Billups, both still living and over 21
- (7) Frances, married George P. Evans, both still living and over 21
- (8) Elizabeth, married James W. Howard, who is dead, but Elizabeth is still living and over 21]

¹⁰ [Thomas Bressie R12763](#)

¹¹ [Nathaniel Welch R18894](#)

[p 3: Mildred Brownley a resident of Mathews County Virginia, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Thomas Ransone and Margaret his wife who was Margaret Gwyn prior to her marriage to Thomas Ransone; that they were married in the time of the revolutionary war but what year she cannot recall; that they were married by Parson Fields and that she is a sister of Margaret Ransone. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 19: Note: *"Thomas Ransone R.17,293 Va. A pay role of Captain Peter Bernard's and Lieutenant Thomas Ransom's quota of men sta (torn) in York garrison for one month from March 16 to April 16, 1778, endorsed with a receipt to Captain James Quarles for the sum of 78 pounds & 14 shillings for the above payroll signed Peter Bernard, Capt. and dated April 20, 1778 . The above paper has been removed from this claim in order to send it to the War Department. F. W. Dec. 8, 1911 – Sent to the War Department January 16, 1913"*]

[p 94: An order entered in the Mathews County Court April 1840 indicating that Margaret Ransone a pensioner of the United States died February 8, 1840 leaving the following children: James Ransone, Henry Ransone, Lucy Ransone who intermarried with William A. Billups, Frances Ransone who intermarried with George P. Evans and Elizabeth Ransone who intermarried with James W Howard.]

[p 189]

The Board members taking under their consideration the repeated orders of His Excellency for the 2nd Virginia Regiment to march to join the grand Army and for the officers belonging to the said Regiment to make returns of their enlistments in order that there Commissions might issue, and not withstanding such orders it appears that the Officers in many instances have failed to make any return and others have recruited only part of their quotas – They do advise the Governor to proceed to the issuing Commissions upon such reviews and other documents as are now before the Board, in order that the said Regiment May march to head Quarters without delay, which His Excellency did in manner following –

Colonel	Date	Lieutenant Colonel	Date	Major	Date
Gregory Smith	1777 June 23	Charles Dabney		John Lea	1778 February 1st
Captains		Dates		First lieutenants	
James Quarles	1777 January 4 th	John K. Davis		1777 February 26	
Philip Taliaferro	January 7 th	Thomas Minor		February 29 th	
Thomas Bressie	January 3 rd	John Dudley		September 22 nd	
Henry Garnet	February 12 th	Augustine Tabb		October 3 rd	
Peter Bernard	April 14 th	Machen Boswell		October 6	
Benjamin Spiller	May 9 th	John Hudson		November 17 th	
Henry Dudley	September 1 st	Robert Lovell		1778 March 6	
John Lewis	November 1	William Long		March 7 th	
Second Lieutenants		Dates		Ensigns	
James Moody	1777 January 1 st	Thomas Boush		1777 March 31 st	
Richard Hogg	June 26	John Fleet		August 31 st	
William Lawson	September 7 th	Gideon Flannery		September 1 st	
Thomas Ransone	October 6 th	Isaac Holmes		September 2 nd	
David Bellew	October 8 th	John Hardeman		September 3 rd	
John McElhany	October 9 th	John May		September 4 th	

Nathaniel Welch		Benjamin Edmondson	September 22nd
		Irvin Walker	December 18th

And whereas it appears to be absolutely necessary, upon the march of the aforesaid Regiment to call in Militia for the protection and defense of this Garrison, public stores, magazines, public treasury &c the Board to further advised the Governor to call in one division of Militia for each of the Counties of New Kent and Surrey to do duty at this post, to be relieved once a fortnight by an equal number of Militia from other adjacent Counties.

Copied from Journal of Council of March 19th 1778

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$160 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service as a Lieutenant for one-year in the Virginia service.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 24-page file

[Note: In relevant part, the documents contained in this file are identical to those in the federal pension file transcribed above. Consequently, I have not transcribed them again. The images of the documents as posted in the federal pension file are more legible than those posted in the Library's file.]