

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Palmer and Thomas Carter R1751 Judith Carter<sup>1</sup> f19VA  
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/28/12

[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 County of Lancaster: SS

On this 29th day of January 1839 personally appeared before the subscriber one of the justices of the Peace for the said County Judith Carter a resident of the said County of Lancaster aged seventy-eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to petition Congress or the agent for paying pensions to allow the same to her (viz.) – That she was well & personally acquainted with Thomas Palmer from the time she was twelve years old, that in the early part of the Revolutionary war he entered as a private in the Virginia State Navy that he remained in said Service in said capacity as he afterwards told me until the close of the said War (with the exception of two years during which term he was detained by the enemy as a prisoner of war) that previous to his having been taken a prisoner he the said Thomas Palmer was on board of an American vessel of War when the said vessel was wrecked on some Island where they suffered greatly from hunger &c for three weeks & four days at the expiration of which time they were providentially taken of [off] by some vessel passing and carried to the Island of St. Thomas at which said Island he took the smallpox. That later having been confined a prisoner by the enemy for two years he made his escape whilst the prison ship was lying near Crany [?]<sup>2</sup> Island. She further declares that she was as before stated well acquainted with the said Palmer before his enlistment in the said service and recollects well the time of his enlistment & returned and that he was absent four or five years. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Palmer on the 30th day of July 1785 and lived with him until his death which was on the 6th of May 1796.

She further declares upon oath that afterwards to wit on the 29th day of November 1799 she was married to Thomas Carter and that the said Thomas Carter was also a Soldier in the War of the Revolution that he entered (she thinks & believes) in the winter of 1777 in the minute service under Captain Berryman that he was marched to the North and served in a campaign there and she has heard him say was in several engagements one in particular (viz.) at Monmouth [June 28, 1778] and was quartered one winter in Morristown that his first term of enlistment was for two years but that after the expiration of said term he reenlisted for and during the war and that he served from the time of his enlistment to the close of the war. She further states that he was not at the surrender of the British forces under Lord Cornwallis in consequence of having been home on a furlough. She thinks he must have served between three & four years. She

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<sup>1</sup> Former widow. Her last husband, Thomas Carter, also was in the Revolution

<sup>2</sup>  Craney Island?

further declares that the said Carter died on the 30th day of June 1826 and further she declares that she has never received any Bounty land or what is equivalent thereto nor pension or annuity half pay pension or any compensation whatever on account of the service of either of her said husbands and that she before stated is now in her 78 year and very destitute poor & needy if the above statements of facts are sufficient she prays that she received at your hands that aid which she thinks humbly thinks she is entitled as the destitute widow of two soldiers who fought & served their country faithfully and aided in achieving our glorious Liberty should however the above statement of fact require corroboration by other testimony that testimony he can be procured. Given under my hand the day & year above written.

S/ Judith Carter, X her mark

[Note: In a letter dated July 20, 1850 from J L Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, it appears that the widow's pension application was rejected because she never submitted the require proof of her marriage to the veterans. In this letter, Edwards indicates that the records in his file do reflect that Thomas Palmer served in the Virginia Navy. In another letter in the file dated August 10, 1848, sent from near Fleetwood Academy, in King and Queen County Virginia there is reference to a miss Harriet Carter requesting the Commissioner of pensions to furnish copies of the declaration of her mother Judith Carter to her attorney.]