

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Thruston¹ R18488

f88VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/12/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

Gloucester County Court October 1834

On motion of Emanuel J Thruston Curator of the Estate of Robert Thruston deceased the Court certifies that satisfactory evidence was adduced to prove that the said Robert Thruston who was an officer in the Revolutionary War died in the month of February 1815 leaving four children to wit: John & Emanuel J Thruston, Ann New who was Ann Thruston and Sarah M. Bracken who was Sarah M. Thruston

November Term 1834

The Court doth certify that satisfactory evidence has been adduced to show to prove that Robert Thruston of Gloucester County was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State line in the time of the Revolutionary War and that he never resigned his commission. That he served until the war was entirely ended. That the said Robert Thruston died February 15th in the year 1815 that Emanuel J Thruston, Frances B. New and John F Thruston are the only heirs at law of the said Robert Thruston who served as aforesaid That he left a will at the time of his death which has been destroyed by the burning of the Clerk's Office of Gloucester County. That land bounty has been granted his heirs as a Lieutenant as aforesaid.

In testimony that the foregoing are truly copied from the records of the Clerk's Office of the County Court of Gloucester in the State of Virginia I have hereunto subscribed my name as clerk of said Court and affixed the Seal of the said County this 20th day of February 1837 in the 60th year of the Commonwealth.

S/ Jno R. Cary, C. G. C.

[f p. 4: On June 6, 1838 Doctor William Taliaferro gave testimony that he was the family physician for Robert Thruston; that Thruston died February 15, 1815; that he died leaving only four children namely Sarah M, John, Ann S. and Emanuel J Thruston, three of whom have since died to wit Sarah M, leaving no issue, John leaving and only child John F Thruston and Ann S. who intermarried with Rushing New leaving only one child Frances B who has since married John K Cooke; and that consequently the only living heirs of the veteran are Emanuel J Thruston, John F Thruston and Francis B Cooke.]

[f p 20]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors

¹ Va. Half-Pay

of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 19th day of June 1783 in the name of Robert Thurston [sic] as Lieutenant of Artillery and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £109.7.8 delivered to __ but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
22nd day of February 1851.

S/ Ro Johnston

First Auditor

[No Seal of Office]

I further certify that on the day aforesaid (to wit 19th day of June 1783) On our Day Book a warrant issued to him for Interest, where the name was spelt Robert Thruston,

S/ Ro. Johnston

First Auditor

[f p. 56: extract of record:

Tuesday August fifth, 1777

The Board proceeded to complete the appointment of officers for the Regiment of Artillery to be raised for this State and advised his Excellency... To grant Instructions and a warrant for 88 pounds to cash of the following persons to recruit 11 man to entitle them to third Lieutenancies, they giving bond – viz.: Kemp Plummer, Peter Kemp, Robert Thruston, Henry Edloe, William Petit, William Cowles, Edward Valentine, John Cary, Charles Lucas, and Christopher Roane of the Company of Artificers

Wednesday September 24th 1777

Mr. Peter Kemp and Mr. Robert Thruston who received appointments in the Regiment of Artillery to be raised for the service of this State, not having it in their power to make up their Quotas of men, desired permission to enter as Cadets in the said Regiment, which was highly approved by the Board, as a laudable example.

Thursday, September 25th, 1777

The Lieutenant Governor, with the advice of the Board, issued a warrant upon the Treasurer in favor of Richard Crump 488 pounds upon account to recruit as a third Lieutenant of the Artillery, in the room of Robert Thruston who has resigned. – Bond executed

[f p. 67]

I Henry Buchanan² formerly of Gloucester, but now the County of York, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston of Gloucester County who enlisted early in the spring of the year 1777 as a Lieutenant of artillery on State establishment in the Revolutionary War; the said Robert Thruston marched in the fall of that year 1777 to the northern station, where I found him in actual service as a Lieutenant when I reach that station in the fall of 1778. In July 1778, I entered under Captain Addison Lewis a recruiting officer of Bland's Regiment, as a soldier; early in August following I joined the first Virginia Regiment of cavalry at Petersburg and marched from thence under the command of Captain John he used to the North: I belonged to the fifth truth of the first Regiment which was raised after the said first Regiment had been some time in service to the North, for the purpose of filling up the vacancy which had been occasioned by Major Lee's withdrawal of the fifth truth from that Regiment. I saw the said Robert Thruston

² [Henry Buchanan S37807](#)

frequently whilst I remained to the North, and know that he enlisted for three years, the whole of which time I have always understood and still believe he faithfully served out. In December 1778, the whole of the first Virginia Regiment to which I was attached returned to Winchester in this State, and afterwards marched to the South where I remained till sometime in July 1781, when I was discharged, and returned home. When I left the northern Station, I left the said Robert Thruston in active-duty as Lieutenant. I do not recollect that I have seen him service, as I removed shortly after I left the Army from Gloucester to this County, where I have resided ever since, and have had but little or no opportunity of meeting with him. I enlisted as a soldier, but acted as trumpeter for about 18 months before my discharge, and at the time of my discharge I was trumpet Major of the Regiment. As witness my hand and seal this 28th day of May A.D. 1833.

S/ Henry Buchanan

[Note: summary of some of the testimony in this file:

Affidavit of William Cannon that Thruston served three years in the State Line in Nelson's Regiment, he thinks.

Affidavit of Thomas Blasengim [sic] in which he states he frequently saw Thruston in and about Yorktown about the time of the siege of York and that he was then acting as a Lieutenant of an artillery company and was pointed out to him as having been an officer on the northern tour for three or four years.

Affidavit of Henry Buchanan who stated that Thruston marched in 1777 to the northern Station as Lieutenant of Artillery in a company of State establishment – in the fall of 1778 when the affiant reached that station he found said Thruston in actual service as such officer and that he knew Thruston enlisted for three years & believes he served his full term.]

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Addendum to Robert Thruston R18488

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 29 March 2022.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Certify that I was well acquainted with Lieutenant Robert Thruston of the Revolutionary war and in the Virginia state line and that he served for three years and upwards in succession and to the best of my knowledge & belief he was in Nelsons [John Nelson W5414] Regiment and he was honorably discharged. As Witness my hand and seal this the 29th day of October in the year 1832

William Cannon [VAS2879]



I Jerymiah Caine being now Sixty Six years of age doth Certify that I was born in the state of Maryland and I was brought to Virginia in the County of Elizabeth City by my parents when I was a Child. I was but a Boy in the Revolutionary War, my Parents moved and lived about 12 Miles from York Town my Mother was in the habit of Washing for a Number of the officers in the army. I was acquainted with a good many officers from Gloucester County that my Mother washed for, among them Robert Thruston of Gloucester County, who was a Lieutenant in an Artillery Company, for some years before the seige of York [Yorktown 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. he was at the seige of York. I cannot say posetive how many years he was in the army. I am confident I knew him nearly three years before the seige of York and he remained in Service until the troops were discharged given under my hand & seal this 28th Day of April 1833

Jerymiah hisXmark Cane

At the request of the parties interested, I Thomas Blossengin of the county of York, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston of Gloucester county who lived near Gloucester Town, and who was a Lieutenant in an artillery company in the Revolutionary war, on state establishment. I frequently saw him in service in and about York Town, about the time of the seige of york. He was then acting as a Lieutenant of an artillery company, and I distinctly remember his being pointed out to me as an officer who had been away and served a tour of three or four years to the north. He was stationed at Queens creek above York with his company just before the siege, and used to call frequently at my Father's who lived near there at that time. I came down to York the next day after the siege for the purpose of seeing my Father, who was a butcher for the army till the end of the war and know that the said Robert Thruston was in york then on duty as a Lieutenant of artillery and am sure he continued in the service to the close of the war. as witness my hand and seal this 28th day of May A.D. 1833.

Jonas hisXmark Blossingin

I Henry Buchanan [S37807] formerly of Gloucester, but now of the county of york, do hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston of Gloucester county, who enlisted early in the spring of the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven as a Lieutenant of Artillery, on state establishment in the revolutionary war; The said Robert Thruston marched in the fall of that year (1777) to the northern station, where I found him in actual service as a Lieutenant when I reached That station in the fall of seventeen hundred and seventy eight. In July seventeen Hundred seventy eight; I enlisted under Capt. Addison Lewis [VAS899], a recruiting officer of Bland's [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] Regiment, as a soldier; early in August following, I joined the first Virginia Regiment of cavalry at Petersburg and marched from thence under the command of Capt. John Hughes [VAS2151] to the north; I belonged to the 5th troop of the first Regiment which was raised after the said first Regiment had been some time in service to the north, for the purpose of filling up the vacancy which had been occasioned by Major Lee's [Henry Lee] with drawal of

the 5th troop from that Regiment; I saw the said Robert Thruston frequently whilst I remained to the north, and know that he enlisted for three years, the whole of which term I have always understood and still believe he faithfully served out. In December seventeen hundred and seventy eight, the whole of the first Virginia Regiment, to which I was attached returned to Winchester in this state, and afterward marched to the south where I remained till some time in July seventeen hundred and eighty one, when I was discharged, and returned home; When I left the northern station, I left the said Robert Thruston in active service as Lieutenant. I do not recollect that I have seen him since, as I removed shortly after I left the army from Gloucester to this County where I have resided ever since and have had but little or no opportunities of meeting with him. I enlisted as a soldier, but acted as trumpeter for about eighteen months before my discharge, and at the time of my discharge I was trumpet major of the Regiment. As Witness my hand and seal this the 28th day of May AD one thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Henry Buchanan

I William Figg of Gloucester county, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston of this county. He lived in Gloucester Town and I on Sarah's creek within a mile or less of him. I know he entered the service in the Revolutionary war, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six or seventy seven, as a Lieutenant in an artillery company on state establishment. I frequently saw the said Robert Thruston in York after he entered the service, and also in Gloucester Town, where he trained with the troops in those places until the Regiment to which he was attached was filled up, and then he marched to the north. He remained to the north three or four years in active service all the time as a Lieutenant, as I always understood not only from the s^d Thruston himself, but from others also. I was not with the s^d Thruston to the north myself, but I know he was away a long time, at least three or four years, and I remember his returning home just about the time of the siege of York. I was on guard at Perrins point, as a volunteer, at the time of the siege. I was in York the next day, and there saw Robert Thruston in service as a Lieutenant, and I frequently saw him in service there after the British left York, and am certain he continued in service to the very close of the war. as witness my hand and seal this 28th day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three. Wm hisXmark Figg

I Lewis Stokes [S6158] of Gloucester county, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston of this county: I was born and lived within a mile of him. He enlisted in the Revolutionary war in the early part of the war, I think about the year 1776 or 1777 as a lieutenant in an artillery company on state establishment. He marched to the north some short time after he entered the service, and remained there, as I have always understood and believe, three or four years. I know he was away from the county a long time and am sure he must have been gone at least three or four years. I have no recollection of seeing him in the county again, from the time of his marching to the north, till after the siege of York, and I do not believe he returned till after that time. I was on militia duty in the county all the war, and am sure I should have met with Robert Thruston if he had been in Gloucester. As witness my hand and seal this 27th day of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty three. Lewis hisXmark Stokes

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Thurston, Robert.]

I Certify that I am now in my Seventy Three year of age and that I was well acquainted with Lieut. Rob. Throuston of the Virginia State Line in the Revolutionary War and as I recollect he was in Nelson's Regiment and I recollect well of his marching from York to the North and I never saw any more of him untill the end of the war and I believe he was honorably discharge as I never herd any complaint of him as witness my hand and seal this 4th day of June 1832 Wm. hisXmark Figg

I Certify that I was well acquainted with Robert Thruston who was a Leutenant in Col Nelsons Regiment

in the revolutionary war and he served three year in sucksession and he was Honourably discharged as
Witness my hand and seal this the tenth day of July in the year 1832

[signed] Henry Buchanan