

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Courtney R2371 Catharine Courtney MD
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

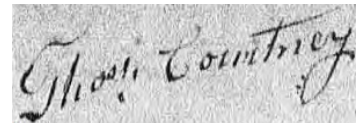
State of Ohio, Brown County Sct

On this the 29th day of October 1833 personally appeared Thomas Courtney a resident of the County of Brown and state of Ohio, aged seventy four years in December next, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by an act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States, in December 1779 or January 1780 under Colo. John Gunby, and served in his Regiment in the company commanded by Capt Coates Jones [sic: John Courts Jones]. That he enlisted for three years or during the war, and served first up the Chesapeake Bay watching the movements of the British shipping along on the Maryland Shore. That he was in Gen'l. Smallwoods [William Smallwood's] Brigade of Maryland soldiers and continued to serve therein until the winter 1783 after the full term of his enlistment three years had expired, long after the taking of Cornwallis [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781], and the publication of peace that he was discharged honorably in the City of Baltimore, by Colo. Gunby himself but the discharge has been lost for a long time, by getting wet, the day of St. Clairs defeat [Arthur St. Clair, Battle of Wabash, 4 Nov 1791]. That he resided when he enlisted at Lancasters, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where he enlisted – the said Lancaster kept a store and tavern – but in which County this declarant cannot recollect – that he was engaged in no important battles but was engaged in several pretty severe skirmishes, during his three years service. That he marched through the states of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina & S. Carolina

This said Courtney states that about the time of his enlistment, in a conversation with Colo. Gunby, who was urging him to enter the service he informed that Colo. that if he did enlist, he should change his name, because having come to America as a British Soldier and having left the British service, he would stand a better chance to escape the gallows in case he should be taken a prisoner – accordingly he enlisted under the name of John Smith and continued that name as long as he remained in the army, altho his real name was known to Colo. Gunby, Capt Jones Lieut [William] Lamar, and others of the Capt Jones Company – he well recollects a conversation with some of the people at Lancasters, when the soldiers were urging him to take the oath of allegiance to America and enlist – Colo. Gunby said that he, Colo. Gunby, would swear for him, &c. He states that he was born in the County Armaugh [sic: Armagh], Ireland in the year 1759. That he has no record of his age, but knows that he is near seventy four years old. That he lived in Maryland during the revolutionary war, or rather at the time of his enlistment. That he now resides in Brown County, Ohio. That he is acquainted with [end of page] who can speak of his character &c. He states that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person by whom he can prove his services

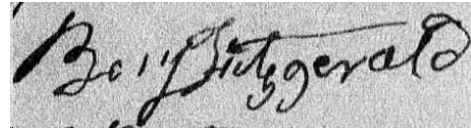
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Courtney". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

The deposition of Benjamin Fitzgerald [pension application S35931] of lawful age taken in the Town of Germantown Mason County Kentucky the deponent being first sworn deposeth and saith. That from a conversation had with Thomas Courtney who says he enlisted in the revolutionary war in the year 1780 by the name of John Smith in the 7th Maryland Regiment commanded by Colo John Gunby – the company commanded by Capt John Coats Jones – he beleives and has no doubt from many circumstances the said Smith relates that he did serve in the said regiment and company the said

deponant having served in the same Regiment & company for many years and farther this deponat saith not. [24 Oct 1834]



The Deposition of Matthew Rogers taken at the office of David Bronaugh Esquire in the town of Washington on Tuesday the fifteenth day of September in the year 1835. This deponent being duly sworn deposeth and saith That he has been well acquainted with Thomas Courtney for more than fifty two years. That some time in December in the year 1783 he happened to cale at the house of Patrick Carrol in the City of Baltimore and there saw Thomas Courtney who was then just recovering from a severe attack of illness. That he then saw said Courtney with a paper in his hand, and upon his enquiring what were its contents, said Courtney replied that it was his discharge which he had just obtained from Col John Gunby Commandant of the 7th Regiment of the Old Maryland line. That said deponent read the paper and saw that it was a discharge and in terms as Courtney described. That said Courtney in that paper was named as John Smith, and that the paper declared the reasons for which he had taken that name, which reasons it averred had been regarded as satisfactory by his officers, in as much as if taken by the British under his true name of Courtney he would have been hanged without mercy. And the said paper declared that as that danger no longer existed, he the said Courtney might now take his true name without fear or hesitation. The said paper described him the said Courtney as Sergeant of Capt'n Coats Jones' company, of Gunby's Regiment of the Old Maryland line And further this deponent saith not

[signed] Mathew Rogers

Land Office/ Annapolis, 3rd Sept'r. 1849

Dear Sir [Lewis C. Sugget, Esq. agent for the widow of Thomas Courtney], Your letter of the 21st ultimo, with one enclosed from J. L. Edwards, Esq'r., the Commissioner of Pensions, was received. Mr. Edwards says, "That Thomas Courtney, in his Declaration under act 7th June, 1832, alleges to have enlisted in 1780, in Capt'n. Coates Jone's Comp'y, Col. Gunby's Regiment, Md. line, under the name of John Smith." Col. Gunby commanded the 7th Maryland Regiment and Capt'n John Coates Jones, Commanded a Company in that Regiment. I have examined the muster rolls of that Regiment, and find upon it the name of two John Smiths, one enlisted in Capt'n Morris's [Jonathan Morris S41896]Company, & the other enlisted in Capt'n. [Mountjoy] Bayly's Company, but I do not find, that any person of that name belonged to Capt'n. Jones's Company.

The name of Thomas Courtney I do not find upon any of the Rolls. The letter of Mr. Edward's is herewith returned. I am very respectfully/ Yr Obt S't./ G. G. Brewer

NOTES:

On 20 March 1844 Catharine Courtney of Pendleton County KY, 79, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Courtney in April 1792 in Brown County PA, and he died in July 1839 during a visit to Cincinnati OH. She stated that from a family record in the handwriting of her husband, the first of their 11 children, John Courtney, was born on 18 Jan 1793. Her application also stated that "from a stroke of the Palsy" her recollection was impaired, and that her husband "had a scair on his side that he said he reced from a bayonet in a battle against the Brititish." She also stated that she had "frequently heard her husband and John Tucker, speak of the battles they ware in and their officers."

Like her husband's application, hers was suspended "For proof of identity of one of the John Smith's attached to the 7th regiment, Maryland line."

The family record is written on a deed and is incomplete and scarcely legible, but a transcription is attempted below.

John Courtney was born January the 18 1793

Michael[?] born aug the [?] 1794
[illegible] born [rest illegible]
Thomas born July 24 179[?]
Hugh born Sep the 9 1801
Eliizabeth born July 1st 18[page torn]
Patrick born february 8 180[?]
Mary born Sep't the 9 1806
Eleanor born february the 8 1809
Abraham born June 17 1811