

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Gayle R3955 Susannah Gayle VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

On this 30th day of July 1849, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, Susannah Gayle, a resident of said County and State, aged 89 years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed the 29th of July, 1848, entitled "an act for the relief of certain surviving Widows of officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary army."

That she is the widow of Thomas Gayle, deceased, late of Charlotte, and formerly of Gloucester [sic: Gloucester] County, and State of Virginia, who was a Lieutenant in the Minute and Militia service of Virginia, in the War of the Revolution.

That having married him subsequent to the close of the Revolutionary war, she of course, can have no personal knowledge of his services: but she has repeatedly heard from him, and others who served with him, that he served as Lieutenant a considerable length of time, on various occasions, during the war; and particularly towards the close of the War in 1780, and 1781, when the British were stationed in the lower part of Virginia, near Yorktown Williamsburg &c in the whole something like twelve months; for which length of time she claims a pension. That in consequence of old age, bodily infirmity, and the great distance she now lives from the scenes of his actions and former place of residence, she will be unable to produce much evidence of his services, except his commission, and such Record evidence as he has in possession: and therefore has to rely mostly on the Army Records in the possession of the Government, to support her claim.

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Gayle on the 28th day of November 1794; that her husband the said Thomas Gayle, died on the 24th day of May, & she believes in 1824 that she was not married to him, prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the second of January, eighteen hundred, viz: at the time above stated.

She further swears that she is now a widow and that she has never before made an application for a pension.
Susannah herXmark Gayle

The Commonwealth of VIRGINIA

To Thomas Gayle Gentleman, greeting:

KNOW YOU that our GOVERNOUR, on Recommendation from the Court of the County of Gloucester hath constituted and appointed you first Lieutenant in a Company of Militia in the said County. In Testimony whereof, these our Letters are sealed with [illegible] of the Commonwealth, and made Patent.

Witness THOMAS JEFFERSON, Esquire, our said Governour, at Richmond, the third Day of April in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty. One



NOTES:

A 14 Feb 1853 letter states that Susannah Gayle was still living near several of her children.

On 13 May 1857 Nancy Coleman stated the following: "I became acquainted with the said Thomas Gayle some time during the year Seventeen Hundred and ninety six and was present at his marriage with Mrs Susana P. Brown in Mathews County Virginia some time in November of the same year I then lived in his family Eighteen years and have seen his Discharge and heard him read it to his friends frequently and further certify that Sarah S. Crowder is a daughter of the said Thomas Gayle who died in may of the year Eighteen Hundred and twenty four and his wife Susana P. Gayle died in January of the year Eighteen Hundred and fifty four."