

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Pribble (Prebble) R8439

f21VA[PA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/22/12

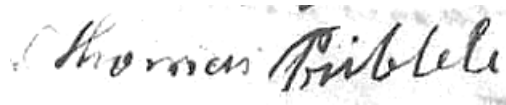
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Wood County: On this 13th day of March 1834 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Wood in the State of Virginia Thomas Preble [sic] a resident of the said County of Wood in Virginia aged 74 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 7th June 1832. That he in or the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated viz.. In the year 1777 as well as he can now recollect he lived on Muddy Creek in Pennsylvania near what was then called Redstone. He volunteered for six months as an Indian spy under Captain Jesse Pigman was marched in April 1777 to Redstone Fort and there ordered to spy westward and report to the Fort. This service he performed from April 1777 till November 1777 more than six months the time for which he engaged when he was discharged by his Captain. Colonel ___ commanded at Redstone Fort this year. Then in 1777 [sic, 1778?] he again volunteered under Captain William Cross was attached to a Regiment of Pennsylvania militia under Colonel Evans he engaged for six months was marched to Pittsburgh there joined General McIntosh marched down to Big Beaver there built Fort McIntosh from there he was marched up across the country to Tuscarawas [?]¹ a branch of Muskingum River there they built Fort Laurens here his term of engagement expired in November 1778 and he volunteered again to stay and guard the Fort for six months longer under his same Captain and Colonel ___ here they continued till in May 1779 as well as he recollects when he was discharged having served two tours continuously of 6 months each as a private Pennsylvania militia man. He returned home. Then in the same month May 1779 he again volunteered under Captain David Owens of Pennsylvania militia was marched down to Wheeling where the troops were stationed and he acted as an Indian spy up and down the Ohio River till in December 1779 when he was discharged by his Captain having served for six months as a private militia man this tour at this time he thinks Colonel Zane [perhaps Isaac Zane] commanded at Wheeling Fort. Then again in March 1780 he volunteered under Captain in what is now ___ County Kentucky marched to the mouth of Licking there joined Colonels Clarke [George Rogers Clark], Logan [Benjamin Logan] and others marched that summer to the Chillicothe Towns and Piqua Towns of Indians and destroyed a large quantity of Indian corn took a few prisoners and returned. He served in this campaign for six months as a volunteer militia man and was discharged by Captain Harrod [perhaps William Harrod]. He came up again to Wheeling and in March 1782 he again volunteered under a Captain whose

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name he does not now remember but thinks he was a Continental officer he joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Williamson [David Williamson] and marched against the Indians was in the battle under Colonels Crawford [William Crawford], Williamson and others at Sandusky where we were sadly defeated. He escaped with a part of Colonel Williamson's command. Colonel Crawford & Captain John McKinly [perhaps a mistaken reference to Lt. Col. John B McClelland] and others were taken prisoners and according to the accounts of Doctor Knight [John Knight] and John Slover who escaped Colonel Crawford was burnt and Captain McKinly's head was cut off and kicked around the fire. He returned to Pittsburgh where in September 1782 he was discharged having served his year for 6 months as a militia a private. This was his last service. The defeat of Colonel Crawford made him sick of such kind of service. He served in all from 1777 till the fall of 1782 not less than 2 years and 6 months as an Indian spy and militia man during the war of the revolution. He knew Generals Hand and McIntosh, Colonels Gibson, Crawford, Williamson, Clarke, Logan and Zane & others whose names he has now forgotten. He has no documentary evidence he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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. Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Pribble



These several interrogatories prescribed by the war Department were propounded to the applicant to which he gave the following answers viz.

1st That he was born in the year 1760 in the County of Baltimore in Maryland State.

2nd That he has no record of his age.

3rd That he was living in what is now ___ County in Pennsylvania on Muddy Creek after the war he lived in Washington County Pennsylvania until the year 1796 when he moved to what is now Wood County Virginia where he now lives.

4th That he was a volunteer the whole of his services

5th that he knew Generals Hand & McIntosh, Colonels Clark, Gibson, Williamson, Crawford, Logan, Zane & others whose names he has now forgotten. He saw in his expedition under General McIntosh regulars and militia State and Continental. He saw also under Colonel Crawford regulars (continentals) & militia. He cannot say certainly but now thinks that parts of the 9th and 13th Virginia regiments in Continental service were there. He does not remember the names of any Continental officers except McKinly & Dr. Knight before mentioned – as our also the general circumstances of his service.

6th he received written discharges from each of his Captain signed by them he has lost them all.

7th He is known in his neighborhood to Isaac Enoch 2nd and Benjamin Butcher who can testify as to his character for veracity and the neighborhood belief of his revolutionary services.

There are no clergyman residing near him. He lives ___ miles from Wood County Court house and is unable from bodily infirmity to travel there without great inconvenience.

Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Pribble

[Isaac Enoch 2nd and Benjamin Butcher gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: A note in the file indicates that the application was rejected because the veteran failed to

prove 6 months military service as required by the pension laws. There is no family data in this file.]


*Thomas Prebble Applicant*²

Henry Steed Esquire a Gentleman of character & integrity says that he has lived a neighbor to Thomas Prebble for 20 odd years and has been on intimate & neighborly terms with him all the time – has had many conversations with him about the Revolutionary Struggle – and never heard Prebble say that he had done any other service, other than packing some provisions for the Army at Fort McIntosh – that Prebble was brought before him to make a declaration and that he refused to have anything to do with it because he well knew that Prebble was able to go to the County Seat and so told him – and he also told him that it was necessary for him to make his declaration in open court – Mr. Steed says further that he can't believe that Prebble is entitled to a pension – and that such is the neighborhood opinion –

J. M. Steed Deputy Sheriff & a Gentleman of character says that very General Surprise and astonishment has been expressed throughout the Community at the Idea of Prebble's getting a pension – that no one believes him entitled – Prebble used to be very nosy about others getting Pensions and in talking on that subject, he said nothing of his on services.

I the undersigned Thomas Prebble, in pursuance of the requisites of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age & Revolutionary Services to wit – I am about 74 years old. I resided on the Monongahela River in Washington County during the war of the Revolution – Sometime before the spring of 1783 I can't tell in what year, I enlisted in Washington County for 6 months under Captain Jesse Pigman who had 30 or 40. We marched to near Morgan town now stands – collected canoes took the provisions to the troops at Pittsburgh, and delivered them to that place. – We then were sent to Red Stone old Fort to guard the Magazine, remained there 2 or 3 months and then went up to the mouth of Bingaman thence down at Fishing Creek to the Ohio River thence up the Ohio to the flats of Grave Creek & thence down to Washington County and was discharged having been in service six months our Captain was with [us] all the time – I don't know that he had a commission – he might have been selected by the neighborhood and afterward commissioned – after this I was drafted. (I can't tell in what year) for a campaign[?] and marched under Captain William Cross from near Morgan (Colonel Evans was along) to Mintins [?]³ Bottom, below Pittsburg, thence to the mouth of Big Beaver and there I joined General McIntosh's Army – the Army built at that place Fort McIntosh – We then marched to the Tuscarawas and built Fort Laurens and returned to Fort McIntosh and was discharged – we left home in this expedition about the last of September and was discharged about Christmas or New Year's in the service three months. In the next succeeding year I enlisted under Captain David Owens for six months. Our headquarters was at Jackson's Fort on Ten mile [Creek] – about 60 men in the company. We ranged between Fishing Creek and the Ohio River, was in the service six months. – I next volunteered (I can't tell in what year) and went to the Mingo bottoms, there joined Colonel Crawford, we selected our own captains & marched (560 men) to the Sandusky, where we had a little "combat" with the Indians. We had some three or four men killed and about as many taken prisoners – after a review street was ordered – Colonel Williamson took command of one division – and Colonel Crawford the other, in the retreat I think the third day Colonel

² All of the text in italics is in the handwriting of

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Crawford was taken prisoner & burnt by the Indians – I was in the service one month. I was also in an expedition from the falls of the Ohio to Wheeling – was in this service two months. And thus ended my service – Benjamin Arnold wrote my declaration. I told him the same in substance I now tell – I know of no one living by whom I can prove my services – I went to Jephtha Kincheloe eight miles from my house to swear to my Declaration – I live 15 miles from Parkersburg the County seat of Wood – have been to Parkersburg twice in the last 4 or 5 months, was in the habit of going more frequently when I made my Declaration, was then in good health and able to ride they are without any inconvenience. I agreed to give Arnold \$50 if he got me a certificate. In witness that the foregoing statement contains the truth I hereunto subscribed my name. December 24th, 1834

Witness

S/ J. M. Steed

S/ Thos. Prebble

A Copy

*Note. After the foregoing statement was given & signed I asked Prebble whether his Declaration had been read to him & whether he knew for what length of time his Declaration alleged, he had been in service: he replied that it had been read to him – and that it alleges, that he had been in service for upwards of two years –. He could not account for the discrepancy between the two statements – but repeated that the one given above was the true one, – that Arnold came at the dates of his services by reference to the **Border Warfare**"– I am perfectly satisfied that the whole of Prebble's Statement is a fiction – and would respectfully recommend that proof should be required.*

S/ W. G. Singleton

Dec. 24, 1834

[Note: Leon Harris has done a thorough study of the cases handled by W. G. Singleton in his attempt to identify fraudulent claims. The fruits of that study are set forth in Leon' notes attached to his transcription of the application of [David W. Sleeth S6111](#).]