

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Thacher S3788

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ON this 30th day of March AD 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, for the Southern Circuit, personally appeared James Thacher of Plymouth aged [blank] years, resident in the said Circuit, who being by me first duly cautioned according to law, on his oath made the following declaration, by him signed, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war."

[Part of Thacher's declaration is evidently missing from the file.]

I James Thacher do further set forth and declare, that from my reduced circumstances I need the assistance of my country for support, and do therefore desire that a pension may be allowed me agreeably to the late act of Congress of the 18th March last, and do relinquish all former pensions granted me (if any) by any other law of Congress.

[signed] James Thacher

He has not stated what Reg't. he belonged to, but it appears he was sometimes in the Virginia line & sometimes in the Massachusetts' line, and sometimes perhaps in the general hospital department. He is now a very reputable Physician but unfortunate and poor.

N. Mitchell

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

County of Plymouth SS.

On this fourteenth day of August 1820, before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas for the Southern Circuit, proceeding according to the course of the common law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount, having a power also of fine and imprisonment, and keeping a record of their proceedings, personally appeared in open Court, being a court of record for the said County James Thacher age 67 years, resident in Plymouth in said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows, viz. for the term of seven years & a half in the hospital department & as surgeon to 1st Virginia Reg't. & 9th Massachusetts and that he has received a pension certificate dated 21st Jany 1819 and numbered 5590 in pursuance of his original Declaration made March 30th 1818 and also takes and subscribes the following oath, viz. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

I am by profession a physician but in consequence of extreme disability & being afflicted with an incurable malady a rupture in my professional business is annihilated & it is impossible for me to resort to any other employment I am therefore dependent upon charity for subsistence & have for several years received pecuniary aid from a widowed daughter By an unfortunate concern in a manufactory a few years since I was obliged to surrender the whole of my property & am now in debt to the amount of several hundred dollars. My family consists of myself & wife Susannah who is 64 years of age & is very infirm I have no estate

Sworn to, and declared, on the 14th day of Aug't AD 1820 before Nahum Mitchell C Justice of s'd Court

[signed] James Thacher

I James Thacher of Plymouth in the State of Massachusetts, Physician, do upon oath testify and declare, that I was surgeon in the ninth Massachusetts Regiment under the command of Col. Henry Jackson. that I served during the war of the Revolution, and to the close of it, and that I received a commutation Certificate at the close of the war, and that my Certificates of service are to be found in the Department of War at Washington, by reason whereof I claim the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed the 15th day of May 1828 & that I am a pensioner under the Act of Congress of March 1818.

[signed] James Thacher

I Joseph Thomas of Plymouth in the State of Massachusetts, Gentleman, upon oath, depose and say, That I was Capt. of Artillery during the Revolutionary War – that I knew then James Thacher surgeon of Col. Henry Jackson's Regiment – that ever since the war I have intimately known him, having lived for the whole period, or nearly to, in the same town with him and that he is the same person, who has subscribed the above declaration for the benefit of the Act of Congress passed the 15th of May 1828

Joseph Thomas

NOTES:

The file includes the original commission to James Thacher as Surgeon in the regiment of Col. Henry Jackson commencing 1 July 1779, signed by Samuel Huntington, President of Congress, dated Philadelphia, 26 Oct 1780.

James Thacher described his service in a book *A Military Journal During the American Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783...*, which is available online.

On 4 Dec 1843 Thacher applied to yield his pension of \$480 per year under the act of 1828 for a larger pension under the act of 1832.

A document in the file states that Thacher died on 23 May 1844 leaving no widow but two children, Betsey H. Hodge and Susan T. Bartlett.