

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Thornton S41253

f9VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/9/11

[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.]

County of Accomack, State of Virginia: Sct

On this 19th day of December 1829 personally appeared before James Gillett one of the Justices of the County Court of Accomack County James Thornton Senior a resident in said County aged seventy-five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 & the 1st May 1820; that he the said James Thornton Sr. enlisted for the term of two years on the __day of February 1776 in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Snead in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Mathews in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps until about February 1778 when he was discharged from the service at Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania: that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present: that his name is not on the roll of any state except Virginia: and that the following all the reasons for not making an earlier application for pension to wit: that a few years since he applied to an attorney at law by name of George Parker who promised to make application for him & said he had done so, and told this applicant that he could not get his pension, and being an ignorant man he had supposed he had no chance of getting his after this advice, And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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" 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: that since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property – to wit: a sale of small quantity of grain and of fowls & vegetables for the purpose of procuring the comforts of life, such as coffee, sugar, clothing and other necessary articles for the use of himself & wife. He has hitherto kept free from debt, but his increased debility renders him unable to provide for himself & wife, & he is now going into poverty.

Sworn to & declared before made a Justice of the County Court of Accomack County by James Thornton Senior this 19th day of December 1829. Witness my hand & seal the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Gillett, {LS}

Schedule of the Real & personal estate of James Thornton Senr dec'd¹ [?]100 acres of very poor & mostly uncultivated land, one mare about 18 years old, one yoke of Steers, three cows, two calves, nine hogs of various sizes, seven sheep, one wain, 2 old plows, one harrow – five old flag chairs, one pine table, two old chairs, two iron pots, one Teakettle, one pair andirons, one meat tub, two washing tubs and about 20 pieces of crockery ware of little value, six knives & forks – about 60 bushels of corn to produce of the aforesaid land this year – about four or five hundred weight of pork just killed & those may be some few trifling articles omitted, but they are of no value and not recollected. The declarant is unable to labor & his wife is in her 85th year, He has no children, his old family is himself & wife. He has no slaves and is compelled to hire laborers to carry on his little farm, being unable to cut his own firewood.

S/ James Thornton Senior, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing January 23rd, 1830 for service as a private for two years in the Virginia Continental line.]

¹ *dec?*

This is normally the abbreviation of the word "deceased" which obviously has no meaning in a document in which the applicant is referred to in the present tense as still being alive. I have no idea what this abbreviation connotes in this context.