

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Howard S45796

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Sep 2012.

State of Kentucky }
Perry County Sct } SS.

On this 24th day of december 1833. personally appeared before me [Andrew Willson] a Justice of the peace for Perry County now sitting Thomas Howard a resident in the county of Perry and state of Kentucky aged eighty three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7. 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, under Col John Montgomery [sic: John Montgomery] Captain Jesse Evans [pension application S15826] Leuietenant Anthony Crockett in the state of Virginia in the county of Montgomery [sic: Montgomery] on the – day of June in the year 1778 for three years – from Mong’y the army all met at the Long Isl’ds of Holstien [sic: Long Islands of the Holston River at present Kingsport TN], and went down that river to the Tennessee, to the Ohio to the Mississippi, up to the mouth of the Illinois river and up it to Kaskascia [sic: Kaskaskia] river. remained there for some time. we marched to Vincennes on the Wabash river, &[?] this applicant remained till the Spring of 1779. during which time, the portion of the troops had several small fights with the Indians, and in the month of July 1779. we marched across to the falls [Falls of the Ohio River at present Louisville] where Col Clarkes [sic: George Rogers Clark’s] Regiment had assembled and was stationed he was some times called Gen Clark, he remained here until next year at the falls, and remained here until during that summer he accompanied the army to Piccaway [sic: Piqua] where the battle ensued between Gen Clark and the Indians [8 Aug 1780] Gen Clark’s Regt and the Kentucky forces entirely overcame them during this year 1780. the Indians had attacked bonsboro [sic: Boonesborough KY], had killed several men, one near Lexington and one on Licking River, and had taken riddle fort [sic: Ruddle’s Station, early May 1780]., he forgot to mention that during the year 1778. over on the waters of the Miamis [sic: Great and Little Miami rivers in Ohio] we took an Indian Town the name of which this applicant cant remember. after the battle at Piccaway this applicant went back with the most of the troops to the falls and here staid until next April 1781. four companies then marched up on the Kentucky side to where cincinnatti now stands and the Americans built two block houses on the Cincinnati side and two or rather repaired one & built one on the other during the battle at Piccay he deems it proper to state that A Crockett receiv’d several wounds from the Indians – he will not swear as to dates but believes it was in June 1781 he received his discharge – during 1780. 1779. many small affairs took place between the Indians and the Kentucky settlements and often the troops were attacked on passing between Hardonburg [sic: probably Harrodsburg KY] and some killed, the Cannadians and french creoles, and Indians all joined to lay waste the settlements in Kentucky – [See note below.] after receiving his discharge for three years he returned with his brother [James Howard S31139], and several to Montgomery county Va where he lived until he came to Licking where he now resides. He lost his discharge, or done something with it, it has been fifty years since he seen it. in fact and truth he does not know what has become of it – he was promised land when he enlisted which he never got. He has no documentary evidence in his favor, but is certain his name his name is on the pay roll at the board of war. He knew he thinks one or two Regular officers in the continental service, To wit Col. [Joseph] Crockett from Shaneydoy [sic: Shenandoah] county Va I allways understood he was a regular officer, he came to the falls from Fort Pitt, during the year 1779. or 80. with a Regt from Va, he knew Col Benj. Logan [Benjamin Logan] of Kentucky, Col Montgomery Gen Clark, Col Bomar [probably Bowman] and Major Bomar. Major Hugh McGany of Ky, Col Canniday Capt Benton and

Col Hart, he knew Col [William] Preston of Va, He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afores'd [signed] Thomas Howard [William Caffie, clergyman, and James Howard certified the age and reputation of Thomas Howard as a soldier of the Revolution.]

Qu't 1st

Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Georgia (in Wilkes county now) on the 8th day of June 1750.

2^d Qu

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans I have now record at my house or elsewhere that I know of but know my age from my father having set down my age in a book and having seen it often

3rd Qus.

Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Ans. In Montgomery county Virginia – and moved here thirty seven years since the Revolutionary war and I now live in Perry county Kentucky it was a new county formed out of Floyd, and Clay counties. the place where I now live on was formed in Floyd –

4th.

How were you called into service, where you drafted did you volenteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I was enlisted for three years and promised land when I enlisted which I never got in my life–

5th

State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such continental and millitia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. I know many officers's names that served but cannot distinguish who were regulars and who were not. fifty years or more has passed by since the service was rendered by me and being physically defective and very old I may be easily mistaken. There was Gen Clarke who was commander, Col. Bomar he was a millitia Col. for I knew him in Virginia before he came to Kentucky. Col Montgomery also there was a Col Crockett from Shamedoah perhaps was a regular officer. Col. Logan lived in Ky not far from Harodsburg as I understood and Hugh McGairy a Maij. and in Ky some where. There was several Millitia Regiments along when I first went to Kaskascia, and when the army took an indian town called opost [Vincennes]. I however was not along when the main fight took place. and also when we whipt the Indians at piccway on the Miamis–

the general circumstances of my service are fully stated in the declaration it is a matter of impossibility to remember everything or is it necessary to mention every account that ocured during the service, a minute detail would swell this statement to many pages – However my self and Brother James agreed to enlist for three years in Virginia and done so under the promise of land &[?] our father having been murdered by the indians and everything taken from us we went from low down on New River, and enlisted. neither of us having families, we marched from Montgomery to the Long Islands of Holstun, and there took boats and decended the River till we came to Tennessee river we went down Tennessee to Ohio river After coming up the Mississippi river to the mouth of Ohio the Tennessee goes into the Mississippi, we went up that river to the mouth of Illinois river, and to Kaskacia where we remained for some time, next year went to the falls, and remained there for some time Clarke had fixed this place as his head quarters, as most wuitable to afford the settlers in Kentucky most benefit, and protection from the Indians. We staid some time at Vincennes on the Wabash, before we went to the falls and marched across the cuntry. I was in the battle at Piccaway and served out my time, and got an honorable discharge.

6.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

An I did it was signed by Clarke he thinks it was certainly not signed by my first Let. for he was not there then. I cannot say one or the other what has become of the discharge for after I did not get my land that I was promised in Kentucky I never took any more care of it.

7

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution
Ans. There is the Rev'd. Wm. Caffe. Rev'd Danel Duff. Andrew Wilson Tho Higin, Col John & Majer Henly Hadin by whom he can also establish his enlistment by although they were not soldiers in the Revolution and my brother James who served three years with me.

Perry County Sct [27 Dec 1833]

James Howard an aged man aged eighty one years states that he knows of the service of Thomas Howard his brother during the Revolution, that he served three years as stated in his declaration and was discharged by his Capt. in Ky. and further this deponant saith not.

[The following is in the pension file of Bazle (Boswell) Castle S15369.]

Floyd county Prestonsburg Ky [13 June, year not stated but probably 1834 or 1835]

Sir [Secretary of War] it is thought there is some gross frauds practised on your department by granting pensions to several people in this county and the county of Lawrence and Morgan [sic: Morgan] in this state under the late act of Congress granting pensions to revolutionary Soldiers it would be desirable to know what were the claims presented of service by Baswell Castle, Edward Darton [sic: Edward Darton (Dorton), pension application S30983], Thomas and James Howard, Joseph, Davice [sic: Joseph Davis S15399] &c as some of those men I have known near thirty years and from their age it is not possible they were ever in the war of the revolution I have been requested repeatedly to write for information on this subject by our citizens and believing it a duty that we all owe to our country to detect frauds on our government it is desirable you would forward a short list of the names of those drawing pensions under the late act the date of their service, proven and the name of the agents employed [?] in obtaining their pensions in the three counties named in doing so you will much gratify the wishes of many respectable citizens Yours/ D. K. Harris
or any other information that would be necessary to detect fraud as there is certainly gross error in [the rest missing]

[A document in the file states that Howard's pension was suspended on 4 March 1835 as a result of the "vile slander" by D. K. Harris.]

[One or more pages are apparently missing from the following letter, which may be the one referred to as dated 18 Sep 1835 in the reply from the Pension Office.]

Under the late law in the counties of Floyd Morgan [sic: Morgan], Lawrence Pike and Perry and a Statement of the date of their services and if there has been certificates forwarded to the department of their being unable to go before the court of examination as I believe the law requires and the names of the agents and the names of the magistrates that have signed the certificates and I will be able to show and can prove the age of a great many that were scarcely born at the time the services is said to be rendered. I assure you sir there is no man in the government would like the soldiers of the revolution more amply rewarded than myself But when I see others under the pretence committing the worst of frauds on our government I feel it my duty as a citizen to assert my Government in detecting

improper conduct if you see proper to forward to me the authority I hope of I will if living attend strictly to the business and if my services is found to be of advantage to the department I shall expect to be remunerated for them at the discretion of the department and if not I assure you I shall ask nothing

I Remain yours &c/ [signed] DK Harris

[to] Geo M Crump

NB inclosed I send the statements of John Ausbourn and Rubin Marshall about the two Howards I say to you that Mr Ausbourn and Mr Marshall are highly Respectable men whose Statements are to be relied on as much as any men in Ky DKH

in addition to the five you gave me a statement of thare age and service to my own knolledge I am of opinion that the claimes of Stepelton Marshel Wells and Porter and probably that of Brown will all be found to be improper claimes DKH

[From the pension file of Joseph Davis S15399]

War Dept./ Pension Office/ Aug. 6, 1835

Sir [D. K. Harris], Your letter of the 18th ult'o. accompanied by the statements of John Osborn and Reuben Marshall came duly to hand. These statements are herewith returned, in order that they may swear to them. The pensions of Joseph Davis, Bazle Castle, Edward Darton, Thomas Howard and James Howard have been stopped.

So soon as Lists of the Kentucky Pensioners shall have been permitted for circulation, a List embracing all the counties you mention, will be sent to you.

We will be obliged to you for any information respecting fraudulent cases which you may be able to furnish. This Dept. however, can make no compensation for such service. No appropriation by law has been made for such purposes.

[At the bottom of this page is the following anonymous note : "This man retracted his statements about Joseph Davis, see his letter dated Feb. 11, 1842 in claim of Edward Darton, S30983."]

Prestonburg Ky/ october 1st 1835

Sir yours of august the 6th and 29th is all to hand enclosing the statements of Ausbourn and Marshall my reason for not answering them before this time I have been absent from home I will when opportunity admits send them back sworn to &c as you request the frauds on your department are numerous and glaring such as an honest community is not willing to put up with without exposure. I say to you there is no difficulty in detecting the wrong if a trial is made by legal authority

[to] The Secretary of War

yours DK Harris

NB I inclose the statement of Ausbourn

DKH

[The following is in the pension file of Edward Darton S30983.]

Prestonsburge Floyd County Ky February 11th 1842

Dear sir some six or eight years since I wrote to the head of your department on the subject of fraudulent pensions in this section of the government there was two cases that was glaring and certainly fraudulent I mean the cases of Thomas and James Howard. these two cases led to the suspicion of other to that of Edward Darton Boswell Castle & Joseph Daviss which were all stopped the 6th of august 1835 I suppose from the information the department received from me Sir the three latter cases that of Darton Castle and Davis the men live about twenty or twenty five miles from where I do about the last of november last I was in the neighbourhood on the hunt of some work cattle I stopped in at the house of Darton and found him sitting in his chair a cripple not able to get about without help and his wife stone blind I thought of the subject and raised a conversation with the old lady upon the subject of the revolutionary war she spoke sensibly of the services of her husband and of Castle & Davis shee thoughroly convinced me that the suspicion that was against

them was rong and sir I do much regrett that it was in and through me they ware cut out of thare rights but sir I am contious that I was guided by no improper motive my father was a member of the revolution and his Blood mingled amongst the marters of that scane and I feel it a duty that I owe to my goverment to detect frauds against it and likewise I feel it a duty that I owe to my fellow man if I have by mistaken notion or otherwise done them a rong to rectify it. sir they do not know to this Day that I was the cause of thair pentions being stoped and sir it would gratefy my feelings verry much for them to be restored againe I mean the three latter casses as I do assure you that I would be the last to do an injury to a War warn patriot in his last days plesse let me hear from you Respectfully yours/
[signed] David K Harris

State of Kentucky } Sst
Morgan County }

On this 21st day of July 1845 personally appeared in open Court before the court of Morgan now sitting Thomas Howard of the County of Morgan and State of Kentucky aged Ninety five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. as far as he now recollects that he enlisted under Colonel John Montgomery Capt Jesse Evans Leutenant Anthony Crockett that on the [blank] day of June in ththe year 1778 he inlisted for three years in the County of Montgomery and State of Virginia The army all met or rendezvoused at the Long Islands of Holston and from there we were marched down Holston to the Tennessee river and down the Tennessee river to the Ohio & on to the Missisippe river thence up to the mouth of the Illinoys river and up to the Kaskaskia river we remained there for some time and after our stay there we were marched to Vensens on the Wabash river there we remained untill the spring of 1779 during which time we had several skirmishes or fights with the Indians and in the summer of 1779 we marched across to the falls of the Ohio where Col Clarks Regiment had assembled and was stationed here he remained untill the next year untill some time in the Summer and then marched with the army to the Picaway plains where a battle took place between Gen'l. Clark & the Indians Clarks regiment and the Kentucky forces entirely overcame the Indians and in the year 1780 the Indians attacke Boonsborough & had killed some several men killed one near Lexington and some on Licking river after the battle of Picaway plains this affiant with the greatest portion of the troops went back to the falls and here they remained untill in April 1781 – that during the year 1778 we took one Indian town on the waters of the Miami he dose not at this time recollect the name of the town and after remaining at the falls untill spring four companes marched up the Ohio River on the now Kentucky side to where Cincinnati now stands the Americans buit two block houses on the Ohio side and repaired on during the battle at Picaway he states that Capt Crockett received several wounds from the Indians he will not swear positively as to the dates but thinks and believes it was in June 1781 during the year 1780 he received his discharge in the year 1779 many difficulties took place between the Indians and the settlement of Kentucky and the troops we offer attacked when passing through the neighbourhood of Harrodsburg and some of them killed The Canadians & French & Indians all came to destroy the settlements in Kentucky after receving his discharge for three years he returned with James Howard and some others of the arm to the state of Virginia where he lived until he removed to Licking river where he now lives he knew some of the offics in the regular service Towit Col Crockett from Shaneyday County State of Virginia he came to the falls from Fort Pitt during the year 1779 or 1780 with a Ridgment from Virginia he knew Col Benj Logan of Kencucky Col Montfomery Gen'l Clark Major. Hugh McGary of Kentucky Col Caniday Capt. Burton & Col. Burt he knew Col Preston he states that he lost his discharge a great many years back sixty odd years he dose not know what became of it, but that he saw it previous to its being misplace from among his papers

he hereby relinquishes every other claim to a pension but the present and states that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state as a Pensioner he feels confident that by referring to the payroll of the army that his name will there be found he refers to his old declaration for a more full description of his services, which is on file in the war office – he states that he has no record or documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person now living by whom he can prove his services by except his brother James Howard whose deposition is on file also in the war office which is referred to he states that he once drew a pension which was four some cause unknown to him suspended – that he knew a man by the name of John Tackett & John Fitzpatrick by whom he could have proved his services whose deposition he took proving his services to get his claim reinstated which was recorded & he expects is on file also which is referred to he states that John Tackett removed to Indiana or some other of the western states & is dead Fitzpatrick is also dead as he is informed & he knows of no other person by whom he could prove his service
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above mentioned Thomas hisXmark Howard

State of Kentucky } Sect.
Morgan County }

On this the 2^d day of October 1851 Personally appeared before me David M. Cooper – an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State ofsd, Thomas Howard aged ninety years, who being first duly sworn according to Law Doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to be reinstated on the Pension list under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 That He! was a Revolutionary Soldier and did draw a Pension until the year 1835 – at the rate of eighty dollars per annum. That in the afsd year of 1835 he was suspended. He therefore most respectfully asks the Honorable Commissioner of Pensions to cause it to be allowed to Him and that the Certificate evidencing the same may be forwarded to his Attorney Isaac H Trabue of Frankfort Kentucky [power of attorney follows]

NOTES:

In the 1840 federal census of Morgan County KY Thomas Howard is listed as age 70-80. In the federal census taken in Morgan County on 1 Aug 1850 Thomas Howard is said to have been 80 years old and born in North Carolina, living with Francis Howard, age 71 and born in Virginia.

“The Cannadians and french creoles, and Indians all joined to lay waste the settlements in Kentucky” probably refers to attacks in 1780 by an army mostly of Indians but possibly including French Canadians, all under the command of British Col. Alexander McKee from Detroit.

Compare the application of Thomas Howard’s brother, James (S31139).

On 1 Oct 1853 Franky Howard of Morgan County, aged 71 in the following March, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Howard in Washington County VA 1794, and he died from pleurisy in Morgan County on 27 Jan 1853. On 4 April 1855 at age 76 she stated that she was married to Thomas Howard in the fall when she was 15. On 5 April 1855 Reuben Arnett, 69, stated that the maiden name of Franky Howard was Franky Jackson. On the same day Michael Rimer, 80, stated that Franky Jackson was married to Thomas Howard by a man named Anderson in Russell County VA. On 2 Dec 1871 Mrs. Frances Howard, 90, of Magoffin County KY, applied for a pension declaring that she married Thomas Howard on or about 15 Aug 1796 in Washington County VA, and that he was a pensioner at the time of his death.