

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Triplett¹ S46571

f50VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/26/11

[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.]

[f p 3]

Know all men by these presents that I Thomas Triplett Senr. of Bath County Kentucky do by these presents assigned to Thomas Triplett Jr. all lands that maybe you for military Services in the revolution of the United States as a Captain which I transfer to my son Thomas Triplett. As witness my hand & seal this 16th of November 1830

S/ Thos Triplett

Know all men by these presents, that I Thomas Triplett Senr. of Bath County Kentucky do by these presents assign to Thomas Triplett Jr. all lands that maybe due for military service in the revolution of the United States, as accept which I transfer to my son Thomas Triplett as witness my hand seal this 16th November 1830 -

Thos Triplett

[f p. 8]

State of Kentucky County of Franklin: Sct.

I Thomas Triplett aged between 85 & 90 years do upon oath testify and declare that about the year 1776 or 7 I was in the service of the United States and was promoted as a Captain in said service and drew four thousand six hundred acres of land warrants which is (as I understand patented to Cadwalder Wallis & ___ Durin) as will appear by reference to the land warrants and that I served during the war and until its close & termination when I was disbanded & discharged. I further declare that I have never received a warrant for bounty land promised to me on the part of the United States (except the warrants aforesaid which was received from the State

¹ BLWt1777-300

of Virginia) nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim except as above in any manner whatsoever (except to Thomas Triplett Junior which is now in the hands of Colonel Joseph Watson). Therefore know all men by these presents that I Thomas Triplett aforesaid do hereby constitute and appoint Colonel Joseph Watson of Washington City to be my true and lawful attorney for me and [in] my name, to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the United States a warrant for the quantity of land due me as aforesaid and my said attorney is hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him, for the special purpose above expressed. I further declare & made oath that from old age & bodily defects I am unable to account or say what has become of my Commission or set forth the different regiments I was in. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand & affixed my seal this 12th July 1831

S/ Thomas Triplett, X his mark

Attest: Thomas Triplett Jr

I Meshach Pearson² aged 76 a pensioner of the United States & revolutionary Soldier, due on oath declare that I was raised in the County of Culpeper in the State of Virginia and enlisted in Captain George Slaughter's Company as set forth in his declaration and that he then knew Thomas Triplett as an officer in the Army on Continental establishment, that at the close of the war he said Triplett settled in Culpeper County and was known & recognized as Captain in the revolution and the said Triplett who acknowledged the above declaration & power of attorney in my presence is well known to me to be the identical person he therein represents himself to be and do know in part & believe he did perform the military services therein stated.

Witness: S/ Thomas Triplett [Jr.]

S/ Meshach Pearson, X his mark

Thomas Triplett Jr., states of both he is the son of Thomas Triplett Senr. Aforesaid, and that his father from old age, his mind is so debilitated, that he has but little recollection on any subject at least not sufficient to give any accurate detail of his Services.

S/ Thomas Triplett Jr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Triplett Jr." with a large flourish at the end.

[f p 7]

I certify that Thomas Triplett's claim has been allowed as a Captain in the Virginia Line

S/ Thomas W. Dickins

Treasury Department

[Note: The claims under the Act of May 15, 1828 were adjudicated in the Treasury Department]

[f p. 7: note that a warrant for 300 acres of land was issued to Thomas Triplett No. 1777 as a Captain in the Virginia line; issued October six, 1832 to Joseph Watson, assignee]

² Meshecke Pearson (Pierson) FPA S35555 have or Henry

[f p. 42]

Washington City August 28, 1834

Sir:

Having returned from Kentucky I now have the honor to submit a Report of my proceedings under the authority conferred upon made by the Honorable R. B. Taney late Secretary of the Treasury.

The papers entrusted to me were those in the cases – 1st of Thomas Triplett alleged to have been a Captain from Virginia in the Continental Line for whose services a sum of money had been drawn from the Treasury under a general law of Congress, and an additional some in virtue of a special act of Congress for the benefit of his representatives, 2nd of John Bailey³ of Bath County Kentucky to whose representatives the half pay of a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel G. R. Clark [George Rogers Clark] had been paid at the Treasury – and 3rd of John Scott of Cumberland County Kentucky in whose behalf an application had been made to obtain the half pay of a Captain Lieutenant in the Regiment of Virginia State Artillery. Thomas Triplett [Junior] an Attorney at law of Franklin Kentucky was the Agent in the two first cases. The papers in the last case were presented at the Treasury by Thomas Green of Richmond Virginia to whom it appears they have been transmitted by Milton King of Burkesville Kentucky.

Having performed certain duties as an Agent of the Post Office Department in the States of Mississippi Alabama and Tennessee, I proceeded to investigate the cases in which Thomas Triplett was concerned, and in which the evidence had been prepared principally in Bath County Kentucky. Thinking that perhaps enough appeared upon the face of the papers to justify the emanation of a warrant for the arrest of T. Triplett, whose invasion of the process, if he discovered what was doing, I feared, I applied at once to Judge Monroe of the United States District Court accordingly. He wished that additional ground should be shown. I therefore proceeded to Bath County and obtained much additional information in the cases both of Triplett & Bailey, showing conclusively, to my mind, that in each case a gross fraud had been practiced by means of perjury and forgery. I procured the affidavit of Colonel James McIlhaney of Bath to the effect that he had not made oath in either case to the statements prepared for him, and which it appeared from the papers as presented at the Treasury he had sworn to. Thus satisfied of the guilt not only of Triplett, but of others, his confederates, I returned in haste to Frankfurt, and procured from the Judge warrants for the arrest of Triplett – of Josiah Reed a Justice of the Peace of Bath County, and of John Bailey of the same County.

Triplett was immediately arrested and the Marshal directed to proceed to the arrest of Reed and Bailey. Mr. Triplett desired that sometime should be given him to prepare for the investigation of the question of his commitment. The Judge appointed the 3rd day of July. In the interval I proceeded again to Bath County to find testimony and with the Marshall filled up a blank subpoena with the names of witnesses for the prosecution, who were summoned. Some of the witnesses were aged and infirm. Their testimony being regarded important, was taken in depositions to be read at the investigation.

On the day fixed the bodies of Triplett, Reed and Bailey were produced before the Judge. The investigation resulted in an order for the commitment of the three. Thomas Triplett [Junior] for assisting in the preparation of false papers, and for altering official certificates – Joseph Reed for making false certificates as a Justice of the Peace – and John Bailey for perjury. Bail was given by Bailey and Reed. Triplett yet remains in close jail in Frankfurt Kentucky. The evidence produced for the prosecution should most conclusively that Thomas Triplett Senior could not

³ Perhaps, [John Baily R19354](#) see for discussion

have been a Captain in the Revolution. Two respectable witnesses deposed to their knowledge of him as an apprentice during the war.

Captain Benjamin Roberts a gentleman of reputation and integrity and one of the captains of the Regiment commanded by Colonel G R Clark, proved that the John Bailey that was a Captain in that Regiment lived and died in Nelson County Kentucky without children. They were well acquainted. The money drawn by Triplett for John Bailey of Bath was upon a power of attorney from the sons of the said Bailey.

The papers sent to me at Frankford from the Treasury Department may be made the basis of prosecutions against certain other individuals in the cases of Triplett and Bailey and of additional proceedings if they shall be deemed necessary against the persons already arrested.

I stated at the Treasury previous to my departure westward that I might not have time to attend to the case of John Scott in which event it was understood I should believe that case to the District Attorney. Upon reflection in Kentucky I deemed it best to investigate the case of Scott myself, and proceeded to Cumberland County accordingly, taking with me from Glasgow a town on the road, R. D. Maupin Esquire to assist me, as I had never been in that County before.

The affidavit presented at the Treasury in the case of Scott was made by three men of Cumberland. It was accompanied by a power of attorney signed by John Scott. These were all the papers. My investigation in Cumberland satisfied me fully of the falsehood of the affidavit, and that the whole case was a fabrication to procure for John Scott money properly due to another of that same name. Several respectable citizens who had known him for years this claim any knowledge of his being reputed a Captain in the Revolution. He was not called Captain Scott, nor had he been known when speaking of his services in the war to have named himself as an officer. I procured from V. Taylor Esquire a Justice of the Peace and a neighbor of John Scott, a certificate officially signed setting forth the above facts, as also that he understood and believed that Scott was a private pensioner. Information was also given to me by an Agent for a pensioner residing in the County, that Scott was in fact a pensioner. Having as I supposed sufficient evidence to procure process I returned to Frankfurt and on the first Monday of the present month applied to the judge. To my surprise he was unwilling to issue process without additional proof. Upon consulting with the attorney we deemed it best to let the business rest until court when bills of indictment could be preferred, and process taken upon those four persons will, I think, in this case be found to have incurred the penalties of the law – John Scott and the three affidavit makers.

As I had already been detained much longer in Kentucky than I had expected, I gave to the attorney all the papers received from the Department and started for this city. At Louisville Kentucky I met with Judge Bibb of the Senate and understanding that he was acquainted with the real Captain John Scott, I procured his affidavit accordingly, and enclosed it to Mr. Sanders the attorney, desiring him to lay it before the Judge, and take out warrants for the arrest of the parties.

Since my return to the City I have at the Pension office found that John Scott is a pensioner as a private and that some of his papers seem to have been prepared by the same person whose handwriting appears in the application for half pay as a Captain. If this be so, a fifth person may be found implicated in the fraud attempted in behalf of Scott.

The conviction of Triplett and his confederates will show that he has drawn from the public Treasury a very large sum of money without right. It is well worthy of the consideration of the Department whether a civil proceeding on by half of the government to recover back the money paid to him or so much of it as can be made of his estate, should not be instituted. I have

not examined the authorities to find what have been the decisions, if any, in cases of this kind: yet I think on general principles the government could have a judgment or [indecipherable word] for the amount in properly drawn, in an appropriate proceedings on the civil side of the United States Circuit Court. No difficulty will be found in making out the facts of the fraud and of the want of right in the representatives of Triplett and Bailey to the money drawn in their names. The executors of Bailey have received but five or \$600 of the money obtained in their case, the whole residue being retained, I believe, by Triplett. Most, if not all of the money drawn for his father's services, was also, I believe, appropriated to his own use by Mr. Triplett.

I have the honor to be
Your Obedient Serve
P. S. Loughborough⁴

Hon. Levi Woodbury
Sec of Treasury

[facts in file: Thomas Triplett, Sr. died February 28, 1833.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum pursuant to a certificate issued October five, 1831 for service as a Captain in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: Heitman lists a Thomas Triplett as a Captain of Grayson's Additional Continental Regiment 13th January 1777, resigned 29th April 1778.

Here is Will Graves' theory of what might have happened in this case: Thomas Triplett, Sr. was old and senile in 1830 when his son, Thomas Triplett, Jr., decided to commit a fraud on the US by getting his father to sign the documents above basing the claim on the services of another Thomas Triplett who was the real Captain in the Virginia service, the Thomas Triplett listed in Heitman.]

⁴ I found several reference to P. S. Loughborough as the first United States Post Office inspector, or postal inspector.

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Addendum to Thomas Triplett S46571

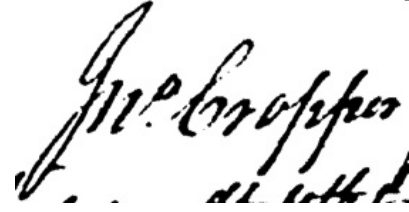
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 21 April 2022.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Triplett, Thos.]

I do hereby certify that I formerly knew Captain Thomas Triplett and Captain Thomas Ray [VAS3188], that they belonged to the sixteenth Virginia regiment of Continental troops at the time of the revolutionary war. It was in the year 1778 I believe that I was acquainted with those gentlemen, that they were then Captains in the said sixteenth regiment, and the regiment was at that time commanded by Colo. William Grayson [BLWt1366-500]

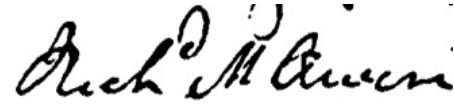
Richmond Virginia
4th November 1814

Jno. Cropper [John Cropper W3781] formerly
Lieut. Col. comm'dt 11th Virg's Regimt.



I do hereby Certify that I knew Richard Hayse [Richard Hayes VAS1448] as a Captain in the Virginia Line in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain. I know he was in service some time in the year seventeen hundred and seventy Eight and Continued three years in the ninth Virginia Regiment and Continental Establishment. Given under my hand this 1 day of March 1815

Rich'd M Owen Soldier
& Lieutenant in the 2nd 6th & 9th R Reg



I do hereby Certify that I knew Thomas Triplet as a Captain in the Virginia Line in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain. I know he was in service in the year seventeen hundred and seventy Eight and Continued three years in the Sixteenth Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment. Given Under my hand this 14th of March 1815

Rich'd M Owen Soldier [Richard M. Owen VAS1603]
Lieutenant in the 2nd 6th 9th V Reg

[Laurens District SC]



[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).]

The petition of Thomas Triplett to the governor & Counsel of Virginia respectfully represents that his farther he has been informed & believes entered the service of the army of the revolution in the County of Culpeper in the State of Virginia as early as 1775. that he was afterwards promoted to the rank of a Captain, in the Continental Army of Virginia. that he continued in service until the end & close of the war and emigrated to Kentucky. And there resided ever since. And departed this life on 28th Feb'y 1833. that said Thomas Triplett received commutation by Special act of Congress last year, but has never received his bounty land from Virginia, altho he has from the United States, that the evidence was filed with John [undeciphered] to procure the land, then a petition with copy recently with a friend the former omitted to attend to attend, the latter did as he verily believes – but they are misplaced [part missing at bottom of page]

1834 July 25 Rejected