

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Lewis¹ W10263 Sarah Ann Stewart² f64VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/2/13

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

At a Court held for Accomack County, on the 29th day of August 1832

Thomas Lewis of the County of Accomack this day personally appeared in Court and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 viz. "Declaration" of Thomas Lewis, In order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, State of Virginia and County of Accomack on this the ___ day of August personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Accomack County now sitting Thomas Lewis a resident in the County of Accomack & State of Virginia aged seventy-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 7th 1832 that I entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. I was enrolled in a Company commanded by Thomas Bayly [Thomas Bailey] first, and then by William Riley, and last by John Custis, to the end of the war – Attached to the second Regiment Virginia militia, commanded by Colonel Southey Simpson until his death, and then by Colonel George Corbin to the end of the war – I went into service sometime in January 1778 and kept guard both on Sea & Bay in said County at a place called the Block House on Folly Creek and also at Henry's Fort and on Chesanessix Creek and Doc Creek and many alarms & marches at different times up the Bay as far as Hooper's Straits in Boats and at Annapolis in the State of Maryland to subdue the Tories, but they fled after a few fires, and was on Watts & Fox's Island in pursuit of the enemy and on duty in the whole of the war at different times I verily believe upwards of two years, but the precise time I cannot say – I was born in the County of Accomack & State of Virginia 1759 – I have none but from the best information that I can get that is my age. I was living in the County of Accomack and State of Virginia & have lived there ever since & still lives in the same County, I was enrolled in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain Thomas Bayly attached to the second Regiment Virginia Militia commanded by Colonel Southey Simpson until his death, and then by Colonel George Corbin to the end of the war – I am known by John Parkes, Robert Russell, John Custis Senior & William Lee – I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State whatever."

S/ Thomas Lewis, X his mark

[John Parkes Senior and John P Drummond gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

¹ BLWt26625-160-55

² former widow

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I Custis Bull a Revolutionary Soldier and a Pensioner of the United States do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Thomas Lewis. He made his declaration the same year I did in order to obtain a pension. He served in the Company of Captain John Custis attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Southey Simpson and George Corbin. I am satisfied all the militia Companies in the County were own duty during the war more than 2 years. I cannot after this long lapse of time undertake to say accurately how long Mr. Lewis was in service but I believe he served 2 years. I know he was always regarded by others as a Revolutionary Soldier and I never heard anyone say he was not entitled to a pension.

S/ Custis Bull, X his mark

[Attested April 20, 1851 in Accomack County Virginia]

[p 10: On September 26, 1853 in Accomack County Virginia, Sarah Ann Lewis, 33, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Thomas Lewis deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died March 2, 1851; that she married him February 11, 1837. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 13: On April 2, 1855 in Accomack County Virginia, the widow filed for her bounty land entitlement stating that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Ann Hart.]

[p 63: In March 1869 in Accomack County Virginia, the widow, then Mrs. Sarah Ann Stewart, 58, filed for the restoration of her pension benefit saying that she had originally been pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum effective February 3rd, 1853.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service. His former widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing July 27, 1868.]

[Note: the following appears in this file. Since it is not attested, I have not transcribed it but thought it may be of interest to folks descended from this veteran. Take it for what it may be worth.

A Surviving Son of a Revolutionary War Soldier.

JOHN DENNIS LEWIS, born in Accomac County, Virginia, February 18, 1841, now (1918) living in Philadelphia, Pa. He was a son of THOMAS LEWIS (Born 1759, died 1851, Accomac County, Virginia), and Sarah Ann Hart (Born 1817, died 1876, in same County).

Thomas Lewis enlisted from that County in the Continental Army in January 1776; served two years as a Private under Captains Thomas Bailey, William Riley and John Custis, and under Colonels Southey Simpson and George Corbin. He was allowed a pension as a Revolutionary War soldier August 29, 1825. He died March 2, 1851, aged 92. He had married (a second time) on February 11, 1837, one Sarah Ann Hart, daughter of John Hart (also a Revolutionary War soldier and Pensioner) who was in Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. He (John Hart) died at the age of 106. Sarah Ann Hart Lewis subsequently (12/31/58) married James Stewart (another Revolutionary War soldier) as his sixth wife. James Stewart died June 4, 1860, aged 100. She was allowed a Revolutionary War pension as the widow of Thomas Lewis on September 26, 1853, ^{at 33 years of age} whether she forfeited the pension on her marriage with James Stewart, or whether on the death of Stewart she was allowed a pension as his widow, we do not know. She died in 1876, aged ⁵⁶ 59. As first above stated her son, John Denis Lewis, born February 18, 1841, is still living, - one of the last, if not the last, of the real sons of the American Revolution.

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May 28, 1918.



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