

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Caradine W20836                      Elizabeth Caradine                      NC   PA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of South Carolina }  
Pickens District                      } ss.

On this thirty first day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty four, personally appeared before Judge of the Court of Ordinary of the District and State aforesaid, Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine, a resident of the same District and State, aged seventy eight years the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March last, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled “An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:” That she is the widow of Thomas Caradine who was a private and waggon master in the Army of the Revolution – that she has very often heard her husband speak of the service, and frequently with Capt. [William] Bell under whom he first entered the service in Rowan County N.C. – he had however previously went on a visit to his friend to Pennsylvania & times being difficult he was unable to return & there entered Gen’l. [Anthony] Wayne’s army and done she thinks six months service; then returned & shortly entered as above stated, under Capt. Bell, whom she thinks he served under most of the time, that she often heard him speak of being with Col. [Francis] Locke & Gen’l. [Griffith] Rutherford; and marched much through North and South Carolina, afterwards [sic] was under Gen’l. Williamson after the Indians [Andrew Williamson of South Carolina, late 1776]. Thinks he was most of the time a volunteer, tho’ she cannot recollect much of these things, altho’ she has heard him talk much. that he was in the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], and some other, low down in North Carolina, which he called the long swamp [see endnote].

Thinks he entered the service in North Carolina where he then lived in Rowan County as soon as the times became troublesome there, and that he served during the whole war thereafter, but it is impossible for her now to recollect specifically as to what he stated of the length of time he served, or the length and number of each period of his service. has no documentary evidence of his service that she knows of.

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Caradine as she believes from the best evidence she can obtain on the twelfth day of August in the year seventeen hundred and eighty nine, by one ‘Squire Nelson in Greenville District S.C. and that her said husband, the aforesaid Thomas Caradine died on the Eighth day of May one thousand eight hundred & twenty; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety four, viz. at the time above stated.                      Elizabeth herXmark Caradine

South Carolina }  
Pickens District }

Before me personally appeared Rev’d Joseph Grisham, a highly respectable citizen of the District and State aforesaid, and made oath that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine of this District, widow of Thomas Caradine dec’d – that he became acquainted with the said Thomas Caradine in the year 1813 and knew him from that time until his death which was some years ago; that he was always said to have been a Soldier in the War of the Revolution; and this deponent well recollect to have been assisting John Winn in an application for a Pension [S39127] about the year 1818 or 1819, and that the said Thomas Caradine was the principal witness for him; that the said Winn told this deponent that Caradine was (what they called) a Waggon master in the war, and told what service they done together; and he found on taking the testimony of Caradine, that it corresponded with what Winn had told him – he qualified him to it & forwarded it with the application of the said Winn for a Pension, which was obtained. [See endnote.] This Deponent further states that the said Elizabeth Caradine is yet living in this District, and is yet a widow, never having married since the death of the said Thomas Caradine, and that they were always since his knowledge of them, considered Husband & Wife, and he never heard it

doubted but that they were legally married, but believes it to be so; The said Elizabeth Caradine has as this deponent believes, always borne the character of a truthful woman & he would have no reason to doubt, but every reason to believe any statement made by her.

Sworn to 2<sup>d</sup> January 1845.

[signed] Joseph Grisham

State of South Carolina }  
Pickens District } Before me personally appeared Mrs. Nancy Nevill (the Wife of Alexander Nevill the son of Jesse Nevill [S21899] late of Pickens District who was a Revolutionary Soldier, who made Oath, That several years ago she was at Meeting where she got acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine (the widow of Thomas Caradine) who on hearing her called Nevill enquired what connexion she was with Jesse Nevill said he was an old acquaintance and friend of her Husband That they Neville & Thos Caradine were in the Revolutionary Army together. On this Deponent returning home told her Father in law Jesse Nevill the substance of the conversation, when he Jesse Neville said he was well acquainted with the said Thomas Caradine who was a good soldier in the Revolutionary War and that they had been in the service together and that since the said Jesse Nevill has died.

Sworn to 10<sup>th</sup> January 1845

[signed] Nancy Nevill

The State of South Carolina }  
Anderson District }

Personally appeared Col. Joseph Taylor of the said District before me the Subscribing Magistrate and made Oath in due form of law, and on Oath, Saith that he became acquainted with Mr. Thomas Caradine formerly of Pendleton District, now of Pickens District in the State of South Carolina about the year seventeen hundred and ninety six, and from his first acquaintance with him that he was always regarded and treated & respected by other Revolutionary Soldiers, as having been a Revolutionary Soldier himself. I have frequently heard Col. Elias Alexander (who was regarded as a Revolutionary Soldier) of North Carolina stating that Mr. Thomas Caradine was in the Service with him, to the best of his recollection. I understood from Col. Alexander that the services rendered by Mr. Caradine was in the State of North Carolina, that the said Thomas Caradine died in Pickens District in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty – that he was acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine, the wife of the said Thomas Caradine, about forty eight years ago, and she has always been regarded as the wife of the said Thomas Caradine. that she is the same person as now applying for a pension, the said Thomas & Elizabeth were married when he first knew them. that the said Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine now resides in Pickens District S.C. – that the said Thomas & Elizabeth Caradine were always each of them regarded as strictly honest & respectable in every point of view, & Mrs. Caradine who is still living retains an unblemished character. Sworn and Subscribed to this 17<sup>th</sup> day of Jan'y. 1845. [signed] Joseph Taylor Sen'r

Raleigh N.C./ Compt Office

I William F Collins Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the name of Thomas Caradine appears of record in this office as having had the following specie Certificates issued in his favor for Military Service (Viz) one for Forty five Pounds Two Shillings (£45.2) See Book No 27 page 5 Also one other for Nine Pounds Two Shillings as will appear in Book L No 2 page 10 Given under my hand and seal this 25 day July 1845 Wm. F. Collins Compt

South Carolina }  
Pickens District }

Before me personally appeared Mr William Grant [W1757], who is an old and highly respectable citizen of the neighborhood, and reputed to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War, a man of extraordinary mind and memory for his age, and also a man of intelligence and made oath in due form of law, that he has known Mrs. Elizabeth Caradine from a Child, that he also knew her late Husband Thomas Caradine previous to their marriage, that he did not see them married, but was at their House a short time after their marriage took place which he was informed was in the month of

August, either 1788 or 1789, according to the best calculation he can now make. That this deponent lived at that time in Pendleton District, and the said Caradine was married in Greenville some 30 miles from him; that he knew them afterward until Caradine's death, which took place twenty five years ago last May, and that they lived together until that time as husband & wife, and he never heard it doubted but that they were legally married, and has every reason to believe that they were lawfully married at the time above stated.

This deponent further states that he has frequently conversed with the said Thomas Caradine during his life time about the Revolutionary War, and always understood from him that he served in it on the Whig side, and has heard him relate circumstances which took place during the War, which fully satisfied this deponent that he has served in the said War: He amongst other things stated to him that he served in Pennsylvania and was at Waynes defeat [skirmish at Paoli PA, 21 Sep 1777] in company with his brother John [John Caradine] from whom in the confusion at night he got lost & they did not get together all morning, each fearing the other was killed; that he again entered the service in North Carolina and was at the Battle of Guilford under Capt. Armong [see endnote], that he was not in the Battle, but a Trooper & in sight, tho' not called into action, that the sight of such a Battle was a great curiosity to him; that he was present at or about the time of the army crossing the Yadkin River, and seen Col. [James] Brandon kill a British Dragoon with his sword. From the facts stated to him by Caradine, and his confidence in his veracity, his having resided in North Carolina & he has no doubt but he is the same alluded to in the certificate of the Comptroller of N.C. as having served in the Revolutionary War. The said widow Elizabeth Caradine now resides in his neighborhood and is yet a widow, never having married since the death of the said Thos. Caradine.

Sworn to before me this Twenty Second  
August Eighteen Hundred and Forty Five

William hisGmark Grant

#### NOTES:

I could not identify a Long Swamp in North Carolina. There is a Long Swamp in Georgia, site of a treaty with the Cherokee Indians on 22 Oct 1782.

No supporting testimony by Thomas Caradine was found in the file of John Winn. Winn did state the following: "This deponent saith that he left the service by being taken sick and put into the Hospital at Cheraw Hills in this State [SC]. This deponent saith that he continued in the Hospital sick until after peace was made. That he was discharged by the keeper of the Hospital and sent home, he was not able to travel when he was discharged he got into Thomas Caradine's wagon who carried him near his Father's."

"Armong" is a frequent misspelling of Armand, referring to Col. Charles Armand, who commanded a legion. Armand was not at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, however.

On 28 Nov 1845 Mrs. Fanny Knox stated that Thomas and Elizabeth Caradine with two children, William and Bird, moved near to her father on Martin Creek in Pendleton District (now Greenville County) several years previous to her own marriage, which was on 19 Feb 1795, and that they had another child, Hiram, by the time of her marriage.

On 18 April 1845 Catharine Tankersley certified that she had been present at the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth Caradine in Greenville District on 15 Aug 1789.

A document signed on 13 Sep 1848 by Elizabeth Caradine by her mark was witnessed by K. E. Caradine.