

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Thomas Bailey W2991

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Hardin County Sct

On this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June one thousand eight hundred and forty eight personally appeared before the undersigned, Police Judge of Elizabethtown in the County and state aforesaid, Nancy Bailey, a resident of Hardin County Kentucky, aged eighty six years, past 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1838. That she is the widow of Thomas Bailey who was a Revolutionary soldier. That her maiden name was Nancy Gentry, and she was married to the said Thomas Bailey in the month of May 1780. That she was married by license, by Parson Douglass [sic: William Douglas; see endnote] in Louisa County Virginia, at the house of the said Douglass. That these facts were impressed upon her mind by the following circumstances. That her father Nicholas Gentry got the licenses & gave them to the said Thomas Bailey, & when Parson Douglass called upon him for them, he said he had lost them; & the fact was proven by those who were present, that he had obtained license, & on that proof they were married as aforesaid. That they lived in the said county of Louisa & state of Va. about 2 years; they then removed to the County of Albemarle where they remained until they left for the state of Kentucky. That they removed to Hardin County Kentucky about the year 1810. That she remembers distinctly that they arrived at Mill Creek in the said county of Hardin, on Christmas day. That she had by the said Bailey eleven children whose names are as follows: John Hubbard, Charles Carter, Betsey, Joseph, Marina, Lewis, Willis, Edna, Waller, Nancy and Katy. That three of her said children are now living in said county of Hardin towit: John H. Bailey aged about sixty five, Charles Carter Bailey, about sixty one, & Lewis Bailey about forty six. That she can not remember distinctly the ages of her children; That she once had a family record, but it has long since been lost or destroyed. That John Bailey, the father of the said Thomas; and Nicholas Gentry, her father, lived close neighbors, in the said County of Louisa, & state of Virginia. That her, and the said Thomas Bailey, when they were children went to school together in the said county of Louisa. That the said Thomas Bailey enlisted in the said County of Louisa, she thinks in the Spring of 1778 for twelve or eighteen months. The Company and Regiment she can not say. For it has been a long time since & she can not now remember. That her brother John Gentry was drafted (at the same time the said Bailey enlisted;) for the term of twelve months. That the said Thomas Bailey served out his term of twelve or eighteen months, and her brother John Gentry served out his term of twelve months. That she remembers that after her brother John Gentry and Warren Cash [pension application S10431] had returned from the War, that she met the said Cash at the house of Edmund Stringer who was her Uncle; and the said Warren Cash took hold of her hand and said "look at John Gentry's thumb," meaning that her thumb, & that of her brother, were very much alike. That the said Warren Cash & her brother John had served together in the War, and belonged to the same company & Regiment. That the said Warren Cash now lives in this the said County or Hardin, & she understands draws a Pension of eighty dollars. That the said Cash & her husband were on terms of intimacy for many years in said County of Hardin & State aforesaid. That the said Cash was a Baptist preacher. That she does not now know any person living by whom she can prove the Revolutionary services of her husband; that nearly all the old Revolutionary soldiers she ever knew are dead. She thinks the said Warren Cash must have heard her husband Thomas Bailey speak of his revolutionary services, as they were on good terms. But she does not know that they served together. That she has often heard her brother John & her husband talk of the events of the Revolution. She remembers of hearing her brother John say that in a certain battle (which she can not now remember [either Brandywine on 11 Sep 1777 or Monmouth on 28 Jun 1778, according to Cash's pension

application]) one of his officers was shot down by his side. That she has often heard her husband say that he was some distance off at the time of the engagement, when said officer was shot down, but belonged to another division of the army which was not in the said battle. That he the said Bailey was nearly starved for water and left the ranks to go after some water, and met one of his officers who drove him back, saying, the british would catch him if he went to the water; That her husband said he belonged to the Infantry at the time refered to. That although she can not give with much certainty the time of the service, of her husband, yet she remembers distinctly that it was during the year of the great eclipse of the sun when stars were seen, for some time, during the day [probably 24 Jun 1778]. That she remembers that it produced universal alarm. That at the time she was at her aunts ten miles from home, and she remembers that when she saw the eclipse she thought she never would see her brother John Gentry, again, who was then in the army as aforesaid. That she was not married to the said Bailey until after he returned from the war. That she remembers that John Gentry made a crop after his return from the War, before he married, and she and the said Thomas Bailey were married about five weeks after the marriage of the said John Gentry. That her said husband never applied for a Pension during his life time, though he was often solicited to do so. She remembers that one Charles Melton, who was a Pensioner of the Revolution [S36123] & lived in this, Hardin County, often urged the said Thomas Bailey to apply for a pension, but he would not, saying he could live without it. That her husband died in the said County of Hardin in the month of June 1825 [see endnote]. That she thinks she can prove his death by Washington Smith Hannah Smith & Lewis Bailey. That she does not remember or know of any person by whom she can prove her marriage previous to 1794, except John Bailey. That she has never intermarried since the death of her said husband, but remains a widow. That from extreme old age & great bodily infirmity, she is unable to attend Court. She further states that she has often heard her husband say that he was a member of Gen'l. Washingtons Life Guard. That she has heard him tell how Washington would make him & the other members of his Life Guard powder their heads, when they had not been combed for weeks.

Nancy herXmark Bailey

[On 24 May 1848 Warren Cash, 88, deposed that Thomas Bailey had entered service at the same time that he did but not in the same company, and that "if he was enlisted, he must have belonged to the Virginia troops, which was distinct from the continental line." In his pension application, Cash stated that he first enlisted in Aug 1776 in the company of Matt Jouett in the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, then reenlisted in the same company for three years on 27 Mar 1777 in Philadelphia.]

State of Kentucky

Hardin County Sct

Be it remembered that on this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, one thousand eight hundred and forty eight, personally appeared before the undersigned, Police Judge of Elizabethtown, in the County and State aforesaid, Lewis Bailey, who being first duly sworn according law deposeth and saith:

That he is forty seven years of age past, and is the son of Thomas and Nancy Bailey. That he was born either in Louisa or Albemarle County Virginia. That the first of his recollection is, that his father lived in Albemarle, about six miles from Charlottesville. That he continued to reside in said County until the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1810, when he started to the state of Kentucky. That he remembers they landed on the waters of Mill Creek in Hardin County Kentucky on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December 1810. That his father the said Thomas Bailey was reputed to be a soldier of the Revolution, and he never heard the fact doubted. That he has often heard his father speak of his services in the Revolution, and the events connected therewith. That he has often heard him say that he enlisted in the County of Louisa and State of Virginia, before he was married (the year he can not say) and that he served twelve months in the Virginia troops. That he heard his father say that he used to shave the commander of his regiment, whose name he thinks was Col. Johnson. That he used to tell his children about the privations which he underwent whilst in the

service: that him and the soldiers of his company, blistered their feet on their marches, until their march might be traced by the blood which was left in their tracks; and that often they were nearly starved for water, and were compelled to drink out of muddy holes. That his mothers maiden name was Nancy Gentry, and was the daughter of Nicholas Gentry. That she is now living in the said County of Hardin & State of Ky, about seven miles from Elizabethtown. That his father was about sixty six years of age when he died. That he the said Lewis Bailey was present when his father died, and was present at his burial. That he died in said County of Hardin & state of Ky, about one mile & a half from the waters of Mill Creek on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1825. That the date has been impressed upon his mind by the birth of his daughter Margaret Jane, who was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D. 1824, and his father died on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June following. That his father the said Thomas Bailey dec'd. was a man of ordinary size [see endnote], weighed about 150 pounds, was neither slender nor bulky, but a man of usual form. That when his father died, he was somewhat grey, but he remembers when he was not grey, and his hair was dark, & he had blue eyes.

and further he saith not.

[signed] Lewis Bailey

State of Kentucky

Hardin County Sct:

Be it remembered that on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. one thousand eight hundred and forty eight, personally appeared before the undersigned Police Judge of Elizabethtown in the County and State aforesaid John H. Bailey who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is sixty five years of age past. That he is the son of Thomas Bailey deceased, and his mothers maiden name was Nancy Gentry. That his mother Nancy Gentry now resides in the said County of Hardin & state aforesaid about seven miles north of Elizabethtown. That his father the said Thomas Bailey was reputed to be a soldier of the Revolution, and he never heard the fact doubted. That he has often heard his father speak of his services and of the events of the Revolution. That he has heard his father say that he enlisted in the Virginia troops in the County of Louisa for twelve months. That awhile before the expiration of his enlistment his officers proposed to give him a furlough of three months, if he would after the expiration of his furlough, re-enlist during the war. But that he refused the furlough and served out his term of twelve months and then quit the service. That his father has told him that he served under General Washington, but he does not remember distinctly the names of any other officers. That he heard his father relate the following circumstance as happening whilst he was in the service. That the soldiers had delivered to them sour bread, which was so sour, that they made complaint to General Washington. That he, Washington, examined the bread and eat some of it, and remarked to the soldiers, that it was true, that it was bad, but yet it could be eat. That his grand father's name was John Bailey, and he remembers when he lived in Albemarle County Va. That he remembers as far back as 1790, or 1791. That his father the said Thomas Bailey deceased, then lived about two miles from his grand fathers, the said John Bailey. That he remembers that he commenced ploughing for his father, the said Thomas Bailey when in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of his age. That his grand fathers name on his mothers side was Nicholas Gentry. That he remembers well as far back as 1791, that his father the said Thomas Baily dec'd., and his mother, the said Nancy Bailey, were living together as man and wife. That they continued to live together as aforesaid up to the time of his fathers death. That he was in the state of Virginia at the time his father died, and received a letter from his brother Carter stating the fact. That this was in the year 1825, and he thinks some time in the summer. That his mother the said Nancy Bailey now lives in this, the said County of Hardin is about eighty six or eighty seven years of age, and is now applying for a Pension for the services of her husband the said Thomas Bailey dec'd. That his father was a man of ordinary size thin visage; before he became gray, his hair was dark; and black beard. That his father when he died was about sixty five or sixty six years of age. That his mother the said Nancy Bailey has never intermarried, but remains the widow of the said Thomas Bailey dec'd. And further he saith not.

[signed] John H Bailey

[On 19 June 1848 William Smith, 45, deposed as follows: "That he had heard the said Thomas Bailey & his father (that is to say, James Smith the father of the said William) talk about the events of the Revolution, and what occurred during their services. That he remembers well of hearing the said Thos. Bailey speak of relieving the sentry or guard at night." William Smith stated that his mother was the sister of Nancy Bailey.]

NOTES:

Washington's general order dated 11 Mar 1776 requested that each colonel nominate soldiers to serve as his Life Guards, specifying that they be between 5' 8" and 5' 10" tall. This was 1 to 3 inches above average for Revolutionary soldiers.

Thomas Bailey may not have been eligible for a pension under the laws in place at the time of his death, which covered only impoverished Continental soldiers.

On 10 Oct 1848 Nancy Bailey made a revised application adding that her brother, John Gentry, belonged to "Captain Jewitts company 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Continental line."

The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 6 May 1780 by Thomas Bailey and Nicholas Gentry for the marriage of Bailey to Nancy Gentry. According to *The Douglas Register: Being a Detailed Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths. . .as Kept by the Rev. William Douglas, from 1750 to 1797*, Tho. Bailey and Nancy Gentry, both of Louisa County, were married on 7 May 1780.

Washington Smith, 61, son of James Smith, deposed on 26 June 1848 that it was his impression that Thomas and Nancy Bailey's child named Katy died very young.