

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Valentine Thomas Dalton W3610 Caty Shaw VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Feb 2015.

[The following letter from James E. Heath, Auditor of Virginia, is in the pension application of John Crittenden (R13465). It suggests that an application for a pension had been made before 1833, but no such application was found. The first two and last two paragraphs of the letter are omitted as not pertaining to Dalton.]

Rec'd 18 Feb 1833. Auditors office of Virginia
Sir [Hon. Louis McLane, Sec. of War],

In reference to the claim of Thos. Val. Dalton a Lieutenant in Captain George's company of artillery in the Illinois Department I lately sent you the copy of a paper signed by Thomas Merewether Commissioner of war, stating that Dalton had been superseded or cashiered being reported in Muster Roll as having deserted to the enemy. I have further investigated this claim and beg leave to communicate the result. You will receive herewith a copy of the Muster Roll of Capt'n. George's company found among the Illinois papers, which I presume is the same referred to by Mr. Merewether. This Roll states the supposed desertion to the enemy as having occurred on the 4th of August 1782. I also send you a copy of an endorsement upon a paper found in the same volume with the Muster Roll, which paper purports to be a list of the officers in the Illinois Department retained in service in Sept. 1782; – the endorsement is signed by George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark] in his own hand writing and states as you will perceive by the certificate also transmitted that Dalton actually received his depreciation in July 1784. Commissioner Merewether having discovered in August following that he was not entitled to the benefit of depreciation in consequence of desertion. Reasoning from the ordinary motives of human conduct, I must confess that it appears strange that an officer who had served for several years in a Department of the army exposed to peculiar hardships, should when the war was about to terminate, have committed so infamous an act as desertion was an idle camp rumour, and that General Clarke in speaking of the capture of Dalton, possessed better means of accurate information. This is of course argument and inference on my part upon the facts as stated you will form your own conclusion.

With great respect,/ Your obd't. serv't./ Jas E. Heath aud'r of Va.

On reflection I will remark that the fact of Dalton's name being found on the Depreciation Books, proves that he must have been in the regular and not the militia service JEH

State of Louisiana
City of New Orleans.

On this 30th day of May 1845 personally appeared before E. Monheguk[?] the Mayor of the City aforesaid in open Court Catharine Shaw, who on her Solem Oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benifits of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 7th of July 1838.

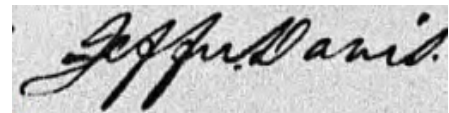
Deponent states that she is informed & verily believes that Valentine Thomas Dalton was a Lieutenant of the Illinois Regt of the Virginia State line and attached to the company of artillery of Capt Robt George [Robert George] Stationed at the falls of Ohio [now Louisville KY] in the year 1780 81 & 82 that he continued to serve as such for some 3 years or more and was in service at or near to the close of the war of the Revolution for which Services she is informed that he is credited on the books at Richmond Va & at Washington City & for which land & half pay have been allowed by the United States under the act of the 5th of July 1832, to all of which she most respectfully refers, that in the month of [blank] seventeen hundred and ninety two three this deponent was living in the city of New Orleans whose maiden name was Caty Yarrow that she then was married to Capt Valentine Thomas Dalton under the Spanish Government by a catholick clergyman by the name of Welsh a bishop, that she has made search of the records of the church to establish her marriage with said Dalton but owing to the change of Government or from causes to deponent unknown she cannot find the record, that she moved to Batton

Rouge shortly after her marriage with Capt Dalton & by whom she had a son Valentine Thos & a daughter Juliana that she first moved to Natchez & then to Batton Rouge The said son now lives in Texas, and the said Juliana a widow McGill now living with deponent in Layfayett adjoining Norleans that said Valentine Thomas Dalton deponents husband departed this life about the year 1807 at Batton Rouge, leaving this deponent his widow that shortly after the death of her first husband she again intemarried with Andrew Shaw at Batton Rouge that said Shaw lived with her for about one year & left her and the Par[ish?] & that she has not heard of him for upwards of thirty years, only that she had once heard of his death shortly after his departure from Batton Rouge Parish, that she continued to live in Batton Rouge untill about the year 1830 when she came to New Orleans to live & in that city this of Lafayett she continued to live untill the present time, that she is now the widow of Andrew Shaw but is the Identical person who was the widow of Capt Valentine T Dalton and who died in the Parish of Baton Rouge & made his will in 1807 She therefore states that she verry poor & has been forced to move & has lost all her family records that she now claims the benefits of the provisions of the act of congress of the 7th July 1838 & that of the 23 of August 1842 & such others as have passed on the 17th of March 1843 and of the 17th June 1845 and of the subsequent resolutions &c that she is now in the 70th year of her age and continues the widow of said Shaw, that her marriage with Capt Valentine T Dalton did not take place untill after he left the service, but prior to the 1st day of January 1794 Sworn to and subscribed this day & date above. deponent would further state that from reflection she has found a record of the age of her eldest son & the residue of her family which bible she herewith in the prence of the judge she asks him to tear from the book where it was made at the time. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesad
[signed] Caty Shaw

House of Reps./ Jan'y. 20 1846

Sir [James L. Edwards] Mr Tod has shown us the deposition of Col P. B. Harrison C. Miller and J. Eiler. Both of us are well acquainted with Col Harrison and our Mr Davis [Jefferson Davis, future President of the Confederate states of America] is acquainted with all these gentlemen. We also know Van Hoesen the justice of the Peace. From our general acquaintance, we entertain no doubt of the genuineness of all of the signatures. There are no other persons of that name so far as we know in that part of the State. They are all highly respectable men & we would emphatically say this. There is not a more honorable & punctiliously truthful mand in any country that Col P. B. Harrison – we would rely implicitly upon any statement made by him & we know that you may do the same With respect

[signed] J. Thompson Jeffer. Davis



The State of Mississippi } SS.

Adams County } [24 Sep 1845]

The Deposition of Philip B Harrison residing in Jefferson County in the state of Mississippi taken before me J. A. VanHaner[?] a Justice of the Peace in and for said Adams County

The said Harrison having been first duely Sworn the truth and the whole truth to depose upon his oath testifies as follows – Said Harrison the Deponent says he is the son of Richard Harrison [pension application R14762] late an officer Capt. Lieutenant in the Illinois Regiment in the war of the Revolution. He says he was born in the now county of Adams State of Mississippi in the year 1785. in the years 1794 & 5 he went to school to Valentine Thomas Dalton in the Town of Natchez now in the State of Mississippi. At that time said Dalton had a wife with whom he lived as man and wife and were so Recognised by Society. Said Dalton then had two children that Deponent remembers Hugh and Valentine Dalton. They were very small boys at that time. He does not know whether they were the children of Mrs Dalton or not. Witness became acquainted with said Dalton and wife in the early part of 1794 how long they had been married before that time he does not know. They were esteemed as among

the most respectable people in society at that time

Witness knows nothing of said Daltons services in the Illinois Regiment but knows that the Father of him Witness and said Dalton were in the habit of meeting together to take their social glass and talk over the wars of the revolution, and their services together, but in what particular Campaigns witness does not recollect

Some time afterwards said Dalton removed from Natchez to some point below on the river below Natchez He has heard that they went to Baton Rouge and from thence to Neworleans but he has no personal knowledge of it having seen none of the family since they left Natchez except perhaps Hugh his son and further this deponent saith not

P. B. Harrison

The deposition of Elizabeth Norton of the City of Lafayette, Parish of Jefferson and State of Louisiana, taken on this Eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty five, at her domicil, deponent, being now in the fifty sixth year of her age, deposes and saith that she is the daughter of Captain Valentine Thomas Dalton by a previous marriage of Captain Dalton: that all she knows in relation to Caty Shaw's marriage with her father is that in the Autumn of Eighteen hundred and one (1801) she landed at Natchez, Miss'i, and there found her father Captain Valentine Thomas Dalton, (whom she supposed was massacred by the Indians long before, he having been in captivity by the Savages for many years previous, or at the close of the war of the Revolution) then living with Caty Shaw as his wife in said last mentioned place: that said Captain Dalton knew her this deponent as his child then and ever after until his death: that at the time this deponent reached Natchez in the Autumn of 1801 the said Captain Dalton was living with Caty Shaw as his wife and had a child by her named Valentine Thomas aged about ten years: that, that child is the same Valentine Thomas Dalton who lives in Texas, at this time: that deponent's father the said captain Valentine Thomas Dalton had another child by Caty Shaw named Juliana: that said Juliana is now upwards of fifty years of age: that Juliana's brother Valentine Thomas Dalton who lives in Texas is about two years older than she: that Captain Valentine Thomas Dalton removed from Natchez to Baton Rouge, Louis'a. and lived there until 1806 when he died: that your deponent also removed to Baton Rouge and lived there at the time of her father's death: that the said Caty Shaw married Andrew Shaw in 1808 and lived with him for a year or so, when he left the Parish of Baton Rouge and has not been heard of since the year 1809 or 10 neither has he ever returned to his said wife Caty: that said Caty lived at Baton Rouge until about the year 1832 when she came to Lafayette to live: that she now lives there and her daughter Juliana lives with her: that deponent knows her to be identically the same person who was said to be first the wife and then the widow of the said Captain Dalton who died in Baton Rouge in 1806: deponent knows that she the said Caty married Shaw and that Shaw left her and went away and has not been heard of for 35 years by his widow or any one else: that this deponent married Harvey Norton in the year 1811 and with him removed to New Orleans about the year 1815 and she and her husband have lived in Neworleans and Lafayette ever since: that the said Caty Shaw and her daughter Juliana have both lived in Lafayette since the year 1832 and that they are both still living: that the said Caty shaw was said to be the wife of Captain Dalton prior to 1794 as V. T Dalton of Texas is now over fifty-four years of age: that said V. T. Dalton of Texas was a Soldier in Gen'l. Jackson's army at the City of New orleans in 1815 and was married in 1816: that he was on the muster roll some years before the battle of New orleans and lived at Baton Rouge before the war, as did this deponent and that she was always acquainted with him from 1801 to this time Signed and sworn to before me 18th Oct. 1845

[signed] Elizabeth Norton

[The following are among the [Revolutionary bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia:](#)]

[1834] The petition of the Representatives of Thomas Valentine Dalton respectfully represents to the Governor and Council that the said Dalton was a Lieutenant in the Illinois Regiment commanded by Col. George Rodgers Clarke, and served in it until it was disbanded in 1781 when the officers became supernumerary, as appears by the documents filed herewith, and the settlement of the accounts of the officers of that Regiment. Most of the officers of the Regiment have received the bounty land and are

considered to have served to the end of the War both by the Executive who granted the Land bounty and the Courts who have decided that they were entitled to half pay for life. They are also included in the bill which passed last session of Congress providing for the half pay of the Virginia State line & navy.

They pray that the quantity allowed officers of his grade may now be given to them.

Wm. Lambert for the heirs of T. V. Dalton

[The soldier referred to above appears to have been confused with a Thomas Valentine Dalton (VAS615) who served in the Virginia Navy.]

NOTES:

On 28 May 1845 Elias Russ, 56, of Baton Rouge, stated that he “went to School to said Dalton, that said Dalton came to this Parish some years prior to 1804 and was then the husband of Cata Dalton this deponents Cozzen.... that Juliana Dalton intermarried with John McGill of this Parish & said McGill parted with Juliana his wife many years ago & died in 1844.... That when Capt Val T. Dalton came to this parish he had two other children... towit Margaret the wife of Mr Harvey Norton of New orleans, the other [blank] the wife of [blank] Nathan said to be a broker of Neworleans” On 25 Sep 1845 Jacob Eiler, 58, also stated that he “went to school to Thomas Dalton,” and Christopher Miller, 75, stated that Valentine Thomas Dalton had been a teacher.

On 1 April 1848 Caty Shaw was said to be about 73, and on an application for bounty land dated 4 March 1856 she was said to be 78.

On 5 March 1864 John Cragg wrote to President Abraham Lincoln on behalf of Caty Shaw, whose pension, like all other federal pensions in the Confederacy, had been suspended during the Civil War. On 11 Oct 1865 Caty Shaw, 88, appeared in court to apply for the restoration of her pension, stating that during the Civil War she had subsisted by “the benevolence of her neighbours, and part of the time got rations from the Government.” On 15 March 1866 she applied again, giving her age as over 90, and stating that until it was suspended she had applied the pension money “to the support of myself, and an afflicted invalid daughter, who was perfectly helpless” and who had since died. A letter dated July 15th by A. H. Nelson and addressed “Dear Father” includes the following: “The enclosed paper is in the case of a good old Methodist sister a pensioner of the war of 1812 [sic], her husband having been a soldier in that struggle. During “our late unpleasantness” some officious friend of hers sent on her name to be enrolled on the pension list of the Confederate Government (here a loud and prolonged laugh will be in place) and after the close of the struggle her name was found thereon and for that reason stricken from the rolls at least she is so informed. Her affidavit enclosed is a full denial of all the facts alleged and I write in her behalf to request that you will take the paper to Morse[?] and as speedily as possible get the matter set right. She has drawn no pension since last September. As you see by the affidavit she is nearly one hundred years old. I have in company with some others held a prayer meeting at her house and am confident that she has been wronged in this matter.” The affidavit referred to is dated 13 July 1871 and gives her age as about 94 and her address as 318 Annunciation St. near Felicity Road in New Orleans. It states that she “never applied to the so-called Confederate Government for a pension in lieu of that received from the United States Government.... that she always expressed herself content to wait & abide her time, feeling satisfied that it would all come right in the end, and the Federal authority reestablished.”

A letter from Galveston TX dated 12 June 1872 states that Caty Shaw had died and that the heirs wished to know if any pension was still due.

The family record is transcribed as follows:

Valentine Thomas Dalton was married to Leviny Dalley the 28th day of April 1816

Valentine Thomas Dalton Jun Was married to Drucillar Edwards at Mt. Vernon Ala on the 31st Dec 1840

Sealy WaDele was mrrred to Mr hurd [hurt?] December 11th 1838

[Other side]

Valentine Thomas Dalton Senr was borned on the 15th day of March 1793 in the City of New Orleans State of Louisiana

My Son.

John Dalton was born on the 28th day of May 1817 at East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana

Juliana Dalton was born on the 25th December 1818 at East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana

Valentine Thomas Dalton Junr was born on the 24th day of October 1820 at East Baton Rouge State of Louisiana.

Oscar H. Dalton was born on the 26th day of February 1824 in the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana.

Juliann Dalton was born on the 22 day of May 1795 in Natches Mississippi

jane C Yarrow was born on the 17th day of November 1776 Pensacola

Hero Dalton was born of 2 day of October 1836 in Baton Rouge La