

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Cunningham W4166 Phebe Cunningham VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Mar 2015.

[The following documents down to the bottom of p 5 are from [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia](#).]

To the Honbl. the Speaker and the Members of the House of Delegates of Virginia

Your Memorialist begs leave to represent that in the year 1777 or the year thereafter your Memorialist was one of a Company of Spies or Rangers under the Command of Captain James Booth and stationed at Coons Fort on the waters of the West Fork of the Monongahelia [sic: Monongahela] River. that your Memorialist served Ninety One Days in the capacity of a Spie or Ranger and obtained a Certificate of such service from his Captain the said James Booth and some time thereafter [see endnote] whilst your Memorialist was residing upon Bingamon a water of the West fork of Monongahelia His House was burned down by the Indians his Four Children murdered & his wife taken a prisoner and all his property taken by the Savages or destroyed amongst which your Memorialist believes was the certificate for his services as a Spy or Ranger. Your Memorialist, labouring under the distress produced by the remembrance of his murdered children and the other losses he had sustained forgot to have his certificate renewed if the same was practicable and engaging deeply in the struggles which his country was engaged in as well for Independance as for protection against the incursion of the Savages and being blest with Youth and Health abandoned all attempts to recover from the goverment his claims But now your Memorialist labouring under the infirmities of old age and not possessing affluence he is induced to apply to your Body, not for Charity for he can still can labour, but to obtain the bare reward which the Government had engaged and was liable to pay to him for his services. Your Memorialist believed that the pay of a Ranger at the time of his service was Five Shillings of this he may however be mistaken and with reference submits the whole subject to your Honb'le. body

Yr. Petitioner will ever pray

Thomas Cunningham

Harrison county Sct. The above named Thomas Cunningham came before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said county and made Oath that the above memorial is true to the best of his knowledge & belief. Given under my hand this 15 day of November 1817 Peter Lynch JP
[Written on the petition in different handwriting] Dec'r. 2^d 1817 ref'd. to Claims.
Reasonable Dec'r. 11th
Reported Dec'r 12th
Bill drawn Dec'r 15

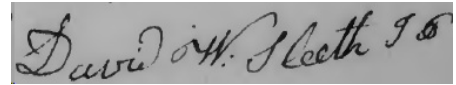
This will certify that Thos Cunningham served Ninty one days as a spy under Capt. James Booth in the yeare of our lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy six or thereabout on the waters of the west fork of Monongahelia James current & Margret current
this day personally came before me the subscriber one of the Commonwelths Justices of the peace for harris [sic] County and made oath that the above statement is just and true to the best of his knowledge} from under my hand this 12 october 1818 Peter Johnston JP

Lewis County November 9th 1818

This day came Thos Cunningham personally before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for side County and made Oath that he had served Ninety one days as a Ranger or spye under Captain James Booth on the waters of the west fork of Monnongohelia river in the year of 1776 or thereabout and obtained a surtificate for the same servis frome the said Captain James booth and that his house was

burned and all his children Murdered 4 in number and that he never received any satisfaction for his services as his house was burned and all his household furniture and his certificate with the Rest so that he was deprived of relief heretofore

David W. Sleeth JP [pension application S6111]



To the honorable Legislature of Virginia

The petition of Thomas Cuninghame humbly sheweth that he is now a Citizen of Lewis County and is very old and unable to labour for his living at this time and he further states, that in the year 1776 he was then a citizen of Monongalia County he was then employed by the Authority of the Governor of Virginia on the frontiers of said County under the Command of Captain James Booth as a Spy for which he received a Certificate from the said Capt'n James Booth for his services which amounted to ninety one days and the year following the Indians made such a havoc and devastation on our frontier that a great many families were entirely destroyed and the rest were obliged to abandon their homes Capt James Booth were killed [16 Jun 1778] My house was attacked by the Indians and some of my family murdered and rest taken prisoner and my house burned with all my property and the Certificate for my services as a Spy obtained from Capt'n James Booth, with the rest –

Therefore your petitioner has never received any compensation for his services above stated. Now your petitioner prays your honourable body to pass a law directing the auditor of public accounts to issue a warrant on the Treasury for such an amount as you in your wisdom shall believe that I am justly entitled to for the services rendered as aforesaid – and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

Thomas Cuninghame

[In different handwriting] Dec'r. 28th 1818 ref'd to Claims

Reasonable Dec'r. 30th Reported Dec'r. 31st

Bill drawn/ Jan'y 20th 1819

Bill to be drawn upon this petition according to a resolution of the H. of delegates

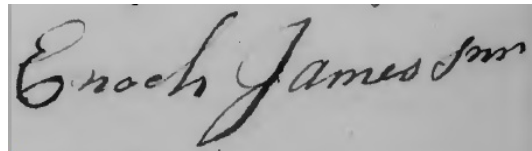
Bill drawn Dec'r. 30th 1819

State of Indiana }

Dearborn County } Sct

Be it remembered that on this 25th day of September 1819 then before me Charles L Brasher one of the Justices of the peace in and for the County of Dearborn personally came Enoch James aged seventy three years – and being duly sworn deposed and saith that he was formerly a Lieutenant in Captain James Booth's company of Spies in the service of the United States of America during the revolutionary in the years 1776 & 1777 on the continental establishment as well as he can now recollect – and that during the period aforesaid he perfectly recollects Thomas Cuninghame was a private soldier a Spy or Ranger in the said company and this deponent remembers being out on a Tour of duty with said Cuninghame in the frontiers of Virginia for the space of ninety one days either in the year 1776 or 1777 to the best of his recollection – he is however positive of the ninety one days service of said Cuninghame fighting against the common enemy as a spy or Ranger

Enoch James Sen'r

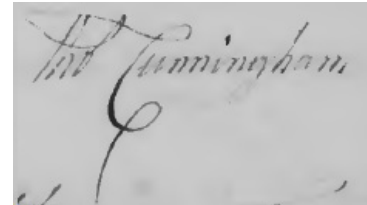


memorandum &c [no date]

it was in the year of Donmore's War [sic: Lord Dunmore's War, 1774] that I first came to this contry, it was not Long before I had to witness the cruelty of the barberous savege whose tomahawk and skelping knife where stained with the Blood of the innocent with out respect to age or sect, I enlisted under Capt. David Scot [sic: David Scott] where I performed services in the defence of my contry after that under Capt. James Boothe [sic: James Booth], by him I was appointed a Ranger which service I performed in good faith and Recived a surtificate for the same for 91 days, after this we enjoyed a small time of quietude thinking this a favourable oppertunity I crossed the Allegany [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to winchester for necessaries for my family as we had to Pack Iron & salt &c for our support While I was gone the unrelenting saveges came on and took my Wife a Captive murdered and skelped my children three in number, and the forth about three months old at the breast, this she carried with her till worn out with hunger and feteage of traveling the infant sucked the very blood from her breast till at Lenth one of them put an end to its sufferings by tomakawing the infant in the arms of its mother throwing it aside for the Repast of the first hongary varmant that should pass by, and then marched of to their towns &c when I returned home I found my Little cotage reduced to ashes with all my furniture except what the saveges took with them my surtificate I suppose went in the conflagation, but all this property is Less if possible, than nothing when I consided that my all was gone, my Earthly Comfort was Eclipsed, in this Lonely situation I continued for about 8 or 9 months my Wife was braught into General Clarks treaty [see endnote] from that she made hir way into Kentucky where she spent the greater part of the winter. She wroght with her Nedle and Laid up money for hir expences, the set out with a compeney attracted the Wilderness Road. Crossed the comberland [sic: Cumberland] River, and so on through Stanton, to Shanandoah River [sic: Staunton to Shenandoah River] and County, and from thence crossed the Alagani into harrison County in the spring following, where we embraced each other as if each had aRose from the dead we begun the world a gain with nearly what each one had on their backs we were booth young and in the vigor of Life I paid no attention to the small pittence of 91 day service altho purformed at the Risk of my Life, the bloom of Life that we once enjoyed is now gone, and will not Return again, we are well strickend in years and if we had that small sum that I earned at the wrisk of my Life it would be some help to us in our declineing days. I still believe that if our honourable house of Representatives, and Sinet had a proper investigation of the matter, they would feel disposed to attend to the case now sir I Leave the matter with you if you think it well to troble our honourable house with the subject so be it, if not, I Leave it with you, &c &c
fare well I Remain yours with Esteem

Thos Cunningham to Capt J. Bozarth

NB you can be conversant with Mr. Blan on the subject &c

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thos Cunningham". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

City of Richmond to wit.

John Bozarth Esq personally appeared before me Recorder of said City and made oath that he has for the space of 12 or 15 years been acquainted with Thomas Cunningham of Lewis County, And that he the said Cunningham is an old man and in needy circumstances. He is also a man who has long acted as a justice of the Peace, and supports a religious Charracter. He the deponent further saith that from his personal acquaintance with said Cunningham and from his general good Charracter, he believes that said Cunningham would not depose to anything which he did not believe to be true. Sworn to this 17th day of December 1821

Given under my hand this 18th Dec'r 1821.

Wm. A Fitzwhilsoun[?] Recorder

Lewis County Ss.

this will Certify that John Bozarth personally appeared before me John Bozarth, Jr a Justice of the peace in & for said County and made oath as follows to wit, that he the said John Bozarth was distant acquainted with Thomas Cunningham & that he lived about forty years ago in the same neighbourhood & that he was well acquainted with Capt. James Booth & he further states as his belief that Capt Booth was authorized to employ & put out Spys for the Defence of that Section of the Country but does not know as to the Term of time the said Cunningham served or for what Term he was even employed to serve, but believes that he the said Cunningham did serve as a Spy this witness further states that he was acquainted with the Circumstance of the Indians Burning the said Cunninghams House & killing his Children & taking his wife prisoner further this Deponent knows not Given under my hand this tenth day of Sept 1824
John Bozarth J.P.

The Honorable the Speaker & members of the Legislature of Virginia, the memorial of Thomas Cunningham Sheweth, that in the year of 1786 [sic] or thereabout your memorialst served ninety one days as a Spy, under Capt. James Booth in the County of Harrison, and obtained a Certificate for said service, and your memorialst further states that he never Received any Compensation for said services, his Certificate being Burned by the Indians his Capt having shortly after died being but in them days in the vigor of life & able to make his living by labour was unwilling to trouble the Legislature with his Claims, but the bloom of life that your memorialst once Enjoyed is gone never to Return Again, he is well stricken in years & by the Course of nature is Entirely unable to labour for the necessaries of life therefore your memorialst think it not improper to Ask the Honorable Legislatur to grant him some Relief Either by granting your memorialst the Principal Sum served for with lawfull intrust [interest] or by way of Pention the Principal being \$75 83 Cents to gether with thirty Eight years intrust thereon making in the whole \$248 54 Cents & your memorialst as in Duty bound will Ever pray &c

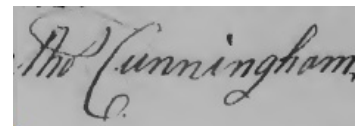
Thos. Cunningham

[In different handwriting] Dec'r 6th 1824 ref'd to Claims
1824

Dec'r 14 Reasonable
15 Reported
20 Bill drawn

this will certify that I the subscriber have served Ninety one day as a spy under Capt. James Booth in the year of 1786 [sic] or there about in harrison County, and received a certificate for the said service, and that I have never received any satisfaction for the same, my certificate being destroyed when the savages burned my house, or otherwise Lost so that it is not in my possession,

The above statement was sworn to before me Aaron Smith JP
[no date]



City of Richmond to wit

Thomas Bland personally appeared before me Wm. H. Fitzwhylsom A Justice of the Peace for the City aforesaid and made oath that he has been acquainted with Thomas Cunningham a Citizen of Lewis County Virginia who is Petitioning the Present Legislature for a remuneration for services which he rendered as a spy during the war, this deponent farther states that his first acquaintance with Mr. Cunningham commenced in the spring of 1816 at which time Mr. Cunningham was considered to be in good circumstances but has since been reduced to insolvency by Defending a suit in the superior Courts of Law and Chancery in which his Plantation was involved and at last terminated in the Loss of his Plantation after he had spent all his personal property in defending said suits
The deponent further states that he considers Mr. Cunningham and believes he is generally considered an honest upright and Honourable man, and that his statements are worthy of the utmost confidence and

would not be in the smallest degree doubted by any person acquainted with his Charecter
Sworn to before me this 6th Jany 1825 Wm. A. Fitzwhylsoun Recorder
[On the same day John Bozarth made a similar statement.]

The Speaker and house of delegates of Virginia.

Your petitioner respectfully states that she is the wife (widow) of Thomas Cunningham deceased. That her said husband enlisted for 18 months or two years (she thinks the latter period) [sic: see endnote] for the defence of the frontier of Virginia about the year 1777 That he entered on his duty as a soldier under Captain James Booth who was an officer in the Virginia line either on state or continental establishment and was engaged to serve during the war. That her said husband with the residue of captain Booths command were stationed on Booths Creek in what is now Harrison county to act as Indian Spies and guard the frontier under the orders of some superior officer (she now thinks That captain Booth was ordered out to enlist or command a company (of which her husband was one) by the Governor of Virginia for the defence and protection of the western frontier. The said company served untill in June (she thinks 1778 the said captain Booth was killed by the Indians and the troops were transfered to some other command and to another station. Your petitioner further states after her husbands captain died and he had served his term of engagement he could not receive any pay for his services under captain Booth of thirteen months because he had no discharge. She therefor prays that a law may pass authorising her now in her helpless and destitute condition

In the year 1784 she with four infant children of her own was made captive by the Indians and her children at differant periods of time inhumanly butchered in her presence She was carried to their towns and preparation made for her execution by burning that she was saved by the interference of the infamous Simon Girty who only required her to use her influence (if she returned home) to have has half blood children permitted to come and remain in Va. to be educated this she readily promised. But she turns from those melancholy retrospections and repeats her prayer for a law to give her the 13 months pay to which her husband (who is dead) was intitled

16 Nov. 1833.

[In different handwriting] Dec'r 17th 1833 ref'd to Cms [Claims]

1834 Feby 5th Reasonable

6th Reported

Mar 3rd Bill drawn.

Phebe Cunningham

Lewis county to wit

David W Sleeth This day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for said county and made oath that He was well acquainted with Captn James Booth who commanded a company of Virginia troops enlisted in Va. stationed in Harrison county, on Booths creek and that Thomas Cunningham the husband of the above petitioner was one of his soldiers and served about 13 months. That the said captn Booth was killed in or about June 1778 and that the said Thomas Cunningham died about 1826.

I do certify that the above named affiant is a credible man and his statement is entitled to credit. Given under my hand this 20 day of Nov. 1833.

John S Camden J.P

Virginia }
Lewis County } SS

In the County Court of Lewis County at the Term thereof begun & held on the 13 day of November 1839

On this 13 day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine personally appeared in open Court Phebe Cunningham a resident of the County aforesaid aged about 79 years, who being 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 the Fourth of July 1836 entitled

“An act granting half pay to widows or orphans where their husbands and Fathers have died of wounds received in the military service of the United States in certain cases, and for other purposes”

That she is the widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased who was a private in the army during the revolutionary war, and served thirteen months, under Captain James Booth, in an expedition against the Indians, as will appear by reference to an Act of the Legislature of Virginia passed march 13, 1834, A Copy of which is herewith annexed. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Cunningham on the [blank] day of April in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six or seven that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Cunningham died on the Second day of June One thousand Eight hundred & Twenty Six that subsequent to her marriage Viz: in the year seventeen hundred & eighty five after she had given birth to four children, she the said Phebe Cunningham, was taken prisoner by the Indians, and carried into captivity, and her children murdered, as will more fully appear by reference to a narrative contained in the Chronicles of Border Warfare, commencing on page 272, a copy of which is also hereunto annexed [Withers, A. S. *Chronicles of Border Warfare or, A History of the Settlement by the Whites, of North-Western Virginia, and of the Indian Wars and Massacres in that section of the State with Reflections, Anecdotes, &c.* First published 1831. Reprinted Glendale CA: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1895].

Phebe herXmark Cunningham

Copy of Narrative contained in the Chronicle of Border Warfare commencing on page 272

“In 1785 six Indians came to Bingamon creek, (a branch of the West Fork) and made their appearance upon a farm occupied by Thomas and Edward Cunningham. At this time the two brothers were dwelling with their families in separate houses, but nearly adjoining, though not in a direct line with each other. Thomas was then on a trading visit east of the mountain, and his wife and four children were collected in their room for the purpose of eating dinner, as was Edward with his family, in their house. Suddenly a lusty savage entered where Mrs. Thomas Cunningham and her children, but seeing that he would be exposed to fire from the other house, and apprehending no danger from the women and children, he closed the door and seemed for a time only intent on the means of escaping.

Edward Cunningham had seen the savage enter his brother’s house, and fastened his own door, seized his gun and stepping to a small aperture in the wall next [to] the house in which was the Indian, and which served as well for a porthole as for the admission of light, was ready to fire whenever the savage should make his appearance. But in the other house was a like aperture, and through it the Indian fired at Edward, and shouted the yell of victory. It was answered by Edward. He had seen the aim of the savage only in time to avoid it, – the bark from the log close to his head, was knocked off by the ball and flew into his face. The Indian seeing that he had missed his object, and observing an adze in the room, deliberately commenced cutting an aperture in the back wall through which he might pass out without being exposed to a shot from the other building.

Another of the Indians came into the yard just after the firing of his companion, but observing Edward’s gun pointing through the port hole, he endeavored to retreat out of its range. He failed of his purpose. Just as he was about to spring over the fence, the gun was fired and he fell forward. The ball however only fractured his thigh bone, and he was yet able to hobble over the fence and take shelter behind a coverlet suspended on it, before Edward could again load his gun.

While the Indian was engaged in cutting a hole in the wall Mrs. Cunningham made no attempt to get out. She was well aware that it would draw down upon her head the fury of the savage; and that if she escaped this, she would most probably be killed by some of those who were watching around before the other door could be opened for her admission. — She knew too, that it was impossible for her to take the children with her, and could not brook the idea of leaving them in the hands of the savage monster. She even trusted to the hope that he would withdraw, as soon as he could, without molesting any of them. A few minutes served to convince her of the fallacy of this expectation. When the opening had been made sufficiently large, he raised his tomahawk, sunk it deep into the brains of one of the children, and throwing the scarcely lifeless body into the back yard, ordered the mother to follow after. There was no alternative but death, and she obeyed his order, stepping over the dead body of one of her children, with an infant in her arms and two others screaming from horror at the sight, and clinging to her. When all

were out he scalped the murdered boy, and setting fire to the house, retired to an eminence in the field, where two of the savages were, with their wounded companion,—leaving the other two to watch the opening of Edward Cunningham's door when the burning of the house should force the family from their shelter. They were disappointed in their expectation of that event by the exertions of Cunningham and his son. When the flame from the one house communicated to the roof of the other, they ascended to the loft, threw off the loose boards which covered it, and extinguished the fire; — the savages shooting at them all the while, and their balls frequently striking close by.

Despairing of accomplishing farther havoc, and fearful of detection and pursuit, the Indians collected together and prepared to retreat. Mrs. Cunningham's eldest son was first tomahawked and scalped; the fatal hatchet sunk into the head of her little daughter, whom they then took by the arms and legs, slinging it repeatedly against a tree, ended its sufferings with its life. Mrs. Cunningham stood motionless with grief, and in momentary expectation of having the same dealt to her and her innocent infant. But no! she was doomed to captivity; and with her helpless babe in her arms was led off from the scene of horror and of woe. The wounded savage was carried on a rough litter, and they all departed, crossing the ridge to Bingamon creek, near which they found a cave that afforded them shelter and concealment. After night, they returned to Edward Cunningham's, and finding no one, plundered and fired the house.

When the savages withdrew in the evening, Cunningham went with his family into the woods, where they remained all night, there being no settlement nearer than eight or ten miles. In the morning, proceeding to the nearest house, they gave the alarm and a company of men was soon collected to go in pursuit of the Indians. When they came to Cunningham's, and found both houses heaps of ashes, they buried the bones which remained of the boy who was murdered in the house, with the bodies of his brother and little sister, who were killed in the field; but so cautiously had the savages conducted their retreat that no traces of them could be discovered, and the men returned to their homes.

Some days after, circumstances induced the belief that the Indians were yet in the neighborhood and men were again assembled for the purpose of tracing them. They were now enabled to distinguish the trail, and pursued it near to the cave, where from the number of rocks on the ground and the care which had been taken by the Indians to leave no vestige, they could no longer discover it. They however examined for it in every direction until night forced them to desist. In thinking over the incidents of the day; the cave occurred to the mind of Major Robinson [probably Alexander Robertson], who was well acquainted with the woods, and he concluded that the savages must be concealed in it. It was examined early next morning, but they had left it the preceding night and departed for their towns. After her return from captivity, Mrs. Cunningham stated, that in time of the search on the day before the Indians were in the cave, and that several times the whites approached so near, that she could distinctly hear their voices; the savages standing with their guns ready to fire, in the event of their being discovered, and forcing her to keep the infant to her breast, lest its crying might point to the place of their concealment.

In consequence of their stay at this place on account of their wounded companion, it was some time before they arrived in their own country; and Mrs. Cunningham's sufferings of body as well as mind were truly great. Fatigue and hunger oppressed her sorely,— the infant in her arms, wanting the nourishment derived from the due sustenance of the mother, plied at the breast for milk, in vain—blood came instead; and the Indians perceiving this, put a period to its sufferings, with the tomahawk, even while clinging to its mother's bosom. It was cast to a little distance from the path, and left without a leaf or bush to hide it from beasts of prey.

The anguish of this woman during the journey to the towns, can only be properly estimated by a parent; her bodily suffering may be inferred from the fact, that for ten days her only sustenance consisted of the head of a wild turkey and three papaws, and from the circumstance that the skin and nails of her feet, scaled by frequent wading in the water, came with her stockings, when upon their arrival at a village of the Delawares, she was permitted to draw them off. Yet was she forced to continue on with them the next day.— One of the Indians belonging to the village where they were, by an application of some sanative herbs, very much relieved the pain which she endured.

When she came to the town of those by whom she had been made prisoner, although receiving no barbarous or cruel usage, yet every thing indicated to her, that she was reserved for some painful torture. The wounded Indian had been left behind, and she was delivered to his father. Her clothes were not changed, as is the case when a prisoner is adopted by them; but she was compelled to wear them, dirty as they were,— a bad omen for a captive. She was however, not long in apprehension of a wretched fate. A conference was soon to take place between the Indians and whites, preparatory to a treaty of peace and witnessing an uncommon excitement in the village one evening, upon inquiring, learned that the Great Captain Simon Girty had arrived. She determined to prevail with him, if she could, to intercede for her liberation, and seeing him next day passing near on horseback, she laid hold on his stirrup, and implored his interference. For a while he made light of her petition,— telling her that she would be as well there as in her own country, and that if he were disposed to do her a kindness he could not as his saddle bags were too small to conceal her; but her importunity at length prevailed, and he whose heart had been so long steeled against every kindly feeling, every sympathetic impression, was at length induced to perform an act of generous disinterested benevolence. He paid her ransom, had her conveyed to the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, and by them she was taken to a station on the south side of the Ohio. Here she met with two gentlemen (Long and Denton [John Long and John Denton]) who had been at the treaty to obtain intelligence of their children taken captive some time before [at Ruddle's Station at present Lair in Harrison County KY, June 1780] but not being able to gain any information respecting them, they were then returning to the interior of Kentucky and kindly furnished her a horse.

In consequence of the great danger attending a journey through the wilderness which lay between the settlements in Kentucky and those on the Holstein [sic: Holston River], persons scarcely ever performed it but at particular periods of the year, and in caravans, the better to defend themselves against attacks of savages. Notice of the time and place of the assembling of one of these parties being given, Mrs. Cunningham prepared to accompany it; but before that time arrived, they were deterred from the undertaking by the report that a company of travellers, stronger than theirs would be, had been encountered by the Indians, and all either killed or made prisoners. Soon after another party resolved on a visit to Virginia, and Mrs. Cunningham was furnished a horse belonging to a gentleman on Holstein (which had escaped from him while on a buffalo hunt in Kentucky and was found after his return,) to carry her that far on her way home. Experiencing the many unpleasant circumstances incident to such a jaunt, she reached Holstein, and from thence, after a repose of a few days, keeping up the valley of Virginia, she proceeded by the [way] of Shenandoah, to the County of Harrison. Here she was sadly disappointed in not meeting with her husband. Having understood that she had been ransomed and taken to Kentucky, he had, some time before, gone in quest of her. Anxiety for his fate, alone and on a journey which she well knew to be fraught with many dangers, she could not cheerily partake of the general joy excited by her return. In a few days however, he came back. He had heard on Holstein of her having passed there and he retraced his steps. Arriving at his brother Edward's, he again enjoyed the satisfaction of being with all that was then dear to him on earth. It was a delightful satisfaction, but presently damped by the recollection of the fate of his luckless children.— Time assuaged the bitterness of the recollection and blessed him with other and more fortunate children.”

Lewis County Court March Term 1840.

Phebe Cunningham an applicant for a Pension, and who did at the November Term last of this Court appear in open Court and make a declaration in order to obtain a Pension under the act of Congress passed the 4th of July 1836. The said Declaration being returned for amendment this day made oath, that the services rendered by her late husband was subsequent to their marriage, and that she has not been subsequently married to any other man, but still remains the widow of Thomas Cunningham. It was also proven in open court by the oath of James M. Camp and John McWhorter Esquires, that the present applicant is the same Phebe Cunningham for whose benefit the Law passed the Virginia Legislature [13 Mar 1834] allowing her one hundred and four dollars for her late husbands services in the War of the Revolution, and that the following is a true copy of said act as filed in this Court. “Be it enacted by the

General Assembly, That David W. Sleeth, sole surviving heir of John Sleeth deceased, who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain James Booth, in an expedition against the Indians during the Revolutionary War, be allowed the sum of One hundred and thirty dollars, for thirteen months servises of his said father as Sergeant as aforesaid, and Joseph Parsons [S8942], John Tucker [S6274], James Brown [S6718], and Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased, shall be allowed the sum of One hundred and four dollars each, for their services as privates for the same time in said company; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized and required to issue a warrant on the treasury, in favor of the said Sleeth, Parsons, Tucker, Brown, and Cunningham, respectively, for the same to be paid to them or their representatives out of money therein not otherwise appropriated This act shall be in force from its passage
Copy Teste J. Talbott Clk

Wood County to wit

Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid William Cunningham [S8264] aged seventy five years on the 23^d day of July last past who being sworn deposeth and saith that after the surrender of CornWallis [19 Oct 1781] in the Revolutionary War he was personally known to Thomas Cunningham being drafted for the term of two months to guard the prisoners at the Barracks at Winchester and at the expiration of one month returned home on furlough hired said deponent to serve the remaining part of his time And that he went with said Cunningham to Winchester and was received as his substitute and served out his time. And that he believes that Phebe Cunningham were the lawfull wife of said Thomas Cunningham he was personally known to their living together as husband and wife priveous to his serving as his substitute up to the decease of said Thomas Cunningham and he always spoke of her and treated her as a lawfull and respected wife and that he is personally acquainted with said Phebe up to the present time and she still continues to be the widow of said Thomas Cunningham and he knows her to be the identical Phebe Cunningham spoken of in Border Warfare. And further the deponent saith not
Sworn and subscribed this 9th day of January 1840
William his)(mark Cunningham
John Harris J Peace

Wood County to Wit

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Mary Ann McKinney who being sworn deposeth and saith that she is seventy four years of age October last past, is sister to Phebe Cunningham widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased, who now resides in Lewis County Virginia and is now applicant for a pension that she was personally known to Thomas Cunningham and her sister Phebe leaving Coon's Fort and going to Prickets Fort on the Monongahelia River [now at Fort Prickett State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont in Marion County WV] to be married the day and date not remembered but took place when the deponent was yet a girl and also was personally known to their returning again to Coons Fort them and the guard that accompanied them and it was said and understood that they were married that she has been acquainted with her sister up to the present time who still continues the widow of the foresaid Thomas Cunningham deceased And she knows her to be the identical Phebe Cunningham named in Border Warfare and further the deponent saith not
Sworn and subscribed to this 9th day of January 1840
Mary Ann herXmark McKinney
John Harris JP

NOTES:

The treaty effected by George Rogers Clark and others with the Shawnee Indians was concluded at the mouth of the Great Miami River on Ohio River 31 Jan 1786. Article 1 of that treaty provided that three Indian hostage would be taken by the Americans until "all the prisoners, white and black, taken in the late war from among the citizens of the United States, by the Shawanoe nation, or by any other Indian or Indians residing in their towns, shall be restored."

James Booth was apparently enlisted in the Augusta County Militia and not in the State or Continental Line. Militia enlistments were never for as long as a year per tour.

Phebe Cunningham also declared the following in the pension application of David W. Sleeth: "I knew Captain James Booth – of Booths Creek – I recollect of him Inlisting a Company of men to go against the Indians – the time and length of servis I do not exactly recollect I recollect that the Company was kept in actual servis one summer and Winter – and my husband Thos's Cuningham (Deceased) was one of the Company – I think it was about the year 1777 or 78."

Descendants of Thomas and Phebe Cunningham have erected a marker on Cunningham Run in Harrison County WV.

The fifth child of Phebe Cunningham was William, said to have been born 7 Feb 1789.

In the 1840 federal census of Lewis County VA Pheby Cunningham, 80, was listed as a pensioner in the household of Benjamin Hardman.