

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Chesterman W5189      Frances Thornton      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Virginia    } S.S.  
City of Richmond   }

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February 1844, personally appeared before me Sam'l F. Pulliam a Justice of the peace in and for said City, Frances Thornton, a resident of the City of Richmond, in the County of Henrico, and State of Virginia, aged Eighty two years, 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 4, 1836, and the act explanatory of said act, passed March 3, 1837: That she was married to William Chesterman, who was a Sergeant in the Army of the Revolution. That her husband the said Chesterman and a man by the name of John Young were residents of the County of Spottsylvania [sic] in the State of Virginia, and became the substitutes of two men, whose names were James Warren, and John Cannady, who had been drafted to make up Captain John Brock's Company of Regulars, (that being just the number wanted and he not being able to make it up by enlistments) and were marched to the north, where the said William Chesterman, her husband, and the said John Young, remained upwards of two years, and were then discharged. That the said Chesterman, and the said Young returned home in the month of February, seventeen hundred and eighty, and spoke of their having to cross the Delaware River upon the ice. That on the last day of April following, she married the said William Chesterman, having been engaged before he first entered the service; That they lived together until the month of September of the same year, when her husband, the said Chesterman enlisted, then for during the war; but that she does not recollect under what officer he enlisted, nor does she know any of the field, or company officers, except the name of Captain John Spotswood, from Spotsylvania. That her husband aforesaid, marched to the South, together with her, the declarants Brother, whose name was John Payne [pension application W5495], and the aforesaid John Young, both of whom enlisted at the same time, and in the same company with her husband – and of whom John Payne alone, after the close of the war, returned home, to the aforesaid county of Spotsylvania, and afterwards received his pay and Land Bounty – and that her Brother the said Payne drew a pension during his life time, and that his widow is at present alive in the said County of Spotsylvania, and draws a pension. This declarant further states, that her husband addressed her several letters after he joined the army and marched to the South, the last of which was received about six months after he entered the service – that the said letters have been mislaid or destroyed, so that they cannot now be found. She further states, that her Brother, the aforesaid Payne, informed her, after he returned from service, at the end of the war, that her husband was killed in battle, at a place called Santee [probably Battle of Eutaw Springs SC on Santee River, 8 Sep 1781], and that he, the said Chesterman, had been made an Orderly Sergeant some time prior to his death. She further states that her husband, the said Chesterman, was a resident of the aforesaid County of Spottsylvania when he entered the services both as a substitute as before stated, and when he enlisted. She further declares, that she was married to the said William Chesterman, in the County of Spottsylvania by Parson Stevenson, on the last day of April, in the year 1780, as before stated. That her husband, the aforesaid William Chesterman was killed in Battle as before stated, and that she afterwards married William Thornton, who died on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of May 1820, and that she was a widow on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1836, and still remains a widow as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Frances herXmark Thornton

State of Virginia }  
Spotsylvania } SS.

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 1844 personally appeared before me John I. Berry a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Spotsylvania Frances Thornton, a Resident of the Town of Fredericksburg in said County who being first duly sworn, makes the following additional statement in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836 and the act explanatory of said act passed March 3<sup>d</sup> 1837. That she is the identical Frances Thornton who made a Declaration on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February 1844 before Samuel T. Pulliam of the City of Richmond and State of Virginia. That, in that declaration, she stated that her husband and a man by the name of John Young became the substitutes for two other men, whose names were James Warren and John Cannady, who had been drafted to make up Captain John Brocks Company of Regulars; in this she now states that she was mistaken and that it was to make up Captain John Spotswoods Company of Regulars that these two men, Warren and Cannady, were drafted for, and that John Brock was the Lieutenant of Capt Spotswoods Company, and that her Brother John Payne Enlisted for three years under the said Lieut Brock in Capt Spotswoods Company. She further states, that in her former declaration she stated that her husband & the aforesaid John Young marched to the North, where they remained upwards of two years and were discharged, returned home in the month of February 1780, and that on the last day of April following she married the said William Chesterman. here again she says she was mistaken, and that instead of their being discharged at that time, that they came home upon Furlow and that it was whilst the said Chesterman and the said Young were upon Furlow that she was married and that the marriage took place in April 1779 as well as she now recollects instead of 1780, as stated in her former declaration, and that, after they had been married a short time, her husband and the said Young returned to the army and served out their time, that they then came home, and after living together untill the month of September, her husband enlisted for the war and marched to the South, but she cannot recollect under what officer he enlisted, or whose Company or what Regiment he belonged to but this she does know, that her Brother, John Payne, the aforesaid John Young, and her husband all three enlisted at the same time, in the same Regiment and in the same Company. She further states, that when her Brother, the said John Payne returned home, at the close of the war in 1783 he brought her about Ten dollars in money, which he informed her was found in her husbands pocket after his death at the Battle of Santee together with a letter which her husband had written to her before the Battle took place, but which he had from some cause omitted to forward to her before his death, or rather before the Battle commenced.

Frances herXmark Thornton

NOTE: Frances Thornton's original application was certified by Ann Payne, widow of John Payne. John Chesterman, 64, of Hanover County VA, only son of William Chesterman, also certified the application and added the following: "This affiant further states that his uncle John Payne, told this affiant, that upon his return at the close of the war he delivered to the Mother of this affiant the sum of Ten dollars which he said was taken from the pockets of this affiant's Father after he was killed as aforesaid, and that was the only amount which was found with him."