

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Thornton¹ W6260 Frances

f44VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/10/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p 31]

At a Court Continued and held for Spotsylvania County the seventh day of April 1818

William Thornton came into Court and declared on oath that in October 1779 he enlisted with Captain William Barrett as a trooper of the revolution on Continental establishment being the fourth troop and third Regiment that he was at the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] and lost his right eye, that he was at the battle of Eautaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] and was badly wounded by a musket Ball in the hip and a buck shot through his leg, that he served as a trooper until the end of the war after which he was discharged at Nelsons ferry upon Santee River South Carolina which he would be able to prove by papers which are either lost or misplaced, that he has now become old and unable to work & stands in need of the assistance of the Country for Support which evidence is deemed Satisfactory to the Court and is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of War that the said William Thornton served in the revolutionary war against the common enemy.

State of Virginia Spotsylvania County to wit

I Robert S. Chew Clerk of the County Court of Spotsylvania and the State aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the records of my office...[etc.]

S/ Robert S. Chew, C. S. C.

[f p. 18]

Gentlemen,

Be pleased to Issue Warrants for my Wages in the Continental service as a Soldier enlisted with Capt. Jones as [indecipherable symbol] his Certificate also a Warrant for my Land. Given under my hand & Seal this 7th day of December 1785

To

The Auditors of
Public Accts.

S/ William Thornton

¹ BLWt602-100. A note on the cover page indicates that the widow also claimed a pension as the former widow of William Chesterman W5189

Gentlemen. Be pleased to Issue Warrants for my wages in the Continental service as a Soldier enlisted with Col. Jones as per his Certificate also a Warrant for my Land. Given under my hand & seal this 9th day of Decr 1785

William Thornton

The Auditors of Public Accots.

[f p 6]

Spotsylvania 17th of December 1812

I do hereby certify that William Thornton have lived in the neighborhood since the year 1790, and have lived with me as an overseer for four or five years, during which time I found him industrious & faithful in his duty, and since he had left me rents land at a high rate pays his rent honestly with the assistance of his wife and children and acquired the goodwill of his neighbors whilst he lived with me frequently complained of the wounds he received at Guilford Courthouse and the Eutaw Springs, as age comes him appears more infirm. Given under my hand as above.

S/ Robt S. Coleman [Robert S. Coleman]

[f p. 8]

In Spotsylvania County Court May 4th 1840

State of Virginia Spotsylvania County SS

On this the 1st day of November 1839 personally appeared before Joseph Alsop Frances Thornton a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged about eighty years who first 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 July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows, that she is the widow of William Thornton who was a private in the war of the Revolution, as to the time of her husband's entering the service she can say nothing neither can she say anything in relation to the officers under whom he served, as she never knew him until after the war was closed. She has heard him speak frequently of the officers he served under as also the Battles in which he engaged, but of the officers she has no recollection, as to the Battles she has heard him speak of being at Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Valley Forge, Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781], Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], and other places, she believes her husband the said William Thornton served the whole war with the exception of the time he was taken prisoner by the Enemy she does not know how long he was kept as prisoner, but has heard him say that he was in service at the close of the war he received several wounds, lost one of his eyes and when he died which he thinks was the 22nd of May 1819 had a Ball in his hip which was received during the time he was in service, she further declares that she was married to the said William Thornton to the best

of her believe in the spring of '87 or '88 that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place in the County of Spotsylvania by Parson John Waller previous to the 1st day of January 1794 viz.: about the time above stated – not having a family register she had to make the calculation as to time of her marriage by the ages of her children together with other circumstances which she recollects took place about that time.

S/ Frances Thornton, X her mark

[f p. 7: Certificate dated October 14th, 1840 from the Spotsylvania County Clerk stating that there is a marriage bond in his records dated August the 8th 1785 conditioned upon the marriage of William Thornton to Frankie Chesterman; and there is also a return from John Waller a Minister of the Gospel providing that he performed the ceremony August 11th 1785.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of eight dollars per month commencing April 7th 1818, for service as a private for three years in the Virginia Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836.]

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Addendum to William Thornton W6260

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 27 March 2022.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I do hereby Certify that William Thornton Inlisted as a soldier for the war in the 1st Virginia Reg't of Cavalry the [illegible] day of October 1780 and has bin in actual service until This year

John Perry [BLWt1692-150]

Cornet 1st RLD

Colo Merywether [sic: Thomas Meriwether]

Richmond/ October 8th 83

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Perry". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.