

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Wash W6381

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Sct.
 Louisa county }

On this 30th day of August in the year 1839, personally appeared before me, William O. Harris a justice of the Peace in and for the county of Louisa, in the state of Virginia, Susanna Smith Wash, resident of the county and state aforesaid, aged seventy two years on the 20th day of February last, 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 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of Thomas Wash, who was a commissary in the Revolutionary army, drafted from the Militia of Louisa county aforesaid, for six months, and marched from Louisa county aforesaid on the first of May 1780, in Captain [John] Byars's [also spelled Byers and Bias] company and Colonel [George] Stubblefield's regiment to North Carolina and served in that section until the first day of November following, when he was discharged, and returned home to Louisa county aforesaid, he the s'd Wash was at Gates's Defeat [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780], while in service as above stated, all of which she verily believes.

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Wash on the fourth day of January in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five, that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Wash, died on the 6th day of June eighteen hundred and eleven, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety-four, Viz. at the time above stated; and that she was married in Louisa county aforesaid. Name before marriage was Susanna Smith Fox.

[signed] Susanna S Wash

Sworn to and subscribed, on the day and year above written, before me,

[signed] Will. O. Harris J.P.

I certify that from old age and bodily infirmity, the said Susanna Smith Wash cannot conveniently attend the court of Louisa county aforesaid. Will. O. Harris J.P.

The deposition of Joel Walton [pension application S6327] aged seventy nine years on the 30th day of September last, who testifies that he was well acquainted with Thomas Wash, and knows that the said Thomas Wash was drafted from the Militia of Louisa county in the state of Virginia, to serve in the Revolutionary War, for six months, and that said Thomas Wash did serve said tour; (four months and a half of the time as commissary) that said Thomas Wash marched from Louisa county aforesaid on the first day of May, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty, in Captain Byars's company and colonel stubblefields's regiment, on to North Carolina, and served in that section until the first day of November following when said Thomas Wash with the rest of said company were discharged, and returned home to Louisa county aforesaid, affiant states that said company and regiment were at Gates's defeat; affiant states he served with said Thomas Wash in said company and regiment.

[signed 30 Aug 1839] Joel Walton

The deposition of Thomas Badget [pension application S6593] aged about eighty years, who testifies that he was well acquainted with Thomas Wash, and knows that the said Thomas Wash, was drafted from the militia of Louisa county, in the state of Virginia, to serve in the Revolutionary War, a term of six months; That said Thomas Wash marched from Louisa county aforesaid on the first of May in the year 1780, in Captain Byars's company and colonel stubblefields regiment on to North Carolina and served in that section until the first of November following when said Thomas Wash, with the rest of said company were discharged and returned home to Louisa county aforesaid: Affiant further states that the said Thomas Wash was appointed commissary, and served as such from the time said company and regiment left Hillsborough in North Carolina aforesaid, (on the 15th of June) until he was discharged on the

first of November as aforesaid, affiant further state that he served with said Thomas Wash, in said company and regiment, and that they were at Gateses defeat about the middle of August, in said year: affiant further testifies that he was not personally present at the intermarriage of said Thomas Wash with Susanna Smith Fox; but knows that they lived together, and were reputed man and wife, and acknowledged each other as such from the early part of the year 1785, until the death of said Thomas Wash, which took place in the month of June in the year 1811; and that Susanna Smith Wash has not married since; but has remained the widow of said Thomas Wash ever since that period. [3 Sep 1839] Thomas hisXmark Badget

The Deposition of Hardin Duke [see pension application S8357] of the County of Louisa in the state of Virginia, taken this 3^d day of April 1841: This Deponent being first duly sworn, declareth and saith that he was a Sergeant in Col. Frances Taylor's Virginia State Regiment, in the war of the Revolution, and was employed for two years and ten months, in guarding, at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia and elsewhere, the British Troops which were captured under Gen. Burgoyne ["Convention Army" captured at Saratoga 17 Oct 1777 and brought to Virginia in Jan 1779]: That this Deponent was well acquainted with Thomas Wash, the husband of Susanna Wash, who survived him and is still living: That the said Thomas Wash was a private soldier in the same Regiment with this Deponent; and this Deponent well remembers that the said Thomas Wash being a hatter by trade was detailed by the orders of Col. Taylor to make hats for the soldiers of his Regiment: That the said Thomas Wash intermarried with his first and only wife Susanna Wash about the year 1783 or 1784 and lived within six miles of this Deponents residence from his marriage till his death: That the said Susanna Wash, the widow of the said Thomas Wash is now and has been all her life a resident of the same neighbourhood, with this Deponent, and that this Deponent cannot be mistaken as to the identity of herself and her husband the late Thomas Wash who was the fellow soldier of this Deponent as aforesaid. and further this deponent saith not [signed] Hardin Duke

The Deposition of Nathaniel Snelson [pension application W6135] taken this 8th day of April in the year 1841. This deponent being first duly sworn saith, That in the year 1779 during the war of the Revolution this Deponent performed a tour of duty as a private Soldier in a Militia Company in guarding British Prisoners of War confined at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia: That Thomas Wash was at that time a Soldier in Colonel Francis Taylor's Virginia State Regiment: That the said Thomas Wash afterwards, to wit: in June 1780, marched with this Deponent from the County of Louisa in Virginia to South Carolina and was present in the Battle of Camden, faught in August 1780: That the said Thomas Wash about the year 1784 was married to Susanna Wash and lived from that time till his death in the immediate Vicinity of this deponent; their Dwelling houses being less that three miles apart. That the said Susanna Wash is still living and remains the widow of the said Thomas Wash. That this deponent was so thoroughly acquainted with the said Thomas Wash, it is utterly impossible he can be mistaken as to the Military Services of the said Thomas Wash and the fact of his marriage with the said Susanna Wash as aforesaid. And further this Deponent Saith not. [signed] Nat. Snelson

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to the Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 9th day of July 1783, in the name of Thomas Wash as a Soldier of Infantry for £22.6.6, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Geo Pickett [see note below] and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782. Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 7th day of May 1841
Jas E Heath Auditor [of Virginia]

State of Virginia:

Louisa County to wit:

On this 29th day of June 1841 personally appeared before me William O. Harris a Justice

of the peace for said county Susanna S. Wash, widow of Thomas Wash deceased, a resident of said county, aged 74 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 act of Congress, passed July 7th 1838: That this deponent intermarried with the said Thomas Wash a soldier of the Revolution on the 4th day of January 1785 after the expiration of the last period of his service: that the said Thomas Wash informed her he enlisted in the army of the United States, as a soldier, in Col. Francis Taylor's Regiment, when it was first raised in the year [blank]: That he served in said Regiment, with Hardin Duke, Lewis Turner [pension application S6280], Thornton Mead [pension application W18506] and others: That his officers were Benjamin Timberlake, Captain, John Roberts, Major, and William Fontaine, Lieutenant Colonel, and others; That the said Thomas Wash having served out the full term for which he enlisted; was regularly and honorably discharged from the said Francis Taylor's Regiment, in the month of April 1780: That he returned to Louisa, the county of his birth; and soon afterwards, viz: the first of June 1780, he the said Thomas Wash marched from the said county of Louisa, with Joel Walton, Thomas Badget, Thomas Poindexter [pension application W55556], Nathaniel Snelson, John Byars and others to South Carolina, in the army of General Gates, and was at the battle of Camden in August 1780: That the said Thomas Wash received a most grievous wound which disabled him for a long time: and that after his recovery, she does not believe he entered the army again, except, when Lord Cornwallis was in Virginia in the year 1781. This Deponent well remembers hearing from the said Thomas Wash, how many acquaintances he made, while he was guarding the British Troops at the Barracks in Albemarle County and she also recollects the names of those who hospitably entertained him, when travelling on furlough, from his camp to the place of his birth in Louisa. This Deponent, does not remember hearing her said husband say whether he obtained bounty land for his services, or not. This Deponent is informed, that neither Lieut. Col. Fontaine nor Capt. Timberlake under whom he served; nor his fellow soldiers who lived near him, obtained their bounty lands in their lifetime; but the lands to which they were entitled, have been granted to their heirs since their deaths. This deponent in conclusion says that the facts stated in the foregoing declaration which come within her own knowledge she knows to be true, and those stated from the information of her said husband and others she believes to be true.

[signed] Susanna S. Wash

NOTE:

At the end of the 1839 application is a copy of a bond signed 3 Jan 1785 by Thomas Wash and John Michie for the marriage of Wash to Susanna Fox.

According to a letter in the file, George Pickett was sutler (i.e. merchant) to Col. Francis Taylor's regiment.

On 4 Dec 1841 William Nelson of Long Creek in Louisa County wrote a long letter to the Commissioner of Pensions regarding his reluctance to grant a pension to Susanna Smith Fox, from which the following is excerpted: "All your scruples have been caused by the extreme ignorance and simplicity of Mrs Wash (poor woman! she is as guileless as an infant) and the want of due diligence, in Mr. Thornberry, in collecting Testimony to sustain her claim for a pension.... Mrs. Wash earns a livelihood by knitting stockings for old fashioned folks like myself. About a year ago, I rode to her cabin, to pay her for knitting, which she had done for me.... After the termination of the War, Mess'rs Duke, Snelson and Wash all married and seated themselves in my immediate neighbourhood; and have never resided any where else to this day. Thomas Wash now lies buried three miles from me, and Hardin Duke and Nathaniel Snelson are still living, almost in sight of me in the enjoyment of a green old age and no man, who knows them, will doubt their bare word, much less their oath. Mr. Duke stated to me that there was a list of the names of himself and others, belonging to Taylor's Regiment, in the War Office, when he applied for his pension, and he had no doubt, Thomas Wash's name would be found upon it.... Within a mile of her house Mrs. Y. found two witnesses (Walton & Badget) and put into her declaration what they could prove and nothing more than they would swear to. Let me ask you if this ought to prejudice Mrs Wash's claim! How long has ignorance been a crime? You think, 'Services in the continental line, would oftener have been the subject of conversation between Mrs Wash and her husband, than services in the militia.' Permit me to set you right upon that point. From the day

Col. Taylor's Regiment commenced military duty till the hour it was disbanded, it did nothing but guard Burgoyne's troops in Albemarle county Virginia. It fought no battles, made no long and tiresome marches, never beheld an enemy with arms in his hands, and never knew the want of abundant and wholesome rations. I assert this upon the word of Col. Fontaine, David Bullock Esqr [pension application R1422], Lewis Turner Esqr and other members of the Regiment, now dead and Hardin Duke Esqr now living. But in his Tour to the Carolinas and Camden, in the militia, Thomas Wash underwent hardships, suffered privations, encountered dangers, and endured the pains of a wound so grievous, as to afford him most abundant topics of conversation while he retained memory and consciousness.... And William Meredith and David Richardson, the two magistrates who took their testimony certify that they believe it to be true.... Can you believe that William Meredith the most distinguished physician of his county, and David Richardson the ablest Astronomer in America, would certify, they believe the evidence of Mess'rs Duke and Snelson if it were not worthy of belief?"