

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Ward W6550

Margaret Wintermote<sup>1</sup>

f66VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/3/11: rev'd 11/23/19

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 10]

The State of Ohio Darke County }

On this the 19th day of November A.D. 1844 Margaret Wintermote personally appeared before the Court of Common Pleas of Darke County State of Ohio in open court. The said Margaret Wintermote a resident of Richland Township in the County of Darke and State of Ohio aged seventy-six years the 15th day of December A.D. 1843 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" and the several amendatory acts thereto. That she is the widow of George Ward who was a private in the American Army of the Revolution. Deponent would state that said George Ward served in the Virginia line and that he either served under Captain Sylvester Ward or enlisted under him as a recruiting officer. All the information that she had on this subject was from seeing a written discharge that said George Ward received from George Washington and which was lost or destroyed as herein after stated, and from the information derived from said George Ward after their marriage, as well as from other persons. Deponent does not recollect the Company or officers in or under which said George Ward served nor has she any means of determining other than hereinafter stated and by reference to such papers as may be found at Washington City as known to her. Deponent would state that said George Ward enlisted in the Virginia line in the American Army in the County of Hampshire<sup>2</sup> and State of Virginia soon after the commencement of the Revolutionary War – and as she believes about the year 1777 and continued in the service of the American Army four or five years and deponent believes until about the year 1782 until the close of the war. She has understood from him that he was engaged in seventeen battles or engagements during said service and war and heard him mention Stoney Point [sic, Battle of Stony Point, July 16, 1779], Peola [sic, Battle of Paoli, September 21, 1777], Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and various others but this information is derived from his statements while living and Deponent has no documentary evidence of the same and now knows of no one living by whom she can prove the time of his service or the officers under whom he served. And Deponent further declares that she was married to the said George Ward after his service in the Revolutionary War had expired and on the 12th day of February A.D. 1783. That she was married by a man by the name of Felty Powers a Minister of the Dunkard order she believes in the County of Hampshire and said State

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<sup>1</sup> Former widow

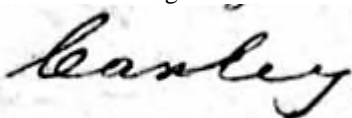
<sup>2</sup> Now Hampshire County, West Virginia

of Virginia. That as near as she recollects license was not then required by law for marriage, but notice was given by publication that said marriage should occur – And also that it was recorded in a family Bible which was afterwards destroyed as hereinafter stated by said Deponent. That after said marriage she lived with said George Ward in Hampshire County about four years & then removed to near Clarksburg in Harrison County<sup>3</sup> Virginia & lived there about two years and then removed to Tigers Valley [Tygart's Valley] in Randolph County<sup>4</sup> Virginia and resided there until about February 1791 when said George Ward died of consumption, leaving Deponent his widow and three children living viz. David Ward, Mary Ward, & George Ward – Deponent further states that after her husband's death she went to live or stay in a house occupied by one Joseph Kenan and his family on a farm adjoining that where Deponent lived when said George Ward died. This was done for the personal safety of herself and children as the Indians were then committing depredations on the frontier settlements. And in the month of May, as near as Deponent recollects, next after the decease of her said husband a little after dark when Deponent had put her three children and one of Kenan's children in bed on the floor of the House (which was a log house) and Kenan had laid down on another bed in the same room, the said Kenan's wife and Deponent being in the same room also, but not retired to rest, two Indians opened the door and stepped into the room (one Indian remaining outside to watch & guard the door) – They said something in broken English when Kenan raising himself partly up in the bed was instantly shot through by one of the Indians. Deponent sprang to her children and caught up George Ward (then a babe) in her arms – David another child raised partly up and was knocked over by one of the Indians. Deponent caught him as he fell and slipped into a small back room that was dark and put her son David then about 7 or 8 years old out at the window and gave him the baby and told him to run to the woods. There was a small hole or window in the room through which deponent put the children, but it was so small that she did not expect she could get through herself until after she had put the children out when upon trial she succeeded in getting through and taking her two children with one of Kenan's which had got out of bed and came around the house to the other side, she ran about three miles to one John Hamilton's, where they found protection temporarily until the alarm was given and the Indians pursued. Deponent would further state that her child Mary was tomahawked and scalped before her in said bed as well as said Kenan, and one of Kenan's children was killed out of doors, and Kenan's wife was taken prisoner by said Indians and carried away captive. Said Kenan's wife as deponent has been informed was taken to Detroit and kept about four years, until her brother by the assistance of a Frenchman succeeded in rescuing her from the Indians, for after her return she saw her and conversed with her about the appalling and afflicting scenes they witnessed on that eventful night. Jacob Lewis and a man by the name of Canley [?]<sup>5</sup> one of them being in another small apartment or kitchen made their escape the same time. The Indians at that time before leaving the house tore up her beds and took away all of her clothes and bedding of use and destroyed everything they could about the house including all her husband's papers and books among which was the aforementioned discharge from Washington and the family Bible containing the record of her own and her husband's ages and marriage as deponent never could find them

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<sup>3</sup> Now in West Virginia

<sup>4</sup> Now in West Virginia

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afterwards – Deponent further states that about two years thereafter – she was married to one David Riffle & that they went back to said Hampshire County and were married by the same man Felty Powers and that after that they removed to Kentucky and from thence to Darke County of Ohio, where said Riffle about the 26th of January 1820 died leaving Deponent his widow and three children by said Riffle viz.: Jacob, Solomon & Nancy. That her second husband David Riffle after their marriage was for a long time a Ranger on the frontier line in the employ of Virginia or the United States – For which service he never received any pay as she was informed – Deponent further states that on this 17th day of August 1826 she was married to John Wintermote a Baptist clergyman in the County of Darke in State of Ohio, with whom she lived until the 19th day of January 1844 when he died leaving Deponent his widow. Deponent would further state that two of her children by her said first husband viz. David Ward and George Ward are now living in Darke County, Ohio and that said David carries upon his head the scar which he received from the blow of the Indian tomahawk. That her three children by said second husband David Riffle viz.: Solomon Riffle, Jacob Riffle and Nancy Riffle since married to Thomas Hathaway also living in Darke County Ohio. Deponent would further state, that she is now left a lone widow quite destitute of means of support and therefore claims all of the benefits she is entitled to as the widow of said George Ward under the several Acts of Congress granting or allowing half pay or pensions to widows of the soldiers of the Revolution – and further saith not.

Subscribed and sworn to in open court on the day and year above written.

S/ John Beers, Clerk

S/ Margaret Wintermote, X her mark

And also appeared before the Judges of the said court of Common Pleas of said County of Darke and State of Ohio in open court on this the 20th day of November A.D. 1844 David Ward a resident of said County of Darke who being duly sworn deposed and saith that he is aged sixty years the 27th day of April last according to his knowledge and information: that he is the eldest child and son of said Margaret Ward, and George Ward, the same George Ward who died many years ago and which statement of the said Margaret was made in open court on yesterday and hereto attached. Deponent further states that he has heard the statement of the said Margaret Wintermote made in said court and read the same and so far as he recollects which is particularly since his father's death he believes the same correct and true; that Deponent recollects the circumstances related by said Margaret about the rescue of himself and Brother from the Indians as stated by said Margaret; and deponent has always up to this day carried the scar of the wound inflicted by said Indians at that time as stated by said Margaret on the side of his hands which scar is now plainly visible to anyone in view of the same. Deponent of course cannot swear to the marriage of his father and mother but from his earliest recollection and best information his mother the said Margaret and said George Ward (now deceased) lived together as husband and wife until the death of said George Ward as stated by said Margaret and deponent always understood and believed that they were married by said Felty Powers as also stated by said Margaret. And deponent believes that said Felty Powers from his age (for he was many years ago a very old man) is now deceased. Deponent was present at the time and well recollects the death of his said father George Ward and always understood and believes he was a soldier in the Revolution – And deponent would further state that the papers and property of his mother the said Margaret and which was of his deceased father's estate, was destroyed by the Indians as stated by said Margaret. Deponent further states that said Margaret who statement hereto

appended was the widow of the said George Ward deceased, and that she afterwards married said David Riffle who died and after that she married said John Wintermote who died leaving her his widow as stated by said Margaret and that she is now his widow.

S/ David Ward, X his mark

[p 17]

Before me Nelson Kellogg a Justice of the peace within and for the County of Wells and State of Indiana personally came David Whitman of said County who being by me duly sworn says that one George Ward of Virginia served in the war of the Revolution during the whole of it that he was at the taking of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown [October 19, 1781] and went out under Captain Sylvester Ward and that Margaret Ward the Widow of said George Ward married David Riffle and after the death of said Riffle she married John Wintermort [sic] late of Darke County of Ohio Deceased and that he has been acquainted with the said Margaret ever since the decease of said George Ward and knows her to have been the Wife of said George

S/ David Whitman



[Attested in Wells County Indiana on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1844]

[pp 21-23: Catharine Hammon gave testimony in Darke County, Ohio that she was well acquainted with George Ward; that Ward was a Revolutionary War soldier; that deponent's father (not named) was in the war a short time; that Ward married Margaret Thixton of Hampshire County; that they were married by Felty Powers a Dunkard preacher; that David Ward was the son of Margaret and George Ward; that David married deponent's sister (not named); that George died and Margaret married David Riffle who died and Margaret married John Wintermote. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[pp 34-35: Mary Atcheson gave testimony in Kosciusko County, Indiana that she is 78 years old; that she was well acquainted with George and Margaret Ward; that Margaret's name prior to her marriage was Margaret Swisick; that Margaret was raised by a man named Thixton; that George served in the Continental Army under Captain Hite [Abraham Hite]; that Margaret Wintermote is the same person who married George Ward.]

[p 2: In her last will and testament Margaret Wintermote of Darke County Ohio named her 5 children as follows: David Ward, George Ward, Jacob Riffle, Solomon Riffle and Nancy Hathaway. The will is dated September 6, 1845. She signed this document with her mark. The will was offered for probate in Darke County, Ohio on February 14, 1846.]

[p 6: finding by the court that Margaret Wintermote died November 6, 1845 in Darke County Ohio leaving the following children: by her first husband, George Ward, she left David Ward and George Ward; by her second husband David Riffle, she left Jacob Riffle, Solomon Riffle and Nancy Hathaway wife of Thomas Hathaway.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1843 and ending November 6, 1845 the date of her death.]

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 2-page file

I do Certify that George Ward Served three Years  
a Soldier in the Eighth Virginia Regiment of Continental  
Forces

(Sd) [Signed]  
S/ Abra<sup>m</sup>. Hite Capt<sup>n</sup>  
8 Virg<sup>a</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>

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Del'd

S/ A. Woodrow

S/ J. Pendleton Jr.