

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Cotton (Cotten) W6727      Priscilla      fn134NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves      12/9/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

Stated Tennessee Sumner County: SS

On this the 29th day of June 1840 personally appeared before me Richard D Hobdy an acting justice of the peace of the County Court of Sumner County being a court of record of said County and State – Priscilla Cotton a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged ninety-three 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 4th 1836. That she is the widow of Thomas Cotton who was a Captain in the revolutionary war and served the United States as such and his commission appointing him Captain dated the 4th May 1780 signed by A. Nash [Abner Nash] Governor & commander in chief of North Carolina is here affixed to and accompanies this declaration. This commission was retained by her husband Thomas Cotton till his death which happened about forty-five years ago and has since been retained amongst his papers from that time to the present. She further declares in consequence of her great age and feeble condition she has not a distinct recollection of the incidents of the revolution and of the length of time of the service of her husband Thomas Cotton. She married Thomas Cotton in the year 1769 – She distinctly recollects that he was elected Captain of the Company and they marched the next day – commanded by her said husband. She sees by the commission that he and his Company were attached and belonged to the Hertford Regiment. They first marched to Wilmington in the State of North Carolina, but she cannot recollect who the General was that commanded the said Company. That her husband Thomas Cotton was taken prisoner by the British – and was retained by them as a prisoner of war for the period of seven months. That he served by land [?] three months previous to his being taken prisoner – completing a service of the said Thomas Cotton to the United States of ten months of actual service. How long in addition to this service the said Thomas Cotton held himself and Company in readiness to repel invasion and done service in the County of Hertford in which they resided she cannot distinctly recollect – but believes that he continued to do service as a Captain till the close of the war. She distinctly recollects on one occasion that he drew five hundred from the government as pay – She further declares that she further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Cotton in the year 1769 – in the summer of that year but cannot recollect the month that is the year of 1769. That her husband the said Thomas Cotton died on the 5th day of June 1795 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as

will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above mentioned before me

Test S/ Richard D Hobday, JP

S/ Priscilla Cotton, X her mark

[fn p. 5: Isaac Walton, a citizen of Sumner County Tennessee gave testimony that he was 76 years old on February 1, 1840; that he became acquainted with Thomas Cotton and his wife Priscilla in 1783 in Hertford County North Carolina; at that time they had been married for some years and had six or seven children; that Thomas Cotton was reputed to be a Captain during the revolution and had been taken prisoner by the British along with one George Perry who is now dead; that he, the affiant moved to Sumner County Tennessee in 1786 and that Captain Thomas Cotton and his wife Priscilla moved there in 1791; that Captain Thomas Cotton died June 5 1795; that affiant served as one of the executors of his estate; that as of the date of death of Captain Thomas Cotton they had the following children under the age of 16: John Cotton, Noah Cotton and Arthur Cotton who yet reside in the County of Sumner; Allen Cotton who resides in Davidson County Tennessee; Alexander Cotton and Sally Cotton both of Sumner County and both since deceased; that in addition Thomas and Priscilla had the following children who were over the age of 16 at the time of the death of their father, to wit: Mary Foxall of Sumner County who is now 70 years old; Moon Cotton [could be Moore Cotton] who died in Sumner County in 1836; Betsy Cotton who died at about seven years of age and has been dead upwards of 56 years; Talitha Ore who resides in the state of Illinois and is now 62 years of age.]

[Others giving supporting affidavit include Mary Grambling, aged 77 who knew the veteran and his wife in Hertford County North Carolina in 1780; John Cryer, aged 70 as of July six, 1840 who first became acquainted with the veteran and his wife in 1791 in Sumner County as well as with George Perry; that both Perry and Captain Thomas Cotton were reputed in the neighborhood to have been soldiers of the revolution; Elizabeth Daniel, 88, states that she was present at the marriage of the veteran and his wife; that they were married by Parson Curley in 1769, that she, affiant had a brother Jesse Knite who was a soldier and Captain Cotten's Company and served under him]

[fn p. 10]

Priscilla Cotton aged 93 years after being duly sworn deposeseth and saith the statement of Isaac Walton Esquire in relation to the number and ages of her children and how old they were in June 1795 and where they resided was read over to her and the same is correct and she adopts it as her own. She further states that she was married to the said Thomas Cotton in the year 1769 in Hertford County State of North Carolina by a Minister of the Gospel what his name was she cannot recollect she recollects that he preached in St. John's Chapel the day he married them. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th of June 1840.

S/ Priscilla Cotton, X her mark

[fn p. 17: on April 15, 1851, in Davidson County Tennessee, Allen Cotton, administrator of the estate of Priscilla Cotton, deceased, filed a claim stating that Priscilla Cotton the widow of Captain Thomas Cotton died November 1, 1843; that they only children of the veteran and his widow who survived the death of the widow were Noah Cotton, aged 67 residing in Sumner County Tennessee and Allen Cotton, the affiant, now a resident of Davidson County Tennessee and about 70 years old on the 12th day of March last.]

[facts in file: Mary Foxall was dead by 1851 survived by one child Hardy M. Crier; Sally Cotton married \_\_ Strother and died in Sumner County Tennessee prior to June 29, 1840 leaving heirs but none are named in the material in the file.]

[fn p. 34]

No. 5356 State of No. Carolina 22 Dec.r 1783

As Auditors for the District of Wilmington

This is to Cedrtifie that Whitaker Red was

Allowed the sum of two pounds four

Shillings Specie for his Services in the militia

as Returned in Pay Roll No. 3210 S/ Thos Sewell

S/ Lewis Holmes, Clk S/ W. Dickson

No. 5356 State of N. Carolina 22 Dec. 1783  
As Auditors for the District of Wilmington  
This is to Certifie that Whitaker Red was  
Allowed the sum of two pounds four  
Shillings Specie for his Services in the militia  
as Returned in Pay Roll No. 3210 Thos Sewell  
Lewis Holmes Clk W. Dickson

No 4873 State of North Carolina 24 Sepr 1783

As Auditors for the District of Wilmington

This is to Certify that Danl McNeal was allowed


the Some of Nine pounds Nine Shillings Specie

for his Services in the Militia as returned

in pay roll No. 2740 S/ Thos Sewell


S/ Lewis Holmes, Clk S/ Thos. Routlidge

No 2973 State of North Carolina 25th Feb 1783  
 As witness for the District of Wilmington  
 This is to certify that *David M. Neal* was allowed  
 the Sum of *Three hundred* Nine *Shillings* Due  
 for his Services in the Militia as *Adjutant*  
 in *pay* *State* *No 2973*  
*Leaves* *Witness* *Ch* *J. C.*  
*29th Feb*

  
*Thos. Rutledge*  
*Thos. Rutledge*

[fn p. 38: Cotton's commission]

State of North-Carolina.  
 To *Thomas Cotton* Gent. Greeting  
 WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism,  
 Valour, Conduct, and Fidelity, do by these Presents constitute  
 and appoint you to be *Captain of a Company of foot*  
*in the Stafford Regiment of Militia*  
 You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of  
*Captain*  
 by exercising and well disciplining the Officers and Soldiers under your  
 Command, and by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereunto  
 belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Sol-  
 diers under your Command to be obedient to your Orders as  
*Captain*  
 And you are to observe and follow such  
 Orders and Directions, from Time to Time, as you shall receive from  
 your superior Officers, according to the Rules and Directions of military  
 Discipline, and the Laws of this State.  
 WITNESS *ABNER NASH*, Esquire, Governor, Captain-General,  
 and Commander in Chief, in and over the said State, under his Hand,  
 and Seal *at Newbern* the *Eleventh*  
 Day of *May* Anno Dom. 1780 and in the *fourth*  
 Year of our Independence.



[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for her said husband's service as a Captain in the North Carolina militia.]

[misc. notes: this file contains a 4-page letter (fn pp. 63-67) dated July 17, 1851, from then NC Comptroller, William J. Clarke giving his opinion as the latest date services were rendered by NC men in the revolution. He places the date in late 1783 and cites statements by Secretary of State William Hill (then 'upwards of 70') to the effect that Hill's father served as a chaplain to an expedition in 1783 against "the Tory marauders and Indians."]