

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Thomas W876

Catharine Thomas

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/30/11: rev'd 4/27/16

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 13]

State of Tennessee Bledsoe County: County Court: May Session 1833

On this thirteenth day of May personally appeared in open court before the justices of the County Court of Bledsoe County now sitting, John Thomas a resident of Bledsoe County and State of Tennessee aged Seventy-two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June seventh 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the County of Frederick and State of Virginia, he was drafted and served as a private in the militia for three several tours of three months each, making in all nine months service. The first tour he served under Captain Isaac Reynolds who was a merchant in Winchester, at which place he was stationed most of his first tour & until a garrison was established six or seven miles from Winchester at Walter Denton's to where he was removed & served out his tour, and received a written discharge from Captain Reynolds. ___ Blackburn was orderly Sergeant in Captain Reynolds Company he was employed during this tour in guarding British, Hessians & Tory prisoners.

The second tour declarant served under Captain ___ Jenkins and was part of the time stationed at the garrison at Denton's in Frederick County from which place he was marched as part of a guard from there to Philadelphia with some British and Hessian prisoners. He was stationed at the garrison at Philadelphia about a week. Captain Jenkins then returned to Frederick County. Declarant was in feeble health when he started for Philadelphia which grew worse & worse until about the time the companies crossed the Potomac River returning, when he was left, being entirely unable to proceed any further. Deponent's father lived in Frederick County to whom he sent word of his sickness by John Shriver one of his messmates, and who went after him and took him home. His time had expired and on passing through Winchester with his father he met with Captain Jenkins who gave him a written discharge.

The third tour he served under Captain Ellis Cackly [Ellis Cockley?, there was an officer from the Frederick County Militia named Jacob Cockley but I could not find an officer named Ellis Cackly, Cackley, Cockly or Cockley in any of the resources available to me] and was again under him employed in guarding the prisoners at the garrison at Denton's (which was called Winchester Garrison) and at which Colonel Joseph Holmes who lived in Winchester, had the command. During this tour he was marched guarding the prisoners into the state of Maryland under the command of Captain Cackley and Colonel Holmes – from there he returned to Winchester & received a written discharge from Captain Cackley which terminated declarant's

services. He cannot from defect of memory tell the year or years in which he served, but knows that it was in the 17th, 18th & 19th years of his age or in some two or three years. He states that he has now no documentary evidence nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

He was born in Frederick County and State of Virginia on the 25th day of November 1760 according to the register kept by his father in a large family Bible which is now in declarant's possession. He was living in Frederick County State of Virginia when called into the service & continued to live there during the revolutionary war. Shortly thereafter he removed to Shenandoah County Virginia where he lived about six years, from there he moved to Washington County State of Tennessee where he lived about a year, from there to Jefferson County Tennessee where he lived about eleven years, from there he moved to this (Bledsoe) County where he has lived for about twenty-four or five years and where he still resides. He was called into the service by being drafted. He has stated the names of his officers as well as he can now remember them. He received three written discharges but is wholly unable to state what has become of them. He does not recollect to have seen them in more than forty years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

He states that he is known in his present neighborhood to John Dalton a clergyman and Isaac Stephens & George Jones who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John Thomas, X his mark

[John Dalton, a clergyman, Isaac Stephens & George F. Jones gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9: On September 4, 1843, Catherine Thomas, aged about 84 [number of very smudged and could be just about any other number ending in a 4] filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Thomas, deceased, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$30 per annum; that she married him about the month of March 1789; that her husband died January 25, 184?¹ [last digit unclear]. She signed her application with her mark]

[p 8: On September 14, 1843 in Bledsoe County Tennessee, Bird Thomas verified the family record now in possession of Catharine Thomas widow of John Thomas deceased giving the ages of their children.

 Bird Thomas]

[pp 11-12 Family Record: very compromised and only legible in bits and pieces. What follows is what little I can make out



...aham [Abraham]² Thomas was Born
in the year of our Lord 1789

Elizabeth Thomas was Born ...
20th in the year of our Lord 1791

Margaret Thomas was Born Feby
25th in the year of our Lord ...

Andrew Thomas was Born ...
25th in the year of our Lord...

Lydia Thomas was Born Jany the 26th in
the year of our Lord ...

Bird Thomas was Born Jany [?] 9th in the
year of our Lord 180?

Claricy³ Thomas was Born Dec....in the
year of our Lord



.....

.....

Catharine Shewmake was B....
8th in the year of our Lord

Isaac Gore Shewmake was born Tuesday
19 January in the year of our Lord 1813
about Day ...

Ellis Thomas
was Born 27th Sept 1786



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for nine months service as a private in the Virginia service. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing March 4th, 1843.]

² Thanks to Gregory Scott Miller for suggesting that the name of the first listed child is "Abraham"

³ Again, thanks to Mr. Miller for calling a transcription error of this child's name to my attention.