

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Evans W923 Jane Evans VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } SS

Fentress County } on this the 16th day of July AD 1838 personally appeared before me Joseph Upchurch a Justice of the peace for said county Jane Evans aged eighty one years from her best information having no record of her age and after being duly sworn according to law for that purpose doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed the 4th July 1836

That she is the widow of Thomas Evans who was a private in the army of the Revolution that her said deceased husband Thomas Evans entered the Service of the United States, in Prince Edward County state of Virginia that she was well acquainted with him at the time of his first entering service engaged in the Service in said County she thinks under a Capt John Morton in the spring of year one thousand seven hundred & seventy seven [see endnote] as well as she now recollects and marched off from Prince Edward Courthouse as a Listed Soldier under Continental officers in the Listed continental line and served for the term of two years that her brother by the name of James Howerton [pension application S38836] went with said Thomas Evans dureing which time she was still informed that they were at deferent place and states and the lower parts of Virginia and on the Sea Coast, and that after a lapse of Two years that Thomas Evans her late husband together with her Brother James Howerton returned together to Prince Edward County Virginia and was frequently about the house of her Father and had been frequently there before he went to the army and after returning frequently was speaking both him and her brother of events in there late excersion She recollects that Both of them had written discharges for there tours being performed but what has become of her husbands discharge at this time she cannot tell nor how long it has been lost, not thinking any about it until lately nor not calculateing on it doeing her any good, but shortly after there return from the army that her and the said Thomas Evans was married which was on the 24th day of December one thousand seven hundred & eighty in the county of Prince Edward (State of Virginia by John Mackelroy a baptist minister by the publication of Banns, that shortly after [sic] her marriage with the said Thomas Evans as aforesaid that he volunteered to serve a three months tour under Capt Trigg his first name she beliefs was Abram [Abraham Trigg of the Montgomery County Militia] and was commanded by Major Clويد [sic: Joseph Cloyd] as she understood and went to North Carolina was in skirmish at or near the Shallow ford of the Yadkin River [14 Oct 1780] and after performing one three months tour and returned home, and to again in the next spring season in the latter part of April or forepart of May again volunteered and served she thinks under the same Capt but is not positive she thinks he was from Bedford County went to the great Swamps to the Tar Yard Babbs fields [Babb's Old Field near South Quay in present Suffolk City] and served a three months tour as she always understood and beliefs and was discharged in some way knows not whether written or verbal – then he again volunteered in a short time after his return home and went on to Petersburg or Williamsburg and finally went to the Seage of York [siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] she thinks under Capt Wood though she thinks Wood was ondly Lieutent when they started from home and was promoted to the office of Capt after they started She thinks perhaps Trigg was again Capt and was perhaps promoted himself after starting but is not Certin that it was precisely arranged in that way but was informed of some changing of officers She recollects of several of there County men and of her neighbours returning before her husband who informed her that he was guarding the Brittish Army that he finally returned haveing performed the third, three months tour as she then understood and yet beliefs all of which she state from her husbands statements to her concerning the deferent marches and officers Battles &c and from her own knowledge of his starting and returning
After the War her and her now Deceased husband removed to Montgomery County State Virginia remained there for many years thence removed to Overton County Tennessee which is now called

Fentress County Tennessee which late County has since been organized – that her and the said Thomas Evans as aforesaid continued to live together as husband and wife in the county of Fentress State of Tennessee until the 25th day of October 1832 [see endnote] at which time he died at home in Fentress County State of Tennessee he was then verry old and frail as she knows that he used to tell her that he was about Ten years older then her and died verry suddenly was taken when eating breckfast and appeared to be verry much choaked and died and died in that way – and that she has remained in Fentress County State of Tennessee ever since has still remained a widow ever since his death as will more fully appear from the proof hereto annexed

And that from her extreme old age and consequent loss of memory together with her limited chances of knowing more about dates and officers marches &c haveing no record or documentary evidence of her age or his Servise neither can she state how many written discharges he ever had she has none of them now in possession but is quit certain of the date of her marriage with the said Thomas Evans and of the day of his death as a record of his death is in the family nor dose she know of any person certain by whom she can possitively prove his Servise she can prove by John Rhodas Clergyman & William Riley Major Abner Davidson & Major Evan D Frogge all of the county of Fentress & state of Tennessee that her late husband Thomas Evans was spoken of amongs his acquaintances as haveing been a Soldier of the Revolution and Reputed and believed to be such, and frequently spoke of his sevice in the War of the Revolution to his neighbours and friends and was a man that was believed in common conversation and that she has always dureing there acquaintance been Reputed as the wife of the said Thomas Evans and lived togeth as such til the death of the said Thomas and that she is and has been dureing there acquaintance with her called a woman of truth and verasity and that her statements are entitled to full credit and that from old age and consequently from her bodily infirmity the she is unable to attend court or to go from home it is most convenient to have her business transacted before Esq Joseph Upchurch at her own house

She hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the presant and declares that her name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State or Territory of the United States sworn to and Subscribed the day and date above written Jane herXmark Evans

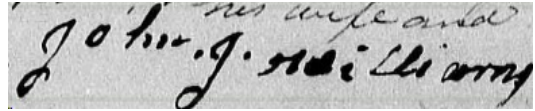
[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Tennessee } ss
Morgan County }

on this the 25th day of May 1839 Personally appeared before me James B. Jones a Justice of the peace in and for said County John J. Williams [pension application R19099] a Revolutionary Pensioner of Morgan County whose statements are entitled to full credit, and after being duly sworn for the purpose, on his oath states, that he was intimately acquainted with Thomas Evans and his wife and family from the year 1812 or about that time, living in one mile of them, and was intimately acquainted with them untill about fourteen years last past and that he affiant and said Thomas Evans now dead often was in conversation about the Revolutionary War, that he recollects hearing him speak of being in the service in the Early part of the war, and of being on the sea costs and particularly of being in the service at a battle on the Yadkin River against the tories witness distinctly recollects often hearing said Thomas Evans speak of being in said engagement under the command of Major Cloid and fought the tories and defeated them they [Tories] were under the command of Col [Gideon] Wright this tour of service is more distinct recollected by witness on account of said Evans telling particularly the circumstances of the battle and of his becoming acquainted with affiants brother in said Tour and of things tending beyond doubt to show that he Evans did know his witness's Brother namely Jacob Williams witness understands from the account he has of the Periods of the said Evans service that it was in the year of 1781 [sic] this tour was performed, witness recollects that said Evans often spoke of being at the sea costs and of being at Norfolk and York Siege at surrender of Corn Wallis Witness distinctly Recollects of hearing said Thomas Evans say that he was a married man and a house keeper before the end of the Revolutionary war, and that he served after his marriage with his then wife, and knows from every information that he

never had any other wife

Said Thomas Evans lived on Wolf River in Overton County Tennessee, now included in Fentress County Tennessee, said Evans emigrated from Montgomery County (Virginia) as witness understood from him and from his wife and family

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John G. McMillan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent 'J' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

NOTES:

James Howerton in his own pension application stated that he enlisted in Dec 1775 and served until after the Battle of Monmouth, 28 Jun 1778.

On 16 July 1838 Thomas Evans, Jr, about 45, stated that the marriage of his parents, Thomas and Jane Evans, occurred at the time stated, as calculated from the age of his oldest sister. He stated that "he has also heard his Father and Uncle Samuel Evans speak of the servise of them both and heard the said Samuel advise the said Thomas to apply for a pension and stated that he cold swear to facts of the same he states that he is informed that Samuel Evans now lives in the state of Missouria and that the said Samuel said that his brother Thomas was entitled under the act of 1818 [providing pensions to impoverished Continental veterans] but his Father did not apply under any provision."

On 26 Oct 1838 Samuel Evans of Roane County TN made a statement about the service of his brother, Thomas Evans, as described in the pension application of Jane Evans. Samuel Evans was said to be a pensioner, but I could find no pension application for Revolutionary-War service. A letter dated 9 April 1839 states that Samuel Evans was living "about five miles from Philadelphia in Tennessee and near a little town or cluster of houses called Slab town," and that he was considerably younger than his brother, Thomas. On 15 May 1839 Jane Evans described Samuel Evans as "a wooden leged man of one leg."

On 15 May 1839 Susannah Evans, 41, ninth child of Thomas and Jane Evans, certified the statements in her mother's declaration. On the same day Nancy Riley stated that she had often heard Thomas Evans speak of his service, including "being engaged in a battle at a sinkhole kind of a place at or near the Shallow ford of the yadkin River."

On 20 Sep 1839 Jane Evans, 82, made a declaration similar to the above but changing the date of Thomas Evans's death to 24 Oct 1828.