

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Widow's Pension Application for Thomas Ray, W-9614

Transcribed by David Ross

Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray's widow's deposition and the supporting deposition of her brother John Pearce document the service of Thomas Ray and a number of his kin and neighbors in Wake and Franklin counties, NC.

Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray's Deposition

State of Indiana

Shelby County, SS:

On this ninth day of May in the year eighteen hundred and forty-two, Before the Probate Court in and for this County aforesaid now in session, personally appeared Elizabeth Ray a resident of Addison Township in the County aforesaid aged Seventy five (or seventy six) 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 7th 1838.

That She was married to Thomas Ray in the county of Franklin in the State of North Carolina in the Latter part of the Winter in the year (she believes) seventeen hundred and Eighty two, or 83, by a magistrate whose name was Tanner Alfred (or Allford) She also believes that said Allford was a Major in the Revolutionary War---The Maiden name of this deponent was Elizabeth Pearce---The said Thomas Ray, the late husband of this applicant, Served as this applicant verily believes in the Revolutionary War in the following manner,---The said Thomas Ray about the year 1799 Resided with his father in Wake County North Carolina near the line of Franklin County in the same State, and was drafted to Serve in the army operating in the South, the said Thomas was not then of proper age to be compelled to serve, but went into the service and served according to said draft, which was for the period of three months, after that term expired, without returning home he hired as a substitute and served another campaign of three months in the place and stead of Jacob Wheeler, and after that campaign expired, the said Thomas was again drafted into the Service, and Served successively in five campaigns of three months each, making in all the time he served twenty-one months to the best of the recollection of this applicant. The said Thomas returned home to see his father's family & friends between each of the campaigns above mentioned (except between the first & second) and this affiant Saw him at each time he so returned home---This affiant resided at that time with her father's family, on a plantation adjoining to the plantation of Said Thomas' father except that a creek being the line dividing Wake & Franklin Counties ran between them--This deponent cannot State the Countries or places through which he passed, but she always understood that he served in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and that he was in various skirmishes and with and against the Tories at or near Bell's Mills on Deep River, and was in the Battle with & against the British at Eutaw Springs, and in that battle was slightly wounded in the neck and foot by Shots from the British, the scars of which wound he distinctly retained during his life---He served under the following officers to wit: General

Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], Major McLeary, Captain Samuel Sharp. This applicant does not know whether any change of officers took place during the time of his service,---during the first Campaign the said Thomas on account of the youth served generally as a waiter, and afterward, during the residue of the time as a Common Soldier. The last time he returned home from that Service, he brought with him one of the Red coats said to have belonged to the British. This applicant believed that his services terminated Soon after the battle at Eutaw Springs and She believes it was in the month of August, and in the year 1781 but she is not positive as to the time, particularly of the year She is not certain, as She has no record of the time, or of the age of herself or her marriage, nor does she know of any document, or any other certain evidence of the Service of said Thomas Ray. This deponent does not know positively of her own knowledge, as to the Services of Said Thomas as above mentioned, and knows of and verily believes the same only from the fact of her near residence to and intimate acquaintance with said Thomas before and during the time & since said Service, the Statements of Said Thomas concerning the Same, and the General Conversation of the neighborhood on the subject at that time & Since, and the conversations of those of the neighborhood who Served, some with him and others about the same time, among whom were the following persons to wit, of those regularly enlisted, John Segraves Senr & Hudson Ray (the last named was Brother to said Thomas & was wounded in the Battle at Eutaw Spring and died in the Hospital).----The names of the Militia who served of the neighborhood were Charles Ray, (He was taken prisoner by the British at some time before the above named battle and died with the smallpox while a prisoner), Daniel Ray, Jesse Burr (was also a prisoner with Charles Ray but returned), John Pearce, William Wheeler, John Segraves Jun, Philbert Pearce, John Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Alexander Tomblin, Anderson Nunery (?) Richard Pierce, James Pearce & Joseph Parr.

This applicant further says that after the last period of the Service of said Thomas Ray as above mentioned, She was married to said Thomas Ray as above stated but she is not certain as to the year mentioned as to said marriage but believes it to have been early in 1782---but at the time of said marriage She was in her Sixteenth Year---The said Thomas and this applicant as his wife moved from said Franklin County to Randolph and Thence to Rowan County in the Same State & from thence to the State of Indiana about the year 1822. The said Thomas & this applicant always lived together as Husband & wife from the time of said marriage until the death of said Thomas, which was on the 16 day of November in the year 1829 in the County of Shelby, Indiana, since which time she has never been married to any other person. They have had a family of 7 children, 6 of whom are now living, the oldest of whom is Hudson Ray (now about 59 or 60 years of age next August) & the second James Ray now fifty seven years of age (in January last) both of whom reside in this county of Shelby & with whom she lives---

her
Elizabeth Ray
mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written, before Jacob Kennerly Judge of the Probate Court of said County in open Court

(signed) Jacob Kennerly Judge Probate Court Cty

And the said Jacob Kennerly Judge of the Court aforesaid does hereby declare his opinion

after the investigation of the matters set forth in the above declaration, That Thomas Ray, the late husband of the above applicant, was a revolutionary soldier, and served as stated by the above applicant. And the Court further certifies that he has been acquainted with the Said Applicant and several of her Children for Several years, particularly with Hudson & James Ray, the latter of whom is a respectable clergyman in the Methodist Church---and that Said applicant is a person of respectability and her statement entitled to full credit.

(signed) Jacob Kennerly Judge Probate C.S. Cty

I, Sylvan B. Morris Clerk of the Shelby Circuit Court and Ex-officio Clerk of the Probate Court of Said County of Shelby, in the State of Indiana, do hereby Certify that the foregoing Contains the original proceedings of the said Probate Court in the matter of the application of Elizabeth Ray for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of Said Probate Court at Shelbyville this Ninth day of May A.D. 1842.

(signed) Sylvan B. Morris, Clerk

Deposition of John Pierce

State of Indiana Hancock county Be it known on this the 18th day of May in the year 1842 Before me Andrew F. Hatfield a Justice of the Peace of Said county of Hancock personally appeared John Pierce a resident of Said county aged 76 years of Sound mind and memory who being by me duly Sworn on his oath Saith that he is the brother of Elizabeth Ray of Shelby county Indiana who is the widow of Thomas Ray deceased who died in Said county of Shelby Twelve years ago last fall during the revolutionary war and from the earliest recollection of this deponant he resided in the county of Franklin near the line of wake county in the State of North Carolina with his fathers family and a near neighbour to the father and family of Said Thomas Ray while the Said war was raging in Carolina and other Southern States about the fall of the year 1779 and when this deponant was a lad he thinks about 13 or 14 years of age the Said Thomas Ray being thereabout two years or upwards older than this deponant he the Said Thomas was drafted to Serve in the army for 3 months it was understood at that time among the family and neighbours that Said Thomas was not quite of Sufficient age to be drafted but his father did not go to prove his age and he Thomas went with Several others of the neighbours and Served and when his term expired he hired as a Substitute for one of the neighbours Jacob Wheeler for 3 months and after that time was out he returned home but was very Soon called out again and went Still on from one campaign to another till the war was about threw in that part of the country I think he must have served in all near two years from the general conversation and report in the neighbourhood he was in the battle at Eutaw Springs he came home Soon after that battle with a Slight wound on his neck and another on his foot he brought home one of the red coats of the brittish there ware Several persons who I know out in the Service at the Same time to wit---John Segraves Sen, John Segraves Jun, Charles Ray, Hudson Ray, Jesse buh (sic, Booe) John Pierce, Richard Pierce, William Wheeler, Shadrach Medlin, Philbert Peirce, John Rainwater, Anderson Nunery, James Peirce, Joseph Perry, Roger Craig, Andrew Jackson, John Martin, Starling Cooper, Tanner Alford who was a Mager in the Service I do not know where any of these persons are or wheather any of then are living Except I have had a late account from Andrew Jackson he was yet alive at that time

Hudson Ray was wounded in battle and died in the hospital and Charles Ray died a prisoner with the British they were both Brothers to Said Thomas the next winter after the war was over in those parts the Said Thomas Ray and my Sister Elizabeth was Married at my fathers residence in Franklin county by Tanner Alford a Magistrate I was present and Saw them Married they lived Together until the death of Said Thomas Ray as above mentioned they had Several children to wit—Hudson Ray, James Ray, Gilley Ray, Sarah Ray, Susanna Ray, Martha Ray, and Chaney Ray this deponent cannot State positively that he is exactly correct as to the dates or as to his own age or the age of said Thomas Ray the family Records of this deponents father and family was given up in the time of the war to be Sold to pay expences of the war this deponent remembers that Some man came to his fathers house for money or property for that purpose and his father had nothing for them but the Bible which he Gave up and that had the record of their ages in it Elizabeth the widow of Said Thomas is about Two years older than this deponent

his
(Signed) John Pierce
mark

Witnesses---
Wiley Wray
James M. McCorkhill (?)

Sworn to and Subscribd the day and year first above written-----Andrew F. Hatfield
Justice of the Peace