

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Porter X597

f6VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/14: rev'd 5/8/18

[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 5]

Whynot, State of Mis., Febr. 28th 1855

Respected Sir

Having learned on yesterday that a bounty or pension belonging to the heirs of Thomas Porter formerly of Virginia, who served as a Captain in the Virginia Rangers (if I mistake not) during the revolution, was at Washington City, I take the privilege to address my inquiry into the matter to you – believing that Congress would have ended her Session before a letter from me could possibly reach one of our members from this State (Mississippi). Thomas Porter died in Wilkes County Geo [Georgia], I married his daughter, She is the only heir that survive him, that we know of, – We all poor with a large family of children, I wish to learn of you how I must proceed in order to get the money, I should not have thus troubled you could a letter have reached General A. G. Brown¹ or Barksdale² before they left Washington City, Ex. Gov. Brown knows me and would have taken a pleasure in doing me this service, should this letter fortunately reach you before the rising of Congress, and a press of business should make this a burden to you, do me the favor to make known to Ex. Gov. Brown my desire. I live in Lauderdale County

¹ BROWN, Albert Gallatin, a Representative and a Senator from Mississippi; born in Chester District, S.C., May 31, 1813; moved with his parents to Copiah County, Miss., in 1823; attended Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and Jefferson College, Washington, Miss.; studied law; admitted to the bar in 1833 and commenced practice in Gallatin, Miss.; member, State house of representatives 1835-1839; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-sixth Congress (March 4, 1839-March 3, 1841); declined to be a candidate for renomination in 1840; judge of the circuit superior court 1842-1843; Governor of Mississippi 1844-1848; elected to the Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Thirty-second Congresses (March 4, 1847-March 3, 1853); chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia (Thirty-first Congress); was not a candidate for reelection in 1852; elected to the United States Senate in 1854 to fill the vacancy in the term beginning March 4, 1853; reelected in 1859 and served from January 7, 1854, until January 12, 1861, when he withdrew; seat declared vacant by Senate resolution on March 14, 1861; chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia (Thirty-fourth through Thirty-sixth Congresses), Committee on Enrolled Bills (Thirty-sixth Congress); during the Civil War entered the Confederate Army as a captain; elected a member of the Confederate Senate in 1862 and served in the First and Second Confederate Congresses; engaged in agricultural pursuits; died near Terry, Hinds County, Miss., June 12, 1880; interment in Greenwood Cemetery, Jackson, Miss.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000900>

² BARKSDALE, William, (brother of Ethelbert Barksdale), a Representative from Mississippi; born in Rutherford County, Tenn., August 21, 1821; attended the University of Nashville; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1839 and commenced practice in Columbus, Lowndes County, Miss.; for a time was editor of the Columbus Democrat; served in the Mexican War as quartermaster of the Mississippi Volunteers; delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Baltimore in 1852; elected as a Democrat to the Thirty-third and to the three succeeding Congresses and served from March 4, 1853, until January 12, 1861, when he withdrew; entered the Confederate Army during the Civil War as colonel of the Thirteenth Regiment of Mississippi Volunteers; promoted to the rank of brigadier general on August 12, 1862; commanded a Mississippi brigade in Longstreet's corps; killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 2, 1863; interment in Greenwood Cemetery, Jackson, Miss.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000147>

Mississippi, Whynot P. O. - with a prayer to Almighty God for help to sustain you as the head of this great Republic in carrying out the purposes for which we elected you, I subscribed myself your humble Servant hoping that my request will not be burdensome to you.

S/ Benj. F. Willis, M. G. [Benjamin F Willis, Minister of the Gospel]
[To His Excellency F. Pierce [Franklin Pierce], President U. S., Washington City, D. C.]

Whynot, State of Miss, Febr 28th 1855
Respected Sir

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hoping that my request will not be burdensome to you
Benj. F. Willis, M. G.

Pension Office March 20, 1855

Sir,

Your wife is not entitled to Bounty Land for the services of her father Thomas Porter,
Minor children only being entitled,

[not signed]

Benjamin F. Willis Esq.

Whynot, Miss.

[Note: I (Will Graves) think it possible that the Thomas Porter referred to in this file MIGHT be the same man who gave an affidavit in support of a pension claim filed in Wilkes County, GA, in 1818 by [Joseph Payne Johnson S38095](#).]