

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Bernard W5815

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Ohio                    }

Highland County Ss        }

At a term of the Court of Common Pleas holden at Hillsborough in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Barnard aged Sixty one years on solemn oath declares that he was born in Cumberland County and State of Virginia that he belonged to Captain Flemings [Charles Fleming's] Company of the seventh regiment and Virginia line in General Woodfords [William Woodford's] brigade, that he entered the service about the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in the year 1776 – that he left the service in the month of March 1780 under a regular discharge from Colonel Frebecker [sic: Christian Febiger]. That he hereby relinquishes all right or interest that he may have been entitled to from any former pension allowed by his government. That he is in reduced circumstances, old, and infirm and needs the assistance of the country for support. That he is now a resident of the County of Highland and State of Ohio – [signed] Thos Benard

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 25 day of May 1818.

[Richard Bernard, brother of the applicant, stated that he knew that Thomas Bernard had served for about four years.]

[Capitalization partly corrected]

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1820 personally appeared In open Court of common pleas Being a Court of Record Held at Hillsborough In and for The County of Highland and State of Ohio – Thomas Bernard aged sixty three years resident in said county who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows towit That he enlisted in the spring of 1776 under Capt. Chas. Fleming of the 7 Virg. Reg't. to serve two years & after serving one year reenlisted under the same captain for three years & was discharged at Philledelphia in the spring of 1780 by Col Febiger. Original declaration made on the fifteenth day of May 1818 pension certificate dated on the fifth day of March 1819 No. 7243 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule of property – One horse value twelve dollars five head of cattel large & small value 30 doll's five head of sheep. Nineteen head of small hoggs. two kettels one pot one oven one cupboard one table five chairs six knives & forks Value thirty four dollars

The declarent is by trade a carpenter but from age and age & infirmity is unable to do any kind of labour He has a wife who is also old and infirm and eight children two sons who are of age and doing for themselves – one son about twenty years of age one daughter married and four daughters with him the youngest of whome is seven years old. [signed] Thomas Bernard

NOTES:

On 31 May 1850 George W. Bernard, about 51, applied for the pension that his mother had failed to apply for as the widow of Thomas Bernard. He stated that his father married Mary Hicks in Goochland County VA in 1792, and they lived in that county until 1807, when they moved to Highland County. Besides himself, they had the following children: Elizabeth Smithson, about 58; John Bernard, about 56;

Sarah Morris, about 54; Thomas Bernard, about 49; Mary Underwood, about 45; Susan Bernard, who married Samuel Rees but died some years before, leaving children named Mary Ellen, Thomas, Harriett, John, and Samuel Rees; and Nancy Bernard, about 38, wife of Thomas Riley. All were living in Highland and Clinton counties except for John, who lived in Illinois. Joseph Hoskins stated that Thomas Bernard had died at the home of his son-in-law, Samuel Rees, and that full names of some of the spouses of the above children were Francis N. Smithson, William Morris, John Underwood, and Thomas Riley. George W. Bernard stated that his father had died on 12 June 1833, leaving Mary Bernard as his widow residing with her children until her death on 6 May 1847. The file contains a copy of the marriage bond signed on 28 Dec 1792 by Thomas Bernard and with Joseph Mangum as surety. Also in the file is the following minister's return by Rev. Lewis Chaudoin of Goochland County: "March the 1 day 1792, I married William Henderson to Peggy An Holman.) November the 1 day 1792, I married David Saunders to Betsey Page) November the 2 day 1792, I married Frederick Layne to Judith Barker) November the 3 day 1792, I married David Alvis to Lucy Houchins) December the twenty ninth, one thousand seven hundred and ninety two, I married Thomas Bernard to Mary Hicks) The same day I married Gabiel Loving to Salley Norrell) February the 2 day 1793, I married Archer Carden to Molley Salmon) February the 14 day 1793, I married William Page to Elizabeth Witt"

On 25 Aug 1851 George W. Bernard stated that he would be about 52 in the following September, and that his mother was the daughter of Meshick Hicks and had "brothers & sisters residing in the family of said Meshick Hicks & John Hicks who had married & lived to himself." He also stated that his mother had been very frail for many years before her death, which occurred at the house of her son-in-law, Mr. Smithson, who was his near neighbor. He stated that his mother "was buried without any ceremony the next day after her death by her family & friends without any officiating Minister." On the same date Mary Bernard, 76, stated that in 1778 while residing in Rockbridge County VA with the maiden name Mary Walker, she married Richard Bernard, brother of Thomas Bernard.