

Pension Application for James Thornton

W.18137 (Widow: Antie or Anita)

Jefferson County

Town of Philadelphia SS.

Dorcus Wright of Philadelphia aforesaid being duly sworn before me the undersigned a justice of the peace of said county, doth depose and on her said oath says. That she is the oldest daughter of Ann Thornton, whose maiden name was Ann Schermerhorn. That her father's name was James Thornton, they lived four miles west of Schenectady.

That her father was engaged in the Revolutionary Army as a private soldier and was absent from home most of the time during the war of the revolution, that he was not much at home except occasionally in the winters. That he was in the company of Captain David McMaster. The he was engaged in the battle of Oriskany and Cherry Valley. That his service was as a militia [militia] man, and the company to which he belonged was actively engaged in defending the settlements in Florida and Amsterdam from the attacks of British and Indians and Tories.

That she distinctly remembers her father taking a chest containing the papers relating to the farm and some other things of value and concealing the same in the woods for safety, but that notwithstanding they were destroyed and he thereby suffered considerable loss of property.

That frequently her mother and children spent the night in the woods concealed, for their safety, while her father was in the American Army and not at home to protect them.

That her mother is now about ninety three years old. (Signed with her mark.)
Dorcas Wright

Sworn and subscribed before me this 24th day of October 1892. J. J. Latimore
Justice

Letter in folder dated April 8, 1838, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your letter in which you request information in regard to James Thornton, whose widow, Anna Thornton, received a pension in 1842, aged then ninety-three years.

The data which follow are found in pension claim, W.18137, based upon service of James Thornton in the Revolutionary War; his widow, Antie (called Ann) received a pension in 1842.

James Thornton was born March 7, 1744, in Pelham, "Ray State"; he was the son of William Thornton, who was born in 1713 in County Tyrone Ireland, land his wife, Dorkos (Dorcas) Little. Said William Thornton died in 1789, and his wife died in 1763, in "Curriebush", Albany County, New York (which town was called later Princetown, Schenectady County, New York). James Thornton lived in "Curriebush" at the time of the Revolutionary War.

James Thornton enlisted sometime in 1775, served at various times until near the end of the war, amounting in all to between eight and ten months, as a private

under captains Thomas Wasson, Lansing, Jellis A. Fonda and others, in Colonel Abraham Wemple's New York regiment. During these periods of service, he was called out against the Indians frequently, was at the surrender of General Burgoyne, was at Turlock, and in the battle of Johnstown, and forts in that vicinity.

The soldier died February 27, 1815.

He married February 19, 1769, Antie (name shown also Ann and Antee), who was the daughter of Abraham Schermerhorn and his wife, Clarea; Antie was born February 3, 1749. They were married by the Presbyterian Minister of "Woestina", called later Rotterdam, New York, and the home of Hans (or John) Peek. Hans Peek and his wife, Aaron Peek and his wife, and Ryer Schermerhorn, Antie's uncle, were present at the marriage. No relationship between these persons with the surname Peek and the soldier's family was stated.

Antie Thornton, the soldier's widow, was allowed pension on her application executed August 1, 1837, at which time she resided in Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York.

In 1842, Dorcas Wright, the eldest child of James Thornton and his wife, Antie, resided in Philadelphia, Jefferson County, New York. She stated then that, while her father was away on duty during the Revolutionary War, her mother spent the night frequently with her children concealed in the woods.

In 1842, reference was made to the soldier's grandson, S. W. Sample, of Auburn or Weedsport, New York, but the names of his parents were not designated.

The names and birth of the children of James Thornton and his wife, Antie, are shown as follow:

Dorkos (Dorcas) Thornton, born May 10, 1770.

Abraham Thornton, born January 12, 1772.

Cath—n Thornton November 13, 1773.

Samuel Thornton February 3, 1773.

Margaret Thornton March 11, 1778, died Dec. 20, 1778.

William Thornton born March 11, 1778, died Oct 17, 1779.

Elizabeth Thornton born July 29, 1780.

Matthew Thornton born December 12, 1782.

Maray Thornton born September 9, 1785.

Ann Thornton born January 8, 1788.

James Thornton born May 7, 1790.

William Thornton born February 27, 1793.

Margret Thornton born April 8, 1795.

The son Abraham was born in "Woestina"; Dorcas, Cath—rn, Maray, Ann and Margret were born; in "Coris Bush"; and the others were born in "Davins (Davines) Burah". [In handwriting—"I believe this is meant for Duanesboro or Duanesburgh.]

The following was recorded also—"Thornton Ventir was born February 21, 184-."