

THOMAS TRAMMELL BIOGRAPHY

My great-great-great grandfather, Thomas Trammell the Revolutionary War soldier we are honoring here today, was born in Stafford County, Virginia in 1747.

The exact date of Thomas' birth in what is now Fairfax County, Virginia is unknown.

We are most fortunate to have the results of some great genealogical research on the Trammell family by Dr. Charles S. McCleskey. Dr. McCleskey, a descendent of Thomas Trammell, was a history professor at Louisiana State University and published a book titled, *Descendants of Thomas Trammell, Revolutionary Soldier*.

The earliest record of our Trammell family in Virginia is found in the Minutes of the General Court of Virginia dated 5 March, 1675 is this entry:

“Under oath of Captain Moore that Thomas Trammell came to this country but for four years. It is ordered that he be acquitted from service and that Mr. Francis Wyeth, his master, do pay him coin and clothes according to customs and costs”.

This indicates that a Thomas Trammell arrived in Virginia in the spring of 1670/71. It is believed that he was a young man perhaps about 20 years old having been born in England around 1650.

This Thomas Trammell settled in Stafford County and died there in 1720s.

Thomas had a son named John who had a son named Daniel who was the father of our Thomas the Revolutionary War soldier.

In early 1760, Daniel moved his family from Fairfax County, VA which is located near the present Washington, DC, to that part of South Carolina known as the Ninety Six

District and which was later renamed the Union District. The Ninety Six District is located just to the east of the present day Spartanburg, South Carolina. Daniel had drawn by patent 200 acres of land and he purchased several others acreages.

In 1774, our Thomas, the Revolutionary War soldier, bought from his father the 200 acres which had been the land awarded to the father by patent and soon married seventeen-year-old Mary Turner. Mary had been born in Hanover County, Virginia in 1757 and thus was 10 years younger than Thomas.

Thomas and Mary settled down in their log cabin located in the Ninety Six District and by early 1780 when Thomas joined the South Carolina Militia, they had three-year-old daughter Leah and a son John was born in April, of 1780 a short while after Thomas became a soldier.

We have very few records of Thomas Trammell's service in the militia which was known as the South Carolina Line except for that on pension application records filed by Mary after the death of Thomas. These records of Thomas' service were sworn to by Mary and William Turner, her brother, who served in the same company as Thomas. In fact, there were seven Turners and five Trammells serving in Hughs' Company of Brandon's Regiment.

We have pension application records that Private Thomas Trammell served in Lieutenant, later captain, Joseph Hughs' Company of Colonel Thomas Brandon's Regiment. We also have the published data from the Sons of the American Revolution that Captain Hughs' Company served in Colonel Benjamin Roebucks Regiment. Both Brandon's and Roebuck's regiments were recruited and composed of men from the Ninety Six District. All sources state that he served in Lieutenant Joseph Hughes' Company and it seems that there are listings of this company being in both Brandon's and Roebuck's regiments at one time and another during the war. The company is listed as "Mounted Rifle Horse" but the pension data states that the company sometimes served as "foot".

I have read an account in which Colonel Roebuck asked Colonel Brandon to lend him some men to fight in what became the Battle of Mudlick Creek which was also known as “Roebuck’s Defeat”. This battle was fought near Newberry, South Carolina, not too far from the Ninety Six District and this is evidently where the Sons of American Revolution data came from?

The Militiamen in these back-woods areas were part-time soldiers often spending time at home at time of planting and harvesting the crops and was often times made up of men who could be gathered together at a short notice and since both regiments were from the same militia district, men could have possibly served in each. Much of the militia’s time was spent in protecting the local rebel population from the Indians and many Tory loyalists to the King in the area.

Hughs’ Company is listed as serving under Colonel Brandon at The Battle of Kings Mountain in September, 1780 and at The Battle of Cowpens in October, 1780. At Cowpens, Brandon’s Regiment served in the Second Line of defense against the notorious Colonel Banestre Tarleton who was famous for the order, “Give no Quarter”.

At the Battle of Mudlick Creek, which was also known as Roebuck’s Defeat, fought on March 2, 1781 near the home of the Union District men, Hughs’ Company is listed as serving in Roebuck’s Regiment but later in May, 1781 at Ninety Six, it is again listed as a unit of Brandon’s Regiment.

As far as we know, Thomas was not wounded or captured during his time of service.

After the war’s end, in 1784 Thomas and his family moved to new lands in Hancock County, GA and lived there for about 13 years and then they lived in Clarke County where son John was sheriff of the county and son Farr Harris was a Colonel of the State Militia.

In 1821, a treaty with the Creek Indians ceded to the United States all the Creek lands between the Okmulgee and Flint Rivers. Several large new Georgia counties including Monroe were formed of the new lands. Soon Monroe County was split into several smaller counties including Pike. Pike County was named for General Zebulon Pike whose many accomplishments included the discovery of Pike's Peak in Colorado.

The new lands were divided by a land lottery and Thomas Trammell as a Revolutionary War veteran drew a lot. He and Mary along with their youngest son Drakeford Lee moved to the new Pike County land, traveling over the old Alabama Road. Their new home and property was in the part of Pike County which soon would become part of an even newer county, Upson, which was created in 1824. Thomas and his son purchased additional lands and became prominent citizens in the new territory. Thomas was now about 75 years old he and Mary were sharing a home with son Drakeford Lee.

Thomas died on his farm in September, 1823 at the age of 76 years, only just over a year after he had moved to the newly opened territory. The only information we had on where Thomas Trammell was buried was in family history that he was buried in Pike County, Georgia.

His will was filed in Pike County and tells how he wanted to divided his properties which included 19 family Negroes who were never called slaves by the Trammells.

Mary and her son continued to live in Pike or Upson County after Thomas' death. Mary is listed as an Upson County land holder in 1824-25 and as living in Harrell's District. She is listed as Head of Family in the first census of Upson County in 1830.

The Trammells are listed in Carolyn Walker Nottingham's *The History of Upson County* as being one of the early white families to settle in the new Pike-Upson County lands.

With the opening of the Creek Indian lands in eastern Alabama in 1832, Mary drew a claim in what would become Chambers County. She and sons moved to the new land and purchased other nearby farming lands near Five Points.

In 1846, Mary was granted a Revolutionary War widow's pension of \$71 dollars and 35 cents per annum for as long as she remained unmarried until her death. Her brother, William Turner, swore in an affidavit that Thomas Trammell served along with him in Captain Hughs' Company, Brandon's Regiment during the Revolutionary War. Mary lived to be 94 years old and is buried in the Emory Chapel Methodist Church cemetery Chambers County.

I was accepted in the Sons of the American Revolution organization on the service of another great-great-great grandfather, Private Moses Barrow a Revolutionary War soldier from North Carolina... Moses moved from North Carolina to Washington County Georgia after the Revolutionary War and is buried in an unknown grave site somewhere along Keg Creek about midway between Sandersville and Milledgeville.

In addition to my searching for Moses Barrow's grave site, I had sought for many years to locate the grave of Thomas Trammell whom we are honoring today. We knew that Thomas was buried in either Pike or the part of Pike which became Upson County.

Last year, Carrollton's Casimir Pulaski Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution donated copies of the latest books listing Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Georgia to the Special Collections Sections of our Carrollton Region Library. I did not expect to find anything new and different regarding my soldiers but was anxious to check them out in the new books anyway. Sure enough, the information on my Moses Barrow was just what I had.

Well, I thought I will get the second volume of the books and check on my other Revolutionary soldier, Thomas Trammell, but had little expectations that there would be anything more than I had found for Moses Barrow. I almost fell out of my chair when I

read the paragraph on Thomas. It gave his service record and that he had died in Pike County, GA and was buried in the Antioch Methodist Church cemetery near U. S. Highway 19 north of Thomaston, GA.

We know that in 1823, the year of the death of Thomas Trammell, that Antioch Methodist Church was not located where we are today. One record that I have been given, states that Antioch Methodist Church was formed in 1830 and was located near the old Alabama Road. This date is several years after the death of Thomas. I expect that although the 1830 date might be correct, that there was probably some sort of church services being held before that date as the Trammell family was staunch Methodist and very religious and would certainly have been attending some kind of services. One article states that there were two Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the old Antioch Methodist Church cemetery located near the Alabama Road. Probably one of these was Thomas Trammell?

About 1835 the little log cabin church was moved the short distance south to the present location. No one seems to know exactly just where the location of the original church with its cemetery was except that it was near the old Alabama Road. Today there are no signs of the old church or its cemetery.

We have learned that there are no church records of the early years of Antioch Methodist Church with the first recorded minutes available being dated July 14, 1866 after the Civil War.

I immediately came down to Thomaston and found Antioch United Methodist Church and searched the cemetery and had no success in finding a marked grave for Thomas Trammell. There are many areas of unmarked graves and lots in the cemetery however, and I thought that he possibly could be in one of these. Also some members of the church think that years ago there were graves down in the woods north of the church as there are signs which indicate old grave sites which pre-dated the current cemetery. We do not know the exact grave site of Thomas Trammell; we believe that based on the old

SAR records that he was buried at the original Antioch Methodist Church which was located nearby.

I supplied the Veteran Administration all necessary proof that Thomas Trammell was a Revolutionary War soldier and hero and was awarded the beautiful marble marker which we will dedicate today.

On the face of the marker I had inscribed: IN MEMORY OF THOMAS TRAMMELL
PVT HUGHS CO ROEBUCKS REGT SC LINE REV WAR 1747 SEP 22
1823 This is, except for the "IN MEMORY OF", is the information which appears in the Sons of the American Revolution publication. We added the IN MEMORY OF because we of course did not know Thomas' exact burial place. On the reverse side of the marker I had inscribed the information as found on Mary's pension application: This is: ALSO SERVED IN BRANDON'S REGIMENT BATTLES OF KINGS MOUNTAIN, COWPENS, MUDLICK CREEK AND NINETY SIX.

The Church Trustees selected a lot in the older section of the cemetery where we could place the marker. I wanted my own family to be the ones to do the work placing the marker in the cemetery ground. So on a cold day in February, my wife Bonnie, my daughter Ann, my son Lew and the one who did most of the work, my grandson Jamie, a 5-great grandson of Thomas, dug a hole and placed the marker in cement.

It is difficult to describe just how happy and proud I was to learn of my Revolutionary War hero and ancestor's resting place. I want to thank the Carrollton Sons of the American Revolution Chapter for placing the new books in the library and hope that they will help others as much as they benefited me.

And I want to thank Reverend Barnes and Trustees Mr. Burl Allen and Mrs. Glenda Hill who has graciously agreed to have some refreshments for us in the fellowship hall after the ceremony.

Then, I especially must thank Mr. Eldo Ellerby my old friend who I had first known many years ago when I as a young DuPont Technical worked with him at the good old Thomaston Bleachery and Dye Works. He is a Trustee and Treasurer of Antioch Methodist Church and has seen after many details of getting this program together.

I also thank the John B. Gordon Camp of the Sons of the Confederacy for decorating the graves of the Confederate veterans buried in the Antioch cemetery.

And of course, the entire Trammell family wishes to thank all the members of the Sons of the American Revolution from Carrollton, especially Mr. George Wheelless, as well as those from all around the state and the ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution from Thomaston and other chapters for their organizing and conducting this beautiful dedication ceremony.

We appreciate and thank every one of you who came out to help us honor a soldier who fought for the opportunity for us to become a free and independent nation, under God.