

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Biecknell (Beicknell, Bicknell) R12399 Rachel (Rachael)f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/27/10 rev'd 9/3/13

[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.]

State of South Carolina District of Pickens: SS

On this third day of December 1845, personally appeared before William D Steele Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the District & State aforesaid, Mrs. Rachel Biecknell of the District & State aforesaid, aged eighty-eight years the 12th Instant, (and who the said Ordinary certifies is unable by bodily infirmity to attend in open Court) who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the third section of the Act of Congress of the 4th of July 1836.

That she is the widow of Thomas Biecknell who was a private and Lieutenant in the war of the Revolution, that she was married to the said Thomas Bricknell when in her seventeenth year, and she thinks when she had three children, her said husband entered the service under Captain Richard Allen, who was afterwards, Colonel, that they then resided in Wilkes County North Carolina and her said husband there entered the first time, and was not much at home until the close of the war, that he was at one time a volunteer & at other times drafted, and was a considerable portion of the time a Lieutenant, that she is sure he was a Lieutenant under Captain Allen at the siege at Charleston, that he marched much through North & South Carolina, and served at various times under Captain Lanore [sic, probably William Lenoir], Colonel Cleveland [probably Benjamin Cleveland]¹ & Colonel Hearne [sic, probably Benjamin Hearn], but it is impossible for her to state the particulars of his service at her advanced age.

That her husband the said Thomas Biecknell was wounded with an ounce ball in his hip in the Battle at Kings Mountain, with which wound he died, he was carried to Burke County near Morganton, to the house of Mrs. Bowman, where declarant went and waited upon him with his wound eleven weeks, at the end of which time he died. She does not know of any documentary evidence, or any evidence of any kind that she can certainly get to prove his services, but thinks an indent may have been issued to her for his services, and she recollects to have tried to get something, & thinks she did get a small sum, but does not know how.

That she was married to the said Thomas Biecknell in Wilkes County North Carolina by Squire Riggs, and she believes on the 22nd of October, as she thinks, in the year 1774, as she had three children when her husband entered the service, and when his service closed entirely she

¹ Randall Becknell suggests that this veteran may have fought under Captain John Cleveland at the Battle of Fishing Creek August 18, 1780. Since the widow states that the veteran was wounded at Kings Mountain (October 7, 1780) and died from this wound in December 1780 and since both Col. Benjamin Cleveland and Capt. John Cleveland are listed by Bobby Gilmer Moss in his *Kings Mountain Patriots* roster, it is entirely possible that this veteran served under both Benjamin and John Cleveland at Kings Mountain.

had five children and four months & fifteen days after his death her sixth child, Mary, was born, her said daughter Mary married David Roper, and she now lives with her, and on their charity. She has no record of her marriage, nor of the births of her children, they were published in church as the custom was in those days to be married, that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Biecknell died on the 31st day of December 1780, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof herewith forwarded.

S/ Rachel Biecknell, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before
S/ William D Steele, Judge

[p. 6: on September 22, 1851 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Sarah Gray, "an old and respectable lady" gave testimony that she knew Thomas Biecknell well and heard and believes that he was a soldier of the revolution; that she lived in his immediate neighborhood and knows that he was a considerable time in the service of his country; that she had a brother in the battle of Kings Mountain and recollects often of hearing her brother say that Thomas Biecknell was also in that battle and was badly wounded in his hip and never recovered; that her brother assisted in bringing Biecknell home from the battle of Kings Mountain; that she (Sarah) does not know her exact age but that her oldest child is 62 years old and that she thinks she was near 20 years old when her oldest child was born; that she thinks Thomas Biecknell was in several battles during the war.]

[p. 7: On September 22, 1851 in Wilkes County North Carolina, Captain Benjamin Parks, "an old and respectable Citizen" gave testimony that he knew Thomas Biecknell; that he believes that he was in the battle at Kings Mountain, was wounded there, brought home on a horse litter and died from his wound; He (Benjamin) states that he was born in Virginia but came to Wilkes County as a young boy and knew Thomas and Rachel Biecknell before they left the County and heard of their marriage.]

[p 13: On September 25, 1851 in McDowell County North Carolina Martha McKenzie gave testimony that she was well acquainted with Thomas and Rachel Biecknell; that Rachel was a Sparks; that she has heard that Thomas was wounded at the battle of Kings mountain, carried to Mrs. Bowman's in Burke County near Morganton where he died from his wound. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]