

**Widow's Indigent Pension Application No. 4517**  
**Sarah Rebecca Thomason, Widow of Jas. Thomason**  
**Filed Aug. 10, 12**

**Questions for Applicant**

*STATE OF TENNESSEE*

*Hamblen County.*

*Sarah Rebecca Thomason of said State and County, desiring to avail herself of the pension allowed to Indigent Widows of Soldiers, under Act of General Assembly, approved April, 1905, being Chapter 202 of the Acts of 1905, Senate Bill No. 41, Acts of 1909, and House Bill No. 14, Acts of 1911, hereby submits her proofs, and after being duly sworn true answers to make to the following questions, deposes and answers as follows:*

*1. What is our full name and where do you reside? (Give State, County and Postoffice.)*

Sarah Rebecca Thomason, Russellville, Hamblen Co., Tennessee

*2. How long and since when have you been a resident of this State?*

Since 1869

*3. When and where were you born and what was your maiden name?*

Sarah Rebecca Cavender was Born March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1840 Union Co., Georgia

*4. When and where was your husband born – state his full name, and where were you and he married, and who performed the marriage ceremony? (Attach certified copy marriage license in every case.)*

James Thomason Born February 21, 1836 Union Co., Georgia

*5. When and where and in what Company and Regiment did your husband enlist or serve during the war between the States?*

Capt. Whitehead's Co., Col. [illegible] Regt.

*6. How long did your husband serve in said Company and Regiment?*

*7. When and where did your husband's Company and Regiment surrender?*

His papers were lost and I can't answer

*8. Was your husband present at the time and place when his Company and Regiment surrendered?*

*9. If not with his command at surrender, state clearly and specifically where he was, when he left command, for what cause and by what authority?*

*10. Was your husband a pensioner or an applicant for pension under the laws of Tennessee?*

No

11. *Have you heretofore applied for a pension, in this State?*

No

12. *When and where did your husband die?*

Sept. 27 1889 Died in Tennessee

13. *At the time of your husband's death, were you living with him as his lawful wife?*

Yes

14. *Have you married since the death of your soldier husband?*

No

15. *How many children did you have by your said husband? Give sex and age at this time.*

Ten children Births occurred first Sept. 11, 1860 until 12 April 1880.

16. *What property, real or personal, or income do you have or possess, and its gross value?*

none

17. *What property, real or personal, did you possess at death of husband or did he leave you, and what disposition, if any, by sale or gift, have you made of the same?*

Nothing

18. *Have you a family? If so, who compose such family? Give their means of support. Have they any lands or other property?*

Have 3 children dead Whats liveing have their Familys to support

19. *Name some friend, giving his name and postoffice address, who will be willing to have us write to him about your case if necessary.*

W.H.W. Gurley Pilot. Union Co., Ga

Sarah Rebecca her X mark Thomason

*Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the*

8<sup>th</sup> day of July 1912

A.G. Wall Notary Public

of Hamblen County.

Tennessee

Witnesses James C. Heath

## Questions for Witnesses

*STATE OF TENNESSEE,*  
*Polk County.*

*William Postell of said State and County, having been presented as a witness in support of the application of Mrs. Sarah Rebecca Thomason for a pension under Chapter 202, Acts of 1905, Senate Bill No. 41, Acts of 1909, and House Bill No. 14, Acts of 1911, and after being duly sworn true answers to make to the following questions, deposes and answers as follows:*

*1. What is your name and what is your postoffice address?*

William Postell Copperhill Tenn

*2. Are you acquainted with the applicant, Mrs. Sarah R. Thomason*

Yes

*If so, how long have you known her?*

Fifty years

*3. Where does she reside, and how long and since when has she been a resident of this State?*

Tennessee 47 years

*4. When and where was she born?*

March 3 / 1840

*5. Were you ever acquainted with her husband?*

Yes

*6. When and by whom were they married?*

1859

*7. Were either or both of you present at the marriage?*

Yes

*8. How long did you know him?*

40 years

*9. When and where did James Thomason enlist in the war between the States, and in what Company and Regiment did he enlist, and how do you know this?*

Yes I saw him

*10. Were you a member of the same Company and Regiment at the close of the war?*

No

*11. How long did he perform regular military duty?*

1 year

12. *When and where was his Company and Regiment surrendered?*  
Hamilton [or Harriston] Tenn

13. *Were you with the command when it surrendered?*  
No

14. *Was James Thomason, the husband of the applicant, present?*

15. *If not present, where was he?*

16. *When and where did he leave his command?*

17. *When and where did James Thomason die?*  
Hamblen Co., Tennessee near Russellville

18. *Where did he reside at his death, and how long had he been a resident of Tennessee at his death?*  
20 years

19. *Do you know of your own knowledge that applicant is the lawful widow of James Thomason?*  
Yes

20. *Has she remained unmarried since her soldier husband's death, and is she now his widow?*  
Yes

21. *What property, effects or income has the applicant, if any, and how do you know this of your own knowledge?*  
None

*Has applicant conveyed any property, in the last two years or given any away, if so, what was it, and to whom?*  
No

NOTE. – Let the witness who can answer the greatest number of questions do so; then let the other witness state in the space below how much of the testimony of the first witness he concurs in, and whether or not he can answer any of the questions not answered by the first witness.

James C. Heath has been acquainted with claimant since she came to Tenn.

William Postell  
James C. Heath  
Witnesses

*Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7<sup>th</sup>  
Day of June 1912  
F.M. Jones  
Notary Public*

**The Following Certificate of the County Trustee Must be Filled Out Whether the Applicant Owns any Taxable Property or Not**

*I, Alijah Witt Trustee of Hamblen County, Tennessee, hereby certify that the property assessed on the tax books of this County to Mrs. Sarah Rebeca Thomason the widow of James Thomason amounts to \$ none real estate and \$ none personal.*

*Alijah Witt Trustee.  
For Hamblen County, Tenn.*

[handwritten note]

State of Georgia  
Union County

In person appeared before me, a Notary Public and Exo J.P. in and for said County Maiden Ann Cochran who oath sayes that she was present and witnessed the marriage of Sarah Rebecca Thomason to James Thomason, and know that the marriage ceremony was performed by a legal J.P. and know that they lived together as man and wife until they removed to the state of Tennessee, my reason for being absolutely certain of what I say is that Sarah Rebecca Thomason is my sister.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this June 15<sup>th</sup> 1912.  
Maiden Ann her X mark Cochran

Witness  
J.C. Cavender  
Mathen J. Ingram  
Notary Public

[handwritten note on stationery]

W.H.W. GURLEY, President  
A. P. DAVIS, Vice-President

J.C. CAVENDER, General Manager

JOHN W. HENDRIX, Secretary  
E.L. GARRETT, Treasurer

**GADDISTOWN TELEPHONE CO**

General Office: Gaddistown

**Gaddistown, Ga., July 8<sup>th</sup> 1912**

Mr. John Miller  
Russellville Tenn:

My Dear Sir,

Yours of July the 3<sup>rd</sup> is before me. As to my personal knowledge in regard to the actual Military Servis rendered by James Thomason, I have none. We were in different parts of the servis. I went in to the servis first and was in the Western Army while he went East soon after. I left home and I never met him any more until after the surrender. I have all reasons to know he was in the Army, his command was paroled at one place & mine at another. He was a cousin to me and we were both brought up in the same section. There are two widow ladies here drawing a pension under the GA law whose husbands was commands of James Thomason one of the soldiers were his Bso. This ought to be satisfactory to the Tenn. Com.

I wish I could make the evidence required in the application Blank but you will see at once that my evidence would only be regarded as circumstantial. I know as much as one can know that Mrs. Thomason should have her money, and any thing I can do to help her, I certainly will be glad to do. If after you have read this letter you find any thing in it that will be of any help to her case let me hear from you. There is only 2 men liveing that were with him in the Army and probly not but one. There was two Wm. Postells, Thomas K. and William. William Postell's P.O. I understand, is McKay Tenn; the other I have no knowledge. He was last heard of some where in the west possibly in Okla. With hopes of your success in this claim, I am yours sincerely,

W.H.W. Gurley

P.S. Please remember me to Mrs. Thomason

[handwritten note]

Russellville, Tenn.  
Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1912

Col. Frank A. Moses

Dear Old Confederate

I enclose this with Mrs. Thomasons application for Pension. She has made every effort possible to get affidavits from comrades that served with her Husband but can't find one of them if possible for your Hon. Board to do any thing for her it will certainly be appreciated. She is a worthy old Lady.

Yours Truly  
John Miller

[Pre-printed form, filled out by hand]

No. 4517 W

W. H. COLEY, President  
FRANK A. MOSES, Special Examiner

HEADQUARTERS

**Tennessee Board of Pension Examiners**

*Nashville, Tenn. Aug 19 1912*

**GEN. F. C. AINSWORTH,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

*Dear Sir:*

*Mrs. Sarah R. Thomason  
who is an applicant for pension under the Tennessee Widows  
Pension law, claims that her husband Jas Thomason  
Was a member of Capt. Whitehead's Company Col. F. M. Nix  
Regiment or Batt. Ga Cav  
C.S.A., and was*

*Please give us the record of this soldier,*

*Respectfully,  
W.H. Coley  
President.*

[typed note on stationery attached to back of previous form]

Address: "The Adjutant General,  
War Department, Washington, D.C."

**WAR DEPARTMENT,  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,**

WASHINGTON,

August 22, 1912.

*Respectfully returned to* the

President,  
Tennessee Board of  
Pension Examiners,  
Nashville,

The records show that James Thomason, private, Company G, 13<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry, Confederate States Army, enlisted February 25, 1863. On the company roll for May and June, 1863, only roll on file, he was reported present. No later record of him has been found.

F. M. Nix was lieutenant colonel, and F. J. Whitehead captain of Company G, of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Georgia Cavalry, the designation of which organization was changed to 13<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry.

Geo. Andrews  
Adjutant General.

[handwritten note, separate page]

F. M. Nix – Lt. Col.  
16 Batt Ga. Cav  
Merged into 13 Ga Cav

[handwritten note]

Russellville, Tennessee  
March 10, 1913

Capt. John P. Hickman

Dear Comrade,

We are anxious to know what was the result of Mrs. Sarah Rebecca Thomason's application for Pension. She is a worthy old widow.

I read your articles in the Veteran with a great deal of pleasure. Your prison experience gets close to me for I was there to and had the same experience that you had and we are here yet. Hope to see you at Chattanooga.

Yours Truly,  
John Miller

P.S. Did the Legislature pass any additional [illegible] Laws  
J.M.

[handwritten]

Georgia  
Union County

Personally appeared before me Maiden Ann Cochran who on oath makes the following statement in reference to Rebecca Thomason Widow of James Thomason, who went in to the Servis of the Confederate States Servis as a Soldier. Deponent is a sister of the claimant Rebecca Thomason and personally knows that James Thomason did leave his home in company with others and went the Army and remained away from home some 14 or 15 months, and further that I know that my sister had letters from her husband written to her from the Army. All things considered it is evident to me that my brother in law did actual Servis in the Confederate Army. I further state that I am 70 years old.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1913

Witness W.M. Gurley  
Mathen J. Ingram  
Notary Public

Maiden Ann her X mark Cochran

I hereby certify that Maiden Ann Cochran who makes oath to the above statement is entitled to credit and oath accepted as true, as stated above,  
Mathen J. Ingram  
Notary Public

[typed note]

Sept. 25

3

Mrs. Sarah R. Thomason 4517

John Miller,

Russellville, Tenn.

Dear sir:

In this case I find no record of the service of Jas.

Thomason, later than June '63, which is the date of the last roll on file in Washington. His witnesses say nothing on this point except that her served one year. The roll shows that he enlisted in February '63. What became of him after the expiration of one years service to which they testify. Mr. W.H.M. Gurley, of Gaddistown, Ga. writes you give you the name of Wm. Postell. William Postell is one of the witnesses, and seems to know nothing about the service of the applicant. We must have something better to start out on./

Yours truly,

Special Examiner/

[typed note]

Georgia                    In person comes M.J. Ingram, a citizen of the State & County  
Union County        herein stated, whose Post Office address is Gaddistown, Ga.  
he is now Sixty Seven years of age. That deponent knew James Thomason in his  
life & that he now knows his widow, Rebecca Thomason. That the said James  
Thomason was conscripted, or joined the confederated army in the Spring of  
1863, & that the said James Thomason remained in the service as a soldier of the  
Confederate Army from the Spring of 1863, until just prior to the surrender of  
said Army, in 1865, at which time he returned to his home & family in the State  
& County aforesaid, as deponent was informed & believes on a furlough.  
Deponent is unable to state the Regiment & Company in which the said James  
Thomason did his service. I know the above stated facts by reason of the fact  
that while the said James Thomason was in the service of the Confederate Army  
I lived near his family & saw & read letters from him to his said family.

Sworn to & subscribed before me.            M.J. Ingram

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Oct. 1913.

[signature illegible]

Ordinary, Union Co. Ga.

[handwritten note]

Russellville Tenn.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 1913

Mr. Frank Moses

Dear Sir,

I enclose two affidavits in support of my mothers (Sarah Rebecca Thomason) claim for Pension and permit me to say that my mother is old and has to be taken care of. I am doing the best I can for her and have my own family to support includeing a cripple son. If you will allow her claim it will certainly be appreciated. Thanking you in advance for any favors you may extend.

I am Yours Truly,  
Thomas Thomason

[handwritten note]

Russellville, Tenn.  
April 28, 1914

Col. Frank A. Moses

Dear Comrade,

Is there any chance to do anything for Mrs. Sarah R. Thomason claim No. 4517. The last affidavits sent in last fall do they accomplish anything The old lady is very anxious to get a Pension. I regard her as a deserving character and she would certainly appreciate same.

Capt. John Wright passed away Feb. the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the effects of heart failure. One by one we are crossing the silent river.

The Civil Service Commission would not allow me to take the Examination for Postmaster here on account of my age being 71 years old. I had a good endorsement, my friends always stick to me. I am thankful for that.

I am for Mr. Preston for Governor is that correct

Yours Truly  
John Miller

[typed note]

May 2 4

Mrs. Sarah R. Thomason 4517

Mr. M. J. Ingram,  
Gaddistown, Ga.

Dear sir:

I have your affidavit made last October in this case. You say Mr. James Thomason came home on furlough in 1865. Can you tell me if he ever went back to service, or if he did not why he did not.

Yours truly,  
Special Examiner.

[handwritten]

Georgia                      Personally appeared before me  
Union County    M. J. Ingram who after being duly qualified  
before me, sets for the following statement in reference to Mrs.  
Sarah R. Thomason's Pension Claim No. 4517. Deponent says  
that after James Thomason, Claimants husband, became able for  
duty that General Sherman was on his march to the sea and that the  
said James Thomason could not reach his command, the U.S.  
troops being between him and his command, and an effort to gain  
his "Com" would have been very hazardous, and under these  
circumstances the said Thomason attached himself to the Ga. state  
troops and was employed as blacksmith shoe horses for the  
Cavalry until peace was declared and was paroled as a prisoner of  
war at Kingston, Ga. on May the 12<sup>th</sup> 1865. Sworn to and  
subscribed to before me this June the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1914.

W.A. Seabolt

M. J. Ingram

N P & Exo J.P.