

ADAM PAINTER
Private, Virginia

SERVICE	NUMBER
Va	Panter, Adam
	S. 1923

45 yrs

East Tennessee

Adam Panter
of Washington in the State of Ten:
who was a Pvt. in the company commanded
by Captain Falls of the Regt. commanded
by Lt. Babson in the War
line for 14 months.

Inscribed on the Roll of East Tennessee
at the rate of 5 — Dollars 00 Cents per annum,
to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 25th day of June 30
Thos. Ho. of Rep. and Serk No. 101 John

Arrears to 1st of Sept 1832 69.99
Pension allowance ending 4th Mar. 32 29.33

\$ 99.32

{ Revolutionary Claim. }
{ Act June 7, 1832. }

Recorded by Nathan Rice Clerk,
Book (2) Vol. 9 Page 109-

Shown in the 1809 Tax List of Greene County are Adam Painter, 269 acres Horse Creek; William, poll only and John, poll only. There is some uncertainty if this is Adam Painter Senior [born c. 1736] or Adam Painter Junior [born 1786].

First Families of Tennessee shows Adam Senior as settling in Washington County, TN in 1786. Both D.A.R. and First Families name his wives as Susan Carpenter and Elizabeth [surname unknown].

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Washington County descended 31st 1832

On this 31st day of December 1832 personally appeared before me William Gillillan one of the acting Justices of the peace in & for the County & State aforesaid Adam Panter a resident of the County of Washington & State of Tennessee aged about ninety-eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit, He states that he was enrolled and served under Colonel Barbour [possibly James Barbour] Colon [probably Colonel] Ephraim Rucker Colon [probably Colonel] [indecipherable word]¹ Colonel Thorn, Also under Captain Tolls Wood & Captain James Pendleton that he served five campaigns or Tours of duty in the war of the Revolution but in what year he served either of said Tours he cannot now recollect but recollects that at one time he joined Washington's Army about six miles from Philadelphia, and at one other time he joined Washington's Army on the Schuylkill River, at one other time he was marched to the Red banks on the Delaware River, he states that he was a citizen of Culpeper County Virginia and was drafted in said County for different times and substituted once as above stated. He states that he feels confident that he served in one [indecipherable word]² mants [months] Tour, & that his shortest Tour was for two months, but to say how long the other three terms were he cannot certainly state, but he is confident that he served in all in the war of the Revolution not less than fourteen months. He states that he was born in Shenandoah County Virginia in about the year 1735 or 1736 from the best information he can collect, that he has no record of his age it having been destroyed in his father's house in Virginia which was burned by the Shawnee Indians and at which time this applicant's father was killed by said Indians & he taken prisoner and kept by said Indians two years, he states that he does not recollect the names of any of the regular officers with whom he served except General G. Washington: he states that he served in the war of the Revolution as a private fourteen months in actual service as aforesaid for which he claims a pension, he further states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect the particulars of his service, he states that he never received any written discharge for

¹ *Shump*

² *Two*

any of his Tours of duty, he states that William Blackboun & John Carr all persons known to him and can testify as to his being a man of truth & also as to neighborhood repute as to his having served in the war of the Revolution he states that by reason of bodily infirmities he is unable to attend court, he states that there is no [indecipherable word] minister of the Gospel in his vicinity who can testify as required by the regulations of the war Department, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid, he states that he moved from Culpeper County Virginia to where he now lives near 50 years since where he has lived ever since.

S/ Adam Panter, X his mark

[William Blackburn & John Carr gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I certify that I have known Adam Painter [sic] the applicant for Pension, that from my earliest recollection of him he gave an account of being engaged in the war of the Revolution & of being taken prisoner by the Shawnee Indians & I have seen the marks of [indecipherable word] all over his body & arms, which they inflicted on him (as he said) for disobedience of their commands by burning & otherwise. That he is now as I believe 98 years in term & frail of course, & I regard it as impossible that at his age and under his frailty of memory he could give a satisfactory account of his services. I am satisfied he did serve in the War of the Revolution.

Washington January 9th 1833

S/ Jno Blair, MC [John Blair, member of Congress]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the Virginia service.]

Adam Painter [Sr.] is a documented Soldier by the D. A. R., born 1736 Virginia; died January 23, 1833, TN. Although he mostly lived his life in Washington County, a Deed was recorded in the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, when on October 10, 1791, John and Sarah Jones sold 100 acres of land to Adam Painter [Sr.] The document was witnessed by Lewis Broyles [also a Revolutionary War soldier]. On November 5, 1811, Adam "Panther" of Washington County and Peter Bergner of Greene County paid \$1,800 for 270 acres on the East Side of Horse Creek. Witnessing this deed was Adam "Panther" Junior (1786-1851) who is buried in the old Painter Family Cemetery, located about one mile from today's Pleasant Hill Methodist Church Cemetery.

Adam Senior is shown in the 1830 Census of Washington County, age 90-99. It is likely Adam Senior is buried in the old Painter graveyard in Greene County. The farm on Horse Creek in Greene County would be only a few miles from the Washington County line. Greene County was created from Washington County in 1796.

Adam Painter Senior in his Pension Application makes reference to the raid by Shawnee Indians at his father's house, where Adam was taken as a prisoner and his father [George] was killed. Adam's story is by far worse than what was relayed in his Pension Application.

The following account was published in 1850 by Virginia Historian, Samuel Kercheval, in *A History of the Valley of Virginia* which provides the horrific details of the Massacre at the Painter Home and the aftermath of captivity and torture.

INDIAN ATTACK IN 1758 ON THE PAINTER FAMILY

A HISTORY OF THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA

by Samuel Kercheval, 2nd Edition, Woodstock, VA

John Catewood, Printer, 1850, pages 69-71

“In the year 1758, a party of about fifty Indians and four Frenchmen penetrated into the neighborhood of Mill Creek, now in the county of Shenandoah, about 9 miles south of Woodstock. This was a pretty thickly settled neighborhood; and among other houses, George Painter had erected a large log one, with a good sized cellar. On the alarm being given, the neighboring people took refuge in this house. Late in the afternoon they were attacked. Mr. Painter, attempting to flee, had three balls shot through his body, and fell dead, when the others surrendered. The Indians dragged the dead body back to the house, threw it in, plundered the house of what they chose, and then set fire to it. While the house was in flames, consuming the body of Mr. Painter’s, they forced from the arms of their mothers four infant children, hung them up in trees, shot them in savage sport, and left them hanging. They then set fire to a stable in which were enclosed a parcel of sheep and calves, thus cruelly and wantonly torturing to death the inoffensive dumb animals. After the atrocities, they moved off with forty-eight prisoners; among whom were Mrs. Painter, five of her daughters, and one of her sons; a Mrs. Smith and several of her children; a Mr. Fisher and several of his children, among them a lad of twelve or thirteen years old, a fine well grown boy, and remarkably fleshy. This little fellow, it will presently be seen, was destined to be the victim of savage cruelty.

Two of Painter’s sons and a young man, by the name of Jacob Myers, escaped being captured by concealment. One of the Painters, with Myers, ran over that night to Powell’s fort, a distance of at least fifteen miles, and to Keller’s fort, in quest of aid. They had neither hat nor shoes, nor any other clothing than a shirt and trowsers each. A small party of men set out early the next morning, well mounted and armed, to avenge the outrage. They reached Mr. Painter’s early in the day; but on learning their strength (from the other young Painter who had remained concealed all that evening and night, and by that means was enabled to count the number of the enemy), they declined pursuit, being too weak in numbers to venture further. Thus this savage band got off with their prisoners and booty, without pursuit or interruption.

After six days’ travel they reached their villages west of the Allegany mountains, where they held a council, and determined to sacrifice their helpless prisoner, Jacob Fisher. They first ordered him to collect a quantity of dry wood. The poor little fellow shuddered, burst into tears, and told his father they intended to burn him. His father replied, ‘I hope not’ and advised him to obey. When he had collected a sufficient quantity of wood to answer their purpose, they cleared and smoothed a ring around a sapling, to which they tied him by one hand, then formed a trail of wood around the tree and set it on fire. The poor boy was then compelled to run around in this ring of fire until his rope wound him up to the sapling, and then back until he came in contact with the flame, whilst his infernal tormentors were drinking, singing and dancing around him, with ‘horried joy’. This was continued for several hours; during which time the savage men became beastly drunk, and as they fell prostrate to the ground, the squaws would keep up the fire. With long sharp poles, prepared for the purpose, they would pierce the body of their victim whenever he flagged, until the poor and helpless boy fell and expired with the most excruciating torments, whilst his father and brothers were compelled to be witnesses of the heart-rending tragedy.

After an absence of about three years, Mrs. Painter, with her son and two of her daughters; Mrs. Smith, who had the honor (if it could be so deemed), of presenting her husband with an Indian son* by a distinguished war chief; Fisher and his remaining sons; and several other prisoners, returned home. Three of Mrs. Painter’s daughters remained with the Indians. Mary, the youngest, was about nine years old when taken, and was eighteen years a prisoner; two of the daughters never returned. A man by the name of Michael Coppel, who had himself been a prisoner about two years with the Indians, had learned their language, became an Indian trader, and traveled much among them, at length found Mary Painter with a wandering party of Cherokees. In conversing with her, he discovered who she was – that he was acquainted with her family connections, and proposed to her to accompany him home, to which she refused her assent. He then said that her brothers had removed to Point Pleasant, and were desirous of seeing her; upon which she consented to accompany him that far to see her brothers; but finding on arriving at the Point, that he had deceived her, she manifested much dissatisfaction, and attempted to go back to the Indians. Coppel, however, after much entreaty, and promising

to make her his wife, prevailed upon her to return home. He performed his promise of marriage, lived several years on Painter's land, and raised a family of children. Mary had lost her mother tongue (sic), learned a little English afterwards, but always conversed with her husband in the Indian language**. They finally removed to the west."

"Mr. George Painter, an aged and respectable citizen of Shenandoah county, who resides on the spot where this bloody tragedy was acted, and is a grandson of the man who was murdered and burnt, detailed these particulars to the author."

(*) Smith received his wife, and never maltreated her on the account; but he had a most bitter aversion to the young chief. The boy grew up to manhood, and exhibited the appearance and disposition of his sire. Attempts were made to educate him, but without success. He enlisted into the army of the revolution as a common soldier, and never returned."

(**) The author deems a particular history of this woman necessary, because it is one among many instances of young white children, when taken prisoners, becoming attached to a savage life, and leaving it with great reluctance."

Comments and Additional Data

The "one son" of Mrs. Painter (two had escaped) who spent about three years of captivity with his mother among the Indians was our ancestor "Big Adam" Painter (that was what he was called), born about 1735-36. He became a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and had a large family of his own. There is no doubt about his relationship to George Painter who was killed by the Shawnee Indians. Adam Painter states in Revolutionary War Pension application #S-1923 that he was "born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, about 1735-36, that his father's house was burned in Virginia by Shawnee Indians, that his father was killed, and that he, Adam, was kept two years by the Indians." This clearly fits Kercheval's history and Kercheval got detailed information first-hand from "Gentleman" George Painter, a grandson of the man (old George Painter) who was murdered and burned.

The Shawnees lived in the eastern forest of North America (along with the Cherokees and others). They were nomads. They spoke an Algonkian language and were closely related to the Sauk and Fox Indians. We know little about their way of life, because they split into many wandering groups and lived far away from well-traveled routes. The Shawnee built wigwam villages along the riverbanks in such states as Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kentucky. In the middle 1700's many groups of Shawnee settled together on the banks of the Ohio River in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia and in the Shenandoah Valley. For 40 years they fought against settlers in these regions and became known as the most hostile tribe in the area. In 1774, under the leadership of the Chief Cornstalk, the Shawnee met defeat at the Battle of Point Pleasant, which ended Lord Dunmore's War. After their defeat, many of the Shawnee moved across the Mississippi River. They later suffered a devastating defeat by William Henry Harrison at the Battle Tippecanoe in 1811. Most Shawnee later lived on reservations in the Oklahoma Territory.

This transcription, including the comments and additional information, was done by Mrs. Doretta Moore. Sarah (Sally) Painter, who married John (Jack) Gann, was a daughter of Adam Painter, and granddaughter of George Painter, who was killed in the the attack. Jack and Sally Gann are the great-great-great-grandparents of both Mrs. Moore, and my late mother, Faye Gann Reynolds.