

## ELISHA TALLEY

Biography compiled by Louis Dale Stubbs, Jr.

Elisha Talley, Sr. was born 12 May 1750, Hanover County, Virginia and died 12 June 1836, Heard County, Georgia. He married (1) 6 April 1775, Mary Hood, born about 1755, Hanover County, Virginia, died 19 January 1783 in Hanover County, married (2) 29 May 1783, Ann Wooddy, born 13 January 1755, Hanover County, Virginia, died 4 January 1797, daughter of Samuel Wooddy and Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_, married (3) 20 August 1797, Penelope Mosley, born circa 1778, died 2 September 1847, Heard County, Georgia. Elisha Talley, Sr. was the son of Micajah Talley (born circa 1725, probably in Hanover County, Virginia, died circa 1795 Hanover County) and his wife, Mary \_\_\_\_\_, Ref. [3]. Elisha had one brother that could be found, Nathan Talley, Ref. [4]

Elisha Talley, Sr. served in the Company of Hanover Militia during the Revolutionary War as a private. He took the "Oath of Allegiance" on 30 August 1777. It reads:

Virginia Hanover County

I do hereby certify, that Elisha Talley hath taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation of allegiance and Fidelity, as directed by an act of General Assembly intituled an act to oblige the free male inhabitants of this state above a certain age to give assurance of allegiance to the same, and for other purposes. Witness my hand and seal, this 30th day of August 1777

(Signed) S. Meredith

Elisha Talley at age 82, under the Act of June 7, 1832 applied for a Revolutionary War Pension on 9 May 1833, while living in Heard County, Georgia. The original pension application was rejected on 29 August 1833. He reapplied on 23 January 1834. On 14 July 1834 it was again rejected. Elisha Talley could prove only three months service on his first application. He stated in his second application that he served three tours, each being three months in duration. He also stated the last of his tours was for the purpose of demolishing the breastworks at Yorktown. This could be done only after the battle of Yorktown which ended with the surrender of General Cornwallis on 17 October 1781. This would indicate that Elisha served his three tours between August 1777 and October 1781 for a total time of six to nine months service.

By using the names of officers and movements that Elisha stated in his pension application the compiler was able to recreate some Revolutionary War history where Elisha served. Elisha named three officers: Captain Elisha White, Colonel Samuel Meredith, and General William Nelson. No General William Nelson could be found in the Williamsburg area during the time period of 1777 through 1781. But a General Thomas Nelson, Jr. commanded a part of the Virginia Militia during most of the Revolution and all of it in arms in the Yorktown Campaign. Other Revolutionary War pension applications were researched and several applicants mentioned the same officers and movements as did Elisha, so his memory was still reasonably good after fifty-five years.

Throughout the war the British had always felt safe on the coast, relying on their superior navy to provide them with supplies and a cover of cannon fire. Over the years the British learned that once they moved inland, they could win specific battles but never hold territory for long. Accordingly, the British Fleet made a practice of sailing into Chesapeake Bay and then along the coast. Most of the Virginia Militia troops were called upon to form a picket action watching any approaches of the British during these raids.

The Militia would be stationed at Williamsburg, Portsmouth, Hampton, and York. Most of



Georgia  
Heard County

We William Atkinson a clergyman residing in said county and Lewis Zackary residing in the same. Hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Elisha Talley who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration that we believe him eighty years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.  
(signed) William Atkinson Clg  
(signed) Lewis Zackary

And the said court do hereby declare the opinion, after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he states. And the Court further certifies, that it appears to them that William Atkinson who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman and resides said county and that Lewis Zackary who has also signed the same is a resident thereof and a credible person, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

AG Tully JJC Samuel Ward JJC  
John Ward JJC Thomas Aubry JJC

Georgia  
Heard County

I, P. H. Taylor Clerk of the Inferior Court of said county do certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of said Court, in the matter of application of Elisha Talley for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, this Sixeth day of May 1883 P. H. Taylor  
Clerk

Elisha's pension request of 1883 was not approved and he reapplied in January of 1834 for a pension. This second application shown in Appendix D was also disapproved.

During the Revolutionary War, Number 6 vestry was held in Saint Paul's Parish on 12 November 1779. Elisha Talley and others were ordered into one precinct for processing lands. Several land owners were ordered to see the said processing performed and return their proceedings according to law. (The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County, Virginia 1706 to 1786 by Chamberlayne, page 551)

After the Revolutionary War, in 1782, the assessment and collection of all taxes were made by the county. (The parish became merely a political subdivision.) A register of Taxpayers in Hanover County 1782 to 1815 finds Elisha Talley, Sr. living there, along with many other Talleys.

Elisha Talley was mentioned along with others concerning John Burnley's estate in 1784. (Hanover County Chancery Wills and Notes compiled by William Ronald Cocke III, page 28).

Elisha Talley, Sr. left Hanover County, Virginia sometime between 1795 and 1798, moving to Edgefield District 86, South Carolina. Elisha received a land grant in South Carolina in 1798. (Index to South Carolina Land Grants 1784-1800). Elisha had already lost Ann Woody, his second wife, on 4 January 1797 and married his third wife, Penelope Mosley, on 20 August 1797. The compiler could not find where this took place, Virginia or South Carolina.

All Elisha's and Penelope's children were born in Edgefield District, South Carolina. Between 1801 and 1805 Elisha moved to Green County, Georgia (Georgia Tax Digests Volume 1804-1806) where he paid tax in 1805 and Morgan County where he paid tax in 1817 (Georgia Tax Digests 1814-1817). In the Index to the Augusta Chronicle, Vol. II 1800-1810, Elisha Talley was indexed four times, 26 September 1807, 10 October 1807, 1 April 1808, and 16 April 1808. Elisha was also found in the ordinary court Minutes and Wills Vol. 1, page 113. There is no date given on this page number. Page 112 is dated Monday Nov. 3, 1818. Page 114 had no date. Elisha is listed as one of the creditors to bring suit on bond of Joseph Fitzpatrick, admin. on Est. of William Fitzpatrick dec'd.

Elisha was also found in the Land Lottery of Georgia 1827 Register #5, dated 20 March, the 12th day of the Land Lottery drawing. In this land lottery he was listed in Captains District (Newton County) No 20 Dt. 2 Sec. 5. He was also in the 1830 census, Newton County No TWP L page 023.

From Historical Collections of Georgia, by the Rev. George White, 1855 pages 494 to 495 Heard County (Heard County was laid out in 1830 from Troup, Carroll, and Coweta Counties): "Among those who made the first settlements in this county were Elisha Talley, . . . . et al."

And from the Georgia Genealogy Magazine, Issues 15-18 page 938: "Coweta County, Grand Jurors April 1832 term Coweta Supr. Court: Elisha Talley (Tally)." This could have been Elisha Talley, Jr. on page 943 (since Elisha Talley, Sr. would have been 82 years old at that time). Also: "Heard County, Grand Jurors serving March 1833 term: Littleton Talley", another son of Elisha Talley, Sr.

Children born to Elisha Talley, Sr. in Hanover County, Virginia by first wife, Mary Hood:

1. Kitty Talley b. 27 Jan. 1777 (no further information)
2. Thomas Talley b. 7 Apr. 1780
3. Mary A. Talley b. 19 Jan. 1783 (no further information)

Children by second wife, Ann Woody:

4. Samuel W. Talley b. 7 Sep. 1784 (no further information)
5. Obadiah W. Talley b. 14 Aug. 1786
6. Elizabeth Talley b. 2 June 1789 (no further information)

Children born Edgefield District. 86, South Carolina, by third wife, Penelope Mosley:

7. Littleton Talley b. 5 June 1798
8. Elisha Talley, Jr. b. 16 Sep. 1799
9. Martha Talley b. 22 Aug. 1801