

## Thomas Ely – Revolutionary War Payroll Records

The image below appears to be a historical payroll record for Thomas Ely, a soldier during the American Revolutionary War. He was born ~1725-30 in Ely, Cambridgeshire, England, UK and died ~1782 Bedford Virginia. It shows two separate service entries for Ely under different captains and time periods in 1777 and 1778. The entries provide details such as dates of enlistment, pay rates, service duration, and subsistence payments. The image was downloaded from Findagrave.com (added by user Fran Curtis).

5 (1776-1778.) Va.	
<b>Thomas Ely</b> { Capt. William Fowler's Company, 5th Virginia Regiment of Foot. <b>Revolutionary War.</b>	
Appears on	
<b>Company Pay Roll</b>	
of the organization named above for the month	
of	July, 1777
Commencement of time	July, 17
Commencement of pay	July 1, 17
To what time paid	, 17
Pay per month	
Time of service	1 mo. 15 days
Whole time of service	
Subsistence	
Amount	10 Dols. 23
Amt. of pay and subsistence	
Pay due to sick, absent	
Casualties	Died 15 Mar
Remarks:	Remained in the field 20 days allowed for traveling home
<small>*This company was designated at various times as Capt. Harry Terrell's, Capt. Samuel Colston's and Capt. William Fowler's Company.</small> 20 Dols.	

  

5 (1776-1778.) Va.	
<b>Thomas Ely</b> { Captain Harry Terrell's Co. of the 5th Virginia Batt'n of Continental Forces commanded by Lieut. Col. Josiah Parker. <b>Revolutionary War.</b>	
Appears on	
<b>Company Pay Roll</b>	
of the organization named above for the month	
from	20 Jan to 15 Mar, 1778
Commencement of time	15
Commencement of pay	10 Mar, 17
To what time paid	15
Pay per month	15 Dols.
Time of service	2 mo. 21 days
Whole time of service	
Subsistence	
Amount	of pay 6. 15-
Amt. of pay and subsistence	6. 15-
Pay due to sick, absent	
Casualties	
Remarks:	
<small>*This company was designated at various times as Capt. Harry Terrell's, Capt. Samuel Colston's and Capt. William Fowler's Company.</small> 20 Dols.	

## Transcription of Document (with assistance from ChatGPT)

--- LEFT SIDE ---	--- RIGHT SIDE ---
No. 6	No. (unclear)
Thomas Ely	Thomas Ely
Captain William Bentley's Company 14th Virginia Regiment of Foot	Captain Henry DeButts' Company Col. Wood's Virginia Regiment (Mention of Col. Febiger later)
Revolutionary War	Revolutionary War
Appears on Company Pay Roll for the month of: (unclear)	Appears on Company Pay Roll for the month of: (unclear)
Commencement of time: Feb 1st 1777 Commencement of pay: Feb 1st 1777 To what time paid: April 30th 1777 Pay per month: 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars Time of service: Three (3) months	Commencement of time: July 1st 1778 Commencement of pay: July 1st 1778 To what time paid: Sept 21st 1778 Pay per month: 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars Time of service: 2 months 21 days
Subsistence: Amount: 1 dollar $\frac{2}{3}$	Whole time in service: Subsistence: June 6, 1778 Amount: 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars
Amount of pay and subsistence: (per day in side column)	Amount of pay and subsistence: 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars Pay due in side column
Destination: Double rations (additional note regarding provisioning, traveling, and home - unclear)	Counselor: — Remarks: —
(Footer mentions officer verification or certification - partially legible)	(Footer mentions officer verification or certification - partially legible)

### **Brief description of Thomas Ely's life (source: [Find A Grave](#))**

Thomas Ely and Jane Elizabeth (Smith) Ely, came to America from England and Ireland, respectively, about 1740, locating at Richmond, Virginia, where they are buried. Thomas Ely had a large family and he and some of his sons served faithfully in the Revolutionary war. Thomas Ely, the ancestor of the branch of the Ely family in Southwestern Virginia, was among the early immigrants of that name to the American Colonies, coming about the middle of the eighteenth century. According to family lore, Thomas was a young man about 24 years of age when he left England for America. While on board he met an Irish girl by the name of Jane Smith, Who was born in Dublin, Ireland. He fell in love with her and they were married either aboard ship or shortly after they arrived at the port of entry.

There is some evidence that they remained in Pennsylvania for a few years after their marriage, until after the birth of their two oldest sons, before coming to Virginia. After moving to Virginia they settled in Stafford County where they remained for a few years. The loss of the Stafford County records eliminates forever the evidence that would establish more accurately Thomas Ely's place or places of residence during these early years. Thomas Ely was a soldier in the French and Indian War and received a Land Office Warrant for 50 acres of land to be surveyed in any county within the Commonwealth for his military service. The place of his residence when he was engaged in this war is not definitely known, but most probably in Stafford County. He was under the command of Colonel Byrd.

Tradition has it Thomas Ely was wounded at Buford's Defeat, feigned death. A British soldier said, This old man is not dead and ran a bayonet through him. When asked, why are you fighting against the King? Thomas replied, I married here, my family is here, my home is here and I think I have a right to fight for my country? Thomas Ely died two years later from the bayonet wound he received, 1780, at Buford's Defeat, North Carolina. Apparently sometime after the death of Thomas, Jane Ely with her large family of children left Bedford County, Virginia and settled in Mongomerey County where they received small land grants, and where they lived for several years, until they sold their holdings and made the move to Lee County, Virginia, 1796-1798.

Presumably Jane Ely lived with her children after coming to Lee County since no records have been found showing that Jane was a land owner in the county. The date of Jane's death is not known nor the place of burial. She was most likely buried on Sugar Run in the old John Ely graveyard, in an unmarked grave\*