

Transcript of the affidavits supporting Margit Thorson's petition to receive Civil War pension benefits

"Mother's Application for Army Pension"

Margit Thorson, mother of James Ammonsens, Pvt Co E 2nd Minn. Regiment

State of Minnesota

County of Polk

On this day of June AD 1880 personally appeared before me, clerk of the District Court in and for said county and state, Margit Thorson, a resident of the town of Vineland in Polk County and state of Minnesota aforesaid, aged sixty one years, who being first duly sworn according to law declares and on her oath doth make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the Act of Congress approved July 14, 1862 and acts amendatory thereof.

That she is the widow of Ammon Thorson, deceased, and the mother of James Ammonsens, who was private in Company "E" commanded by Captain Thomas G. Scott of the Second Regiment of Minnesota Veteran Volunteer Infantry in the war of AD 1861, and who died in the service aforesaid at Nashville in the State of Tennessee on or about the tenth day of February AD 1865 of disease and of sickness contracted while in the line of duty. That her said son upon whom she was wholly or in part dependant for her support, left no widow or minor child under sixteen years of age surviving, and that she was married to the said Ammon Thorson at Moe in the Kingdom of Norway on or about the 1st day of November, AD 1839, that she knows of no record evidence of said marriage that her said husband died on or about the first day of February AD 1873; that she has not in any way been engaged in, aided or abetted the rebellion in the United States and that she is not in receipt of any pension under any section of the aforementioned act or under any other act, nor has she again married since the death of her said son, and that her said husband Ammon Thorson was born AD 1799 and was aged and infirm and unable to support his family at the time of the death of her said son, the said deceased soldier. She hereby appoints H. Steenerson of Crookston, her true and lawful attorney, and she authorizes him to present and prosecute this cause and to {illegible} and receipt for any orders or certificates that may be issued in satisfaction thereof.

Stenar Knudson, Witness

Birgit Knudson, Witness

Margit Thorson

Note: Each of these individuals did not sign but instead made their mark on the document

Also personally appeared before me Stenar Knudson and Birgit Knudson of Vineland, County of Polk and State of Minnesota to me well known as credible persons who, being duly sworn, declare that they were present and saw said applicant make her mark to the foregoing declaration and they believe from their acquaintance with her that she is the identical person she represents herself to be and know that she was recognized by the community in which they reside and that they have no interest, direct or indirect in the prosecution of this claim.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of June AD 1880 and I hereby certify I have no interest in this claim, direct or indirect.

C Steenerson

Clerk, District Court, Polk County MN

Receipt stamp at the Department of the Interior Pension Office, June 30, 1880

Additional Statement by Claimant

Receipt stamp at pension office June 14, 1887

Second stamp "Western" June 18, 1887

Dependent Mother

Original Claim No 275052

Margit Thorson

Mrs. Margit Thorson being first duly sworn according to the law deposes and says that she is the identical claimant for pension under claim No. 275052 as dependent mother of James Ammonson, her son, who was a member of Company E, 2nd Regiment, Minnesota Infantry Volunteers and died about the middle of February AD 1865 of sickness of the breast and stomach as affiant is informed and verily believes at the hospital at Nashville, Tennessee.

That at the date of her son's death he left surviving him no widow or children, having never been married, and the following named brothers Ole and Thor and the following named sisters, Annie and Ingebor all of whom were younger than said soldier, he having been the first born.

That at said date, claimants husband Ammon Thorson was and for a long time prior thereto had been unable to support her because of old age and general disability from disease, having contracted Rheumatism about the year AD 1860, and continued to suffer therefrom to the extent of three fourths disability from manual labor from said date until his death, which occurred on the third day of February AD1873, at the age of seventy-four years, since when claimant has not remarried.

That all of the property owned by the claimant and her said husband jointly and severally in 1864 consisted of 120 acres of land being the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 103, Range 6 [*Sheldon Township*] situated in Houston County, Minnesota, and then and valued at \$500 – also certain personal property as household goods and farming implements valued then at \$200 which property was held in the name of her said husband, until the year 1872, except 20 acres of the real estate, which was sold in 1865 for \$300 – and forty acres additional which was sold in 1868 for \$400; and which real estate was subject to a mortgage for \$600 – given in 1863, and satisfied by foreclosure and total alienation of title, to the remaining 60 acres in 1872. That the total income derived from all sources by claimant and her said husband in 1864, and each year thereafter to the date of this affidavit from which claimant derived support did not exceed the sum of \$150 per year in any one year, leaving a deficiency which was supplied by her said son prior to his death by contributions made by him in cash and labor and store supplies purchased by him for her support.

That up to his death as long as he was at home, that is to say up to the date of his becoming a soldier in said regiment and company, her said son made his home with claimant and often declared in his intention and purpose to continue doing so, and of taking her maintenance upon himself for so long as she lived.

That claimant married her said husband at Mo, Telemarken, Norway, in the Kingdom of Norway, on Easter Sunday in the year 1840, and her said son was born to her of said marriage on the tenth day of February AD 1841 at Mo parish in Telemarken, and was given the name of Jermund Ammonson (which in English was after emigrating to the United States in 1853 was changed to James) which name of James Ammonson he bore until his death.

That claimant's post office address since 1854 up to 1874 was Sheldon, Houston County, Minnesota, and since that year it has been Belmont Dakota Territory, or since the establishment of Nielsville PO, Nielsville Post office, Polk County, Minnesota which is now her Post Office address.

This claimant appoints hereby Halvor Steenerson, Esq. of Crookston, Minnesota, her attorney to prosecute her claim.

Attest
Levi S. Myers
G. T. Eikn

Mrs. Margit Thorson, Claimant, made her mark.

Levi S. Myers and G. T. Eikn being duly sworn according to law each for himself deposes and says that he was present and saw the above named Mrs. Margit Thorson sign her name by making her mark to the foregoing declaration, and because of our many years of personal acquaintance with her believe she is and know her to be the identical person she represents herself to be, and that we have no interest whatever in this claim.

Levi S. Myers
G. T. Eikn

Personally appeared before me the undersigned the above named Mrs. Margit Thorson as the claimant and Levi S. Myers and G. T. Eikn as attesting witnesses on this 7th day of June AD 1887 who swore to and subscribed the above statements before me and I certify this the contents were fully made known of above affidavit and declaration to applicant and witnesses before swearing to the same, and that I have no interest whatever in the prosecution of this claim.

E. M. Walsh
Clerk of District Court
Polk County
Minnesota

Statement from the War Department

War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington, March 13th, 1883
Claim #275052

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions

Giermud Ammonson, a private of Company E, 2nd Regiment, Minnesota Infantry Volunteers, was drafted on the 2nd day of May, 1864, at 1st District, 3 years and is reported on roll for July or August 18 absent sick, similar reports to Feb 28, 1865 Nashville, Tennessee, February 22

Name James Ammonson not borne on rolls
Return for April 1865 reports James Ammonson did at Nasvhille Feb 22, 1865 (as of Co. E)
Record of death and interment shows him died in Hospital, Nashville, Tenn. Feb 22, 1865 of chronic diarrhea

(Signature)
Assistant Adjutant General

Deposition by Ole Bergland

In the matter of the claim of Margaret Thorson, dependent mother of James Ammonson, original number 275072

State of Minnesota
County of Houston

Ole O. Berglund being first duly sworn according to the law, deposes and says that for more than thirty years next preceding the date of this affidavit, affiant has resided in the town of Sheldon, County of Houston, in said State of Minnesota, and was from the year 1860 to 1874 a near neighbor of Ammon Thorson, deceased husband of Margaret Thorsen, the applicant herein.

That during said time, to the knowledge of the affiant, the said Ammon Thorson suffered from rheumatism and was by reason thereof and from old age, partially disabled from manual labor, and that during the year 1865, to the best of the affiant's recollection, the said Ammon Thorson was totally disabled from supporting himself by manual labor, and that for three years at least next preceding 1865, James Ammonson, the deceased soldier and son of Margaret Thorson, applicant herein, aided in the support of his parents by contributing from his earnings to purchase provisions and clothing for them, and further affiant saith not.

Ole O. Bergland

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of September AD 1891
Edward A. [Homer?]
Notary Public
Houston County, Minnesota