

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Thomas Helm VAS1478

[vsl 27](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/11/14

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Land Office Richmond February 12, 1834

I certify that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month a military Land bounty Warrant No. 7571 for 4000 acres of Land was issued by me for the Revolutionary services of Captain Thomas Helm.

It does not appear that any other warrant ever issued from the Land office for the same services.

S/ W. Selden, Regr. L. Off.

13 February 1834

War Department Pension Office May 15, 1833

I hereby certify that it appears from the List of Officers of the Virginia Continental line in this Office, who received the balance of their full pay agreeably to an act of the Virginia Legislature passed November session 1781, That Captain Thomas Helm by his attorney Mr Picket received a certificate on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1783 for £57.6.8. Virginia currency

S/ J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions

[p 3]

[Note: very faint document]

I was intimately acquainted with Mr. Thomas Helm of Prince William [County Virginia] before the war of the revolution and know that he was a Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment and that Regiment was first raised. I knew him well through the early [text too faint to discern] of 1778 and in the early part of 1778 I do not remember with certainty how he left the service but have an indistinct impression that he [text too faint to discern]. I do not recollect seeing him after 1777 and did not think I heard of his resignation.

[Signature too faint to discern]<sup>1</sup>

July 15<sup>th</sup> [could be 18<sup>th</sup>] 1833

[p 4: very faint document]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

I Francis Kendall a soldier of the Revolutionary War and in the Eightieth year of my age

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<sup>1</sup> Though the signature is too faint to be discerned, from the index card it appears that this affidavit was given by J. Marshall. This MAY be the John Marshall, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court who was an officer in the Virginia service during the revolution

do certify that Thomas Helm of the County of Fauquier State of Virginia and myself were neighbors from our boyhood to the day of his death and that I enlisted under him in the Minute Service in the commencement of the war, 1775. Said Thomas Helm then being a Lieutenant, and in the year following said Helm joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army, and was attached to a Company commanded by Captain Lee and in a few years the said Lieutenant Helm was promoted to the rank of Captain, and to the best of my knowledge and firm [?] belief continued in the service occupying the Rank of Captain until the close of the war of the said Revolution in the year 1783.

I do further certify that I was in the following battles with the said Captain Thomas Helm to wit the battle of York Island, the battle of Trenton [December 26, 1776], and the battle at Brandywine [September 11, 1777] & several other skirmishes. Given under my hand & seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1833

S/ Francis Kendall,<sup>2</sup> X his mark

I do also certify that the above named Captain Thomas Helm intermarried with a daughter of John Gillison of Fauquier County Virginia & his only heirs at law & representatives are his 3 children Linor Helm, Thomas Helm and Mary the wife of William Gunyon to the best of my belief.

S/ Francis Kendall, X his mark


[Acknowledged in Culpeper County Virginia as being the statement made by Francis Kendall. The acknowledgment is dated May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1833]

[p 7]

Virginia Fauquier County SS

I William Payne, formerly a Captain of the Army of the Revolutionary War do certify that I was personally acquainted with Thomas Helm of the County & State aforesaid and that he was a Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army in the year 1776 and that he was promoted to the Rank of Captain and to the best of my recollection and firm belief was in command of a Company of Continental Infantry at the Siege of York in the year 1781, and I do further certify that I do not believe the said Captain Thomas Helm resigned his commission during the continuance of the said War of the revolution, and that the said Captain Helm married a daughter of John Gillison of Fauquier County Virginia. Given under my hand and seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1833

S/ William Payne<sup>3</sup>

*William Payne* 

[p 8]

I James Jones of Rappahannock County Virginia do certify that I was a soldier of the American Revolution and am now in the seventy-six year of my age, and that I served as a Soldier at the Siege of York in the year 1781 and there became personally acquainted with Thomas Helm who was a Captain of the Virginia Continental Line and commanded a company during the Siege: I do further certify that the said Captain Helm was a resident of the County of

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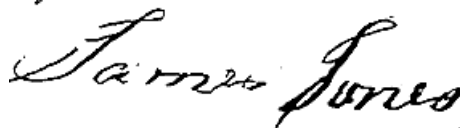
<sup>2</sup> [Francis Kendall W25775](#)

<sup>3</sup> [William Payne S8938](#)

Fauquier Virginia and that he was a brave and highly meritorious Officer and I do not believe Captain Helm ever resigned his Commission during the war of the Revolution, I resided in Fauquier County Virginia at that time & had he resigned I am sure I should have heard it. Captain Helm is now dead and his children I have understood live in Fauquier County Virginia.

Given under my hand 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1833

S/ James Jones<sup>4</sup>



[p 9]

The affidavit of Spencer Withers a revolutionary soldier born in the County of Fauquier in the State of Virginia taken in open court this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833. The Affiant being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was a soldier in the war of the Revolution attached to a company of infantry commanded by Captain White of Culpeper County and fall at the siege of York. That he was well acquainted with Captain Thomas Helm who he frequently saw on duty during the said Siege, that it has always been his impression that the said Captain Helm continued in service till the end of the war, but of this he cannot speak with certainty, coming from the same district of County states that he was well acquainted with the said Captain Helm after the war, and never heard it intimated by him or by any one else that he resigned before the termination of the war.

Sworn to in open Court 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833

S/ A. J. Marshall, Clerk

[p 10]

Virginia Fauquier County to wit

This day Jesse Browne a soldier of the Revolution and now in the 67<sup>th</sup> year of his age personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace and made oath in due form that he was personally acquainted with Thomas Helm deceased and that he the said Thomas Helm was a Captain of the Virginia Continental Line at the Siege of York and that he the said Jesse Browne was attached to the said Captain Helm's Company at the Siege of York, and after the close of the Siege the said Captain Helm was detailed for the purpose of assisting in marching off the Prisoners – and the said Browne did further maketh oath that the same Captain Thomas Helm did intermarried with a daughter of John Gillison and that the said Captain Helm and his Wife are now dead and their only legal heirs and representatives are Lina Helm, Thomas Helm and Mary Gunyon formerly Mary Helm and now the wife of William Gunyon. Given under my hand & seal this 29 day of November 1832

S/ William Thompson [acting magistrate]

[p 12]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

This day William Harris<sup>5</sup> aged eighty-three years personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid and then, being duly sworn according to

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<sup>4</sup> [James Jones S45873](#)

<sup>5</sup> Perhaps the same man as [William Harris S5489](#) or [William Harris S41616](#)

law, stated on his oath as follows to wit: – that he was personally acquainted with Thomas Helm of the County of Fauquier Virginia, Several years previous to the War of the American Revolution, and that he lived in the same County and was a neighbor of the said Thomas Helm more than twenty years. Subsequent thereto, and that he does of his own knowledge know that the said Thomas Helm was a Lieutenant in the Third Virginia Regiment on the Continental establishment in the year 1776, and the said William Harris did further state on his oath that the said Lieutenant Thomas Helm was promoted to the Rank of Captain in the aforesaid Continental Army sometime in the course of the War of the Revolution, that he (Harris) saw the said Captain Helm in command of a company of Continental Soldiers in the year 1781 at the Siege of York, and is distinct in his recollection that the said Captain Thomas Helm served in the Army aforesaid until the close of the War of the said American Revolution; and that he is now deceased, and his only legal heirs and representatives are his three children, Lina Helm, Thomas Helm, and Mary, the wife of William Gunyon.

Given under my hand and seal this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1833

S/ Daniel Ward, JP

[p 14]

Virginia Fauquier County to wit

This day David Wickliffe Senior<sup>6</sup> a Soldier of the American Revolution and now in the 78<sup>th</sup> year of his age personally appeared before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid and made Oath in due form that he was well acquainted with Thomas Helm deceased, that he the said Wickliffe enlisted in the regular Continental Army for the term of two years and entered the Army in the third Virginia Regiment on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1776 and that said Thomas Helm deceased was then a first Lieutenant in the aforesaid third Virginia Regiment, on Continental Establishment, and that he the said Wickliffe continued in the said Regiment several months after the battle of Brandywine, and then retired and left the said Lieutenant Thomas Helm in the aforesaid third Virginia Regiment. And the said Wickliffe did further make oath that the said Thomas Helm intermarried with Miss Gillison of Fauquier County Virginia & that he and his wife are now dead, and his only legal heirs and representatives are Lina Helm, Thomas Helm, and Mary Gunyon formerly Mary Helm & now the wife of William Gunyon.

Given under my hand and seal this 30 day of November 1832.

S/ Joseph Thompson JP

[p 16]

Petition for additional Bounty land

The Heirs of Thomas Helm – Captain – Continental Line

I have heretofore reported to his Excellency the Governor unfavorably of this claim – that is to say of the whole claim, as well for the original, as the additional bounty. Since that report was made additional evidence has been offered. I now present to your Excellency the following state of facts.

Thomas Helm drew his balance of full pay as Lieutenant for his service from January one 1777 to December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1777 – amounting to £57.6.8 (see settlements of Continental officers accounts, on file in the first Auditors Office.)

Thomas Helm was Captain in the Virginia Continental line (see certificates from the

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<sup>6</sup> [David Wickliffe S6409](#)

office of the Register in the Treasury Department of the United States: also certificate from the Pension Office.)

The heirs of Captain Helm have been allowed bounty land for his services as Captain for the war. The Register of the land Office has issued a warrant to them for 4000 acres of land = and they claim more land, alleging that Captain Helm served more than six years.

The above is the whole of the evidence of documents, which is filed or which I have been able to find respecting this claim.

The Testimony of witnesses proves a service from the first of the year 1777 (one witness says from early in 1775 – see affidavit of Francis Kendall) to the close of the war. Some of the witnesses think that Captain Helm might have been supernumerary, before the close of the war. Others, at least three, think that he served until the end of the war. One witness – William Harris – says that he "is distinct in his recollection, that the said Captain Thomas Helm served in the Army aforesaid, until the end of the war of the said American Revolution."

It is, I presume, unnecessary to present the contents of each and every deposition or affidavit which has been filed in this case: because the late Governor Floyd has allowed bounty land for the war. I presume his decision will not be disturbed.

In deciding upon the present Petition for additional bounty, it is material to ascertain the time of commencement of Captain Helm's service, no injustice can be done to the United States, who will appropriate land for the payment of this & other Bounties, by fixing as this time – the first of the year 1776. (C affidavits of Thomas Kendall and David Wickliffe Senr.) – All which is respectfully submitted

John H Smith, Commissioner &c  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1834

To your Excellency  
Governor Tazewell