

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Peter Helphinston [Helphinstine] VAS1480 [vsl 5](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/12/14

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

Philadelphia September 29th, 1801

Dear Sir

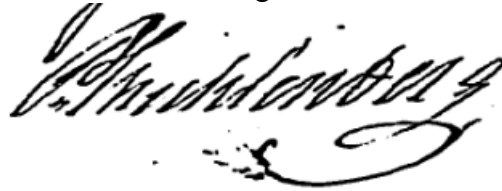
I am Honored with your favor relative to the claims of the Heirs of Major Helphinstine and am Sorry it is not in my power to give an explicit answer. My papers are still in the County from which I have lately removed to the City. The first Opportunity I have, I will examine them and I have no doubt of being able to ascertain when and how the Major left the Service. At present all I can say with certainty is that the Major had a very severe spell of sickness in South Carolina – in the latter part of 1776. That he obtained permission to return to his Family in Winchester, & to continue there until his Health should be restored. This event never took place – he lingered for a considerable period, & then Died. It is possible he may have resigned during his illness – if so, it is not within my knowledge, but I heard the Vacancy was not filled until his Death was known.

With utmost Respect & Esteem

I am Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servant

P. Muhlenberg

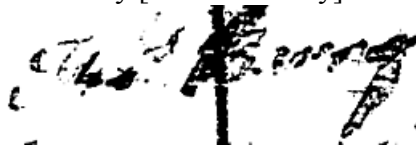


Hon^{ble}. J. Wood

I do certify that Peter Halvingston [sic] deceased was a Major in the 8th Virginia Regiment (in the late War) on Continental establishment & died in the service.

Given [text to faint to discern] day of September 1800

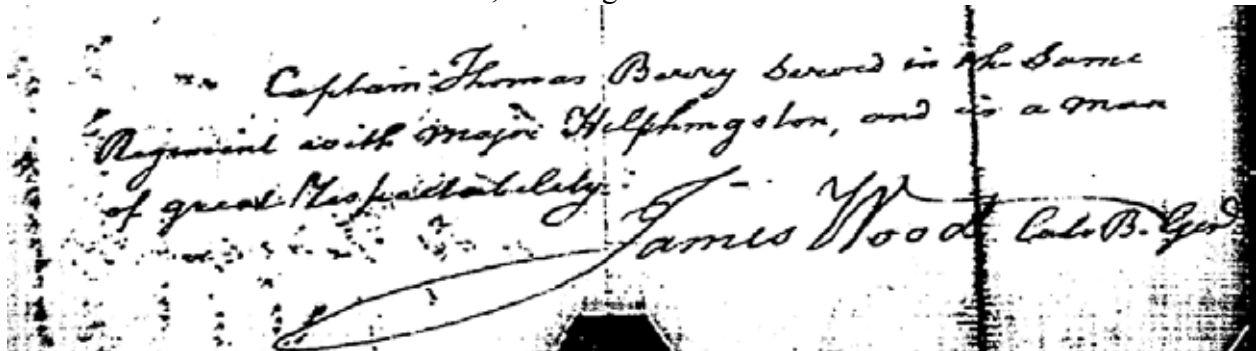
S/ Thos. Berry [Thomas Berry]



, Capt.

Capt. Captain Thomas Berry served in the same Regiment with Major Helpington and is a man of great respectability.

S/ James Wood, late Brigadier General

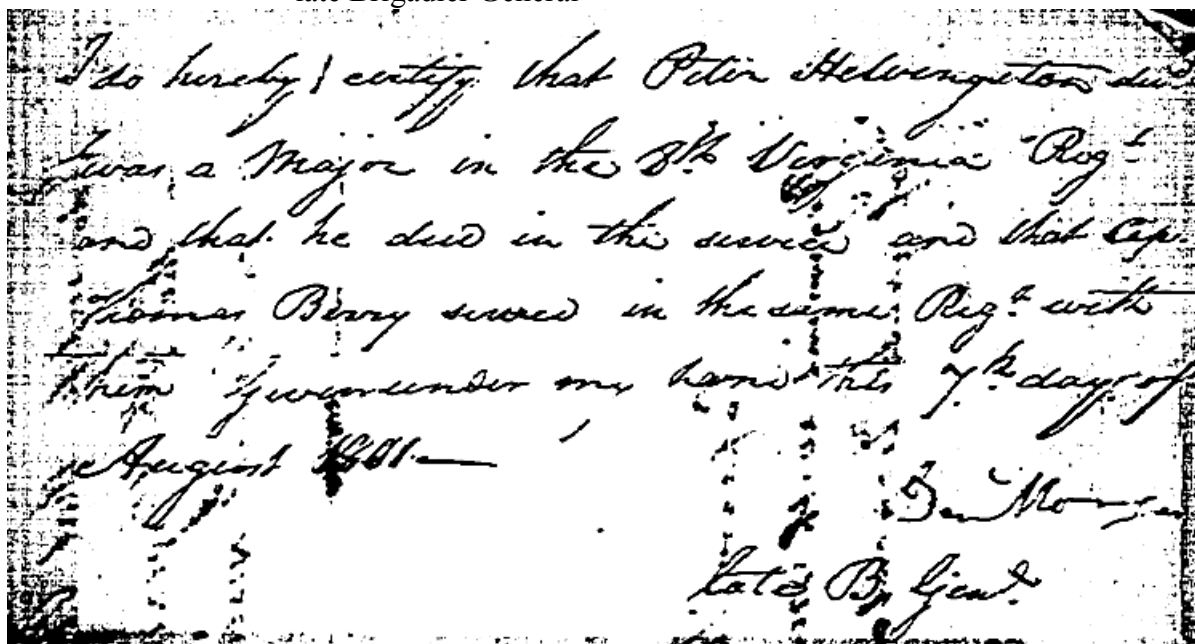


Captain Thomas Berry served in the same Regiment with Major Helpington, and is a man of great respectability. J. Wood late B. Genl

I do hereby certify that Peter Helvingston [sic] deceased was a Major in the 8th Virginia Regiment and that he died in the service and that Captain Thomas Berry served in the same Regiment with him. Given under my hand this 7th day of August 1801

S/ Dan Morgan

late Brigadier General



I do hereby certify that Peter Helvingston deceased was a Major in the 8th Virginia Reg^t and that he died in the service and that Cap. Thomas Berry served in the same Reg^t with him Given under my hand this 7th day of August 1801. Dan Morgan late B. Genl

Winchester, 12th of August 1801

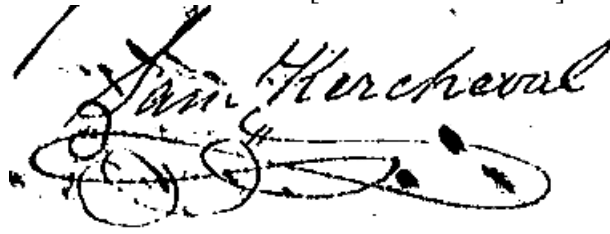
D. Sir

Enclosed you will receive the claim of Major Helpington's [sic] representative – Will you be so obliging as to apply to the Clerk of the Counsel for a certificate, and if the claim is admitted Ford the Warrants by post. I wish the Warrants to issue in the following order – one for one thousand acres, two of three hundred acres each, one for four hundred acres, and the balance in one Warrant.

If you will be so good as to attend to this business I pledge my word to you that I will forward your fees by Major Holmes who will be down in the course of the next month, and any compensation you may think proper.

I am Dear Sir

. Respectfully
your most obedient Servant
Sam Kercheval [Samuel Kercheval]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Kercheval". The signature is written in dark ink and features a large, decorative flourish at the end of the name.

Wm Price Esqr.

another 5-page file indexed under the name Peter Helpinston

In compliance with the request of the Heirs of Major Peter Helphinstine Deceased – I do hereby Certify that from the documents now in my possession I find that Peter Helphinstine of Winchester in Virginia was by the [one or more indecipherably faint words] appointed Major to the 8th Virginia Regiment in December 1775. He joined the Regiment in April 1776 & marched with it to Charleston South Carolina – where he continued to do duty of Major to the Regiment until sometime after the Action of June 28 1776 – He was then taken with a painful & lingering disorder which rendered him incapable of performing his Duty, and with the approbation of General Lee [Charles Lee], obtained a Furlough until his Health should be [one or more indecipherable words] – from that period he never joined the Regiment again, but died at his house in Winchester. I never understood that he resigned – or offered his resignation indeed remaining proof to the contrary is that the vacancy in the Regiment was not filled up until the Death of Major Helphinstine.

S/ P. Muhlenberg
Philadelphia December 10th, 1802

Peter Muhlenberg Esquire was the Colonel of the 8th Virginia Regiment at the time that Major Helphinston served in the Army; Consequently he would no more of this service and the nature of his leaving the Army then I do – Major Helphinston was a Neighbor of mine, I know that he returned home in a low state of Health of which he never recovered.

S/ James Wood, formerly Brigadier General Continental Army

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 21-page file posted under the name Peter Helphinstone

In the House of Delegates Friday the 28th of November 1788

Mr. Richard Lee reported from the Committee of Claims that the Committee had according to Order had under their consideration the petition of Catharine Helphinstone to them referred, and had agreed upon a report and came to a resolution thereupon which he read in his place and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's table, where the same were again twice read and agreed to by the House as followeth:

It appears to your Committee that the petitioners late husband Peter Helphinstone at the commencement of the late War Settled in the Town of Winchester as a respectable Tradesmen, and by his care and industry supported his family in a decent Competency: that in the year 1776, he entered into the Army with the rank of Major, and marched with the 8th Virginia Regiment out to South Carolina, where he contracted and Indisposition, which compelled him to resign in a few months, and soon after put a period to his life.

It further appears to your Committee that soon after the death of the said Petitioner's said husband, she was reduced to very indigent Circumstances, having four children to support: in consideration of which, the General Assembly, at their Session held in the month of May 1784, voted the petitioner the sum of forty pounds for her then present relief, and also an annuity of twenty pounds per annum, to continue for the term of 5 years. –

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[p 5]

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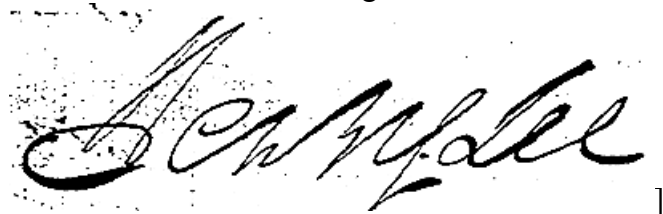
that Catharine Helphinstone widow of the late Major Peter Helphinstone of the Eighth Virginia Regiment is allowed a Pension of twenty Pounds per annum from the first day of June 1789 pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly of the 28th & 29th of November 1788. Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond this 13th day of November 1789

Samuel Coleman

S/ Beverly Randolph

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beverly Randolph". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

[p 8: the pension was renewed by a document signed March 15th, 1793 by Henry Lee as Governor of the state of Virginia

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Henry Lee". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

[p 14]

Dear Sir

Winchester 26 June 1795

The Widow Helvinstine has by some means been stricken of [off] the pension List, and consequently reduced to the greatest distress. She is, as you know, far advanced in years, and to this is added the Desertion of all her Children (every one of whom is married and gone from her) and extreme bad health. She was here yesterday to know if anything could be done for her. I promised to write to you on her behalf. Pray informed me by the next post whether anything can be done for her, and what method can be pursued to get her [the document cuts off at the bottom

thereof at this point]

[next page]

list. Make my Compliments acceptable to Mrs. Wood and believe to be sincere

Your Humble Servant

S/ Robert White

[Addressed to James Wood, former Brigadier General of the Continental Army]

[Note: The file contains a power of attorney dated September 31, 1803 executed by Conrad Kremer as administrator of the estate of Catharine Helphinstine deceased in which he states that Catharine died February 13th [text including the year is cut off at the bottom of the image of this document as posted online.]