

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Heir of William Campbell VAS1805

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Transcribed by Will Graves

3/22/15

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

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] from Washington County Legislative Papers

To the Hon. the general Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of William Christian and Arthur Campbell, Guardians of Charles Campbell only son of General William Campbell deceased

Humbly Sheweth

That General Campbell served as a Capt. in the Fincastle Battalion during the Campaign of 1774 under the command of General Lewis. That in 1775 he was appointed by the District Committee a Capt. in the 1st Virginia Regiment and served therein twelve months the greater part of which Time he acted under a Continental Commission.

That he was soon after appointed Lt. Col. of the militia of Washington County, and in 1779 entered up an actual Service against the Insurgents & Tories on the Frontiers of Virginia and North Carolina.

That in 1780 he was called into Service and continued therein the greater part of that year, and until after the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina. [March 15, 1781]

That in 1781 he was appointed a Brig. General of the Militia entered into Service under the Marquis de Lafayette and died in the Service. And that in all his Transactions for his Country he behaved well, and in some of them he rendered great & meritorious service.

Your Petitioners further show that although great gratitude and honor was shown to General Campbell in his Lifetime and to his Memory after his Death, yet his Fortune being small his son [paper damaged and words rendered illegible] years old must when he grows up live by the Labor of his own Hands unless [several words rendered illegible] for some public Employment.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that the merit & Service of General Campbell & the situation of his said son Charles may be considered, and that a small Portion of the Lands allotted for brave man may be granted him, or that such notice may be taken of him as in your wisdom may seem reasonable.

[reverse]

That after the Lands given by law to the Officers & Soldiers shall be surveyed & laid off, five thousand acres of the Surplus be granted to the said Charles Campbell in consideration of the meritorious services of his late Father General William Campbell.

Christian & Campbell
Guardians of Charles Campbell
their Petition
November 22, 1783
referred to propositions
reasonable
& allowed 5000 acres of Land

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 16-page file

[p 2]

[a copy]

I hereby certify that General William Campbell entered the Service of his Country as a Captain in military establishment in the latter end of the year 1775 and that his Company was a component part of the first Regiment raised in Virginia at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. Given under hand this 27th day of December 1808.

S/ Abram Trigg [Abraham Trigg]

At the request of Colonel Francis Preston I certify to the best of my recollection that the first Regiment raised by the State of Virginia was taken into regular Service about the first of the year 1776.

S/ M. Clay¹

I do certified that General William Campbell was a Captain under the Military Establishment in the Spring of the year 1777

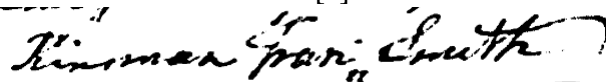
S/ Andrew Moore²

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Memorandum

I waited on Lord Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia] with a Command of Shirtmen [?] For powder [indecipherable word] going to the County Chesterfield 15th May 1775 in my own Tour of the same year Captain William Campbell of Washington County marched with his Company of Shirtmen [?] to Williamsburg he was in the first or Second Virginia Regiment and march[ed] with Colonel William Woodford to Oppose Lord Dunmore at Great Basion [sic, Great Bridge, December 9, 1775]³ in December 1775 as well as I can recollect at this time with [2 or more indecipherable words]

S/ Kinsman Frani Smith [?]



[perhaps, Francis Smith]⁴

4th Jany 1832

¹ [Matthew Clay BLWt456-200](#)

² [Andrew Moore W1454](#)

³ Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775 (near Chesapeake, Va., Lord Dunmore: 600-man force of British, Tories and Negroes; Col. William Woodford, 2nd VA Regt.)

<https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/751209-great-bridge.html>

⁴ THIS MAY be the same man as [Francis Smith R9732](#)

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The heirs of General William Campbell most respectfully represent to the Honorable Executive of the State of Virginia that he the said Campbell entered the service of the revolution in the Virginia State line as Captain in the year 1775 that he served as Captain until the close of 1777 that afterwards he was commissioned Brigadier General of the state line in which capacity he was serving at the time of his death which occurred shortly after the 4th of July 1781.

And they most respectfully ask that the allowances due to officers for such services may be granted to them the said heirs.

[Illegible signature]

[p 8]

Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of B. General William Campbell of the Continental line

The facts of this case are – William Campbell was Captain of Regulars in May, or June, 1775: and was in service with Colonel William Woodford at the Great Bridge, against Lord Dunmore in December 1775 – (See Statement of Francis Smith No. 1)

In September 1776, he was at Norfolk & Hampton in service; where he remained for some time. After his [one or more indecipherable words], he continued in service against the English & Tories, in North & South Carolina, and at the battles of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] & Guilford [March 15, 1781]: and when he returned from these, remained in the Army, until his death. (See Major John Jamieson's Certificate No. 2)

When the Marquis de Lafayette, on the 4th July 1781, reviewed the Army under his command in Virginia, William Campbell (then a Brigadier General in the Continental line) commanded a Corps of the Thousand Riflemen, and was in advance of the main body. General Lawson [Robert Lawson] & General Stephens [Edward Stevens], both Continental officers, commanded brigades of militia on that occasion. General Campbell was also an officer of the Continental __ a short time after, he was taken sick, and died in service. (See Judge of Francis Brooke's Certificate—No. 3)

In addition to the above respectable and credible evidence, it is proved by Abraham Trigg, that General William Campbell entered into the service of his Country as Captain, on military establishment, in the latter end of 1775: and that his company was a component part of the first Regiment raised in Virginia, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. (See an authenticated filed with the Petition.)

It is further proved, that the first Regiment raised by Virginia was taken into regular service (by which expression ^{as was by his "expression military establishment in"} was probably meant, the Continental service) about the first of the year 1776. (See certified copy of M. Clay's certificate.) [the following was inserted by marginal note] Also, that General Campbell was Captain, under the military establishment, in the Spring of 1777. (See the authenticated copy of Andrew Moore's Certificate.)

The sum of this evidence is, that General Campbell went into service, as Captain, under an appointment, or commission, from the Committee of Safety, in May or June 1775 – That he was received with his Company into the regular, or Continental service, about the last of 1775, or first of 1776 – and continued in service from that time, in different grades, until his death which took place soon after the 4th of July 1781. He was then a Brigadier General, of the Continental line.

It appears that the son of General Campbell received 5000 acres of land, which was voted

to him, by the General Assembly of Virginia in December 1783. That this land was given to the [paper damaged and text missing] first son of General Campbell, in consideration of the meritorious conduct of General Campbell, particularly at the Battle of Kings Mountain and was intended as a gratuity to the son, for the extraordinary service and good conduct of the Father: and was so expressed [text too faint to discern]. (See Resolution of Assembly of December 23, 1783). The legislative grant was made on the Petition of guardians of Campbell the younger who seems to have been ignorant of the well attested facts herein before mentioned, and of the rights of General Campbell's heirs.

That General Campbell was this General in the Continental line [balance of text of this paragraph too faint to discern – the essence of it appears to be that the general assembly recognized that the recipient of the grant was the son of General Campbell based on Judge Brooke's certificate.]

[There is a closing paragraph the text of which again is too faint to discern meaningfully but appears to be a summation that the facts of this case support the claim that William Campbell was in service from June 1775 to the end of the war and that he died in service.]

All which is respectfully substantiated

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

November 21st, 1834

[p 12: Note: Some of the text of the following document has been lost due to damage to the paper. The lost text is indicated by '...' marking.]

I do hereby ... well acquainted with Gen. William ... the Genl. of Kings Mountain from before the y ... until his Death and the various mili ... Services he performed during the War of the R ... tion and among other things recollect to hear that he was appointed a Captain in the Virginia's Service by what was called the "Committee of Safety" in the year 1775, and that in the year 1776 he the said Jamieson with his father's company forted at the said Campbell's Plantation in Washington County Virginia about the month of September when Captain Campbell was absent in the regular Service in Norfolk and Hampton where he remained for some time but cannot recollect how long but remember when he returned home he continued in Service against the Tories and English in North & South Carolina & at the battles of Kings Mountain and Guilford and when he returned from thence, he remained in the Army until his Death. Given under my hand this first day of September 1832

S/ John Jamieson



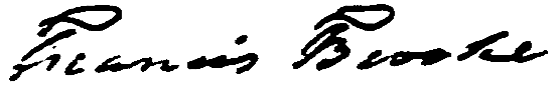
[p 14]

March the 11, 1834

I certify that on the 4th of July 1781, the Army commanded by the Marquis Lafayette celebrated that day, and was reviewed by the Marquis – I was then a first Lieutenant in Harrison's Regiment of Artillery, and was attached, on the occasion, to General Lawson's brigade of militia, and had an opportunity to see all the Corps of the Army and that General Campbell of Kings Mountain commanded a Corps of one thousand riflemen in our advance – That both General Lawson and General Stevens who commanded their Brigade of militia were known to be officers of the Virginia Continental line, and that I understood that General Campbell also belonged to the same Corps he was taken sick some short time after and went [?] in to the country [several more

indecipherable words] and died a few days before the Battle of Green Springs⁵ or James Town as it is sometimes called.

S/ Francis Brooke⁶



[another file in the VA Bounty Land records—2-page file]

[p 2]

In the House of Delegates

Friday the 19th of September 1783

Resolved that the Petition of William Christian & Arthur Campbell guardians of Charles Campbell the only son of General William Campbell deceased is reasonable.

Resolved that after the land given by law as Bounties to the officers and Soldiers shall be surveyed and laid off, five thousand Acres of the Surplus be granted to the said Charles Campbell in Consideration of the meritorious Service of his late father General William Campbell.

1783 December 20th

Agreed to by the Senate

S/ Neill Drew C. S.

S/ John Barklay C. L. d

[Note: In addition to the above records, there is also a 4-page file in [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#) which, unfortunately are illegible as posed online.]

⁵ July 6, 1781 Green Springs, [Lafayette/Wayne vs Cornwallis]

<https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810706-green-spring/>

⁶ [Francis Brooke S8093](#)