

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of David Laird VAS1839

8

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/4/15

[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](#)]

To the Hon. the speaker and Gentleman of the House of Delegates
Ye Petition of David Laird humbly sheweth –

That for a variety of services Performed and monies advanced to the Commonwealth he is entitled to near one thousand pounds part of which claim viz. 197.11 [paper damaged and words obliterated] by the County Court of Augusta returned to the Auditor's Office who issued their Certificate Accordingly – Upon application for the same ye Auditors informed your petitioner they had delivered it to some person beyond the mountains who had undertaken to deliver ye same to your petitioner. That your petitioner never received this Certificate nor any satisfaction therefore nor did he authorize any person to receive it for him [paper damaged and word illegible] which Circumstances he conceives the public are [paper damaged and word illegible] Bound to deliver him a Certificate for ye Above mentioned sum

Your Petitioner further sheweth that he has sundry claims for money advanced to soldiers during his service as a Recruiting Officer which advances were made under the faith of your then existing Regulations under which your captains were Pay masters to their Respective Companies & might indemnify themselves for money advanced to your Soldiers. This Regulation however ceased before he could do himself that Justice he prays therefore that he may be allowed to settle & Receive ye Claims of such Soldiers as have disposed of ye same agreeable to Vouchers in his possession – & also an allowance for ye Sums advanced in behalf of ye Commonwealth yet unsettled.

Your Petitioner is sorry to inform your honors that he is not in Circumstances to be out of his [paper damaged and text missing] being himself a Cripple for some time Past and [paper damaged and text missing] to a helpless distressed family whose only means of subsistence is in the hands of the Public & which when received in Warrants will be far short of the value of their nominal amount. He further shows that upon settlement of his Arrears of Pay and Depreciation as an officer he received a warrant [paper damaged and an entire line of text missing] do by law which he is now called upon to fund he Prays that as part of ye satisfaction to which he is entitled this some may be discounted and that your Hon. body will give him such other and further Relief as to your Honors shall seem Just and Equitable
& as in duty bound will pray

[paper damaged and signature obliterated]

It appears that Warrants issued in the name of David Laird the 23rd of February 1786 for 191 pounds 11 shillings for sundry articles furnished for public use, but as these claims were liquidated and the Warrants granted by one of my Colleagues, tis impossible for me to say who receive them.

The Auditor [paper damaged and text missing] unauthorized by Law to adjust the claims [paper damaged and text missing] to in this Petition as they are private transactions [paper damaged and text missing] Mr. Laird & the individuals his Debtors.

S/ John Pendleton

[Note: Much of the following makes little sense as deciphered by me. Corrections are welcomed]

A list of Claims 1st for 500 Dollars Drive By Col. George Hudson full a part of my Company who complained to him that I had done them injustice the same being Distributed to them before I joined the Army and I gave the State's Certificate for the same not knowing that the New Arrangement then had or was about to take place which prevented me of ever doing myself that Justice that was ever before that borne in the power of Captains to do themselves Justice by Stoppages where Debts were owing or money advanced.

2nd Claim is for £293 – 10 – which I advanced for Servants who agreed I should be paid up by Stoppages and in Case of being killed or dying in the Service I was to be entitled to their Lands and the Balances due them if killed or dying in the Army a very slender Security of I Ever had it [several indecipherable words] Those were all [indcipherable word] and had no funds in the Country.

4 [sic] Claim is for services as Wagon hire performed in 1777 to the North would and wagon sold at the Valley Forge in January 1778 to the amount of £184.11 and 7 pounds worth of work performed removing prisoners of war from the Barracks in Albemarle whole amount is £191:11 – as allowed by Court of Claims in Augusta Court and after being audited by the Auditors given by them to some person unknown and I must say without any order from me.

5 Claim is for Robert Prince's [?] pay as Certified by Capt. James Correy then his Capt. with whom I was made prisoner at Charleston when taken by Gen. Clinton and has not since returned the principal and interest due you me is £17:2:9 as will appear by the Note enclosed.

6 Claim is for so much of Matthew Kinney's pay as is Due him I Having bought part of his time and set him at Liberty on conditions of paying me as may appear by my [indcipherable word] and Notes. He was killed at the battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777]. He enlisted in 1775 in Capt. Thornton's Company Culpeper Due £12:16:5

7 Claim is for nine thousand six hundred eighty [indcipherable word or words] pound and one half of Beef the which I understand 25/per 100 was generally allowed where Beeves were [indcipherable word] bought by Commissaries and valued at High Rates and sometimes lost by Hired Drivers the which lost the States at least one half word then mine that was delivered at [indcipherable word or words] purchased and Drove at my own Expense

8 Claim is for Levi Thomases [Levi Thomas'] pay which I omitted posting into the pay Roll as may appear upon examination. The reason was I had a few days before exchanged him for a Sgt. Howell in Clough Shelton's Company and paid him up his full pay as your Receipt to the amount of 11 pounds 6 shillings and 8 pence the interest I never laid in any Claim for as may appear if search is made in the pay Rolls to which may be [indcipherable word]

Laird's Petition

November 30th 1786

Referred to Claims

December 7th, 1786

Part Rejected other part Reasonable

Reported

[Note: I included this petition because Capt. David Laird is referred to in other pension applications. He appears to have been a recruiting officer.]