

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition relating to James Anderson VAS1963

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Transcribed by Will Graves

5/6/15

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

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] James City County Legislative Petitions

[Note: According to the cover sheet for this file, the file description reads as follows: Proceedings, certificates, letters, payroll, etc. supporting a petition for compensation for the services of his father James Anderson,<sup>1</sup> a public armorer & superintendent of a company of artificers during the revolutionary war" filed December 11, 1849 by Robert Anderson. The file, however, does not contain any petition filed by Robert Anderson. It does contain a number of interesting documents as are transcribed below. A file in the [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#) does contain the following petition by Robert Anderson.]

To David Campbell Esq. Gov. of Virginia

The Petition and Memorial of the undersigned Robert Anderson of the City of Williamsburg one of the children of James Anderson formerly of said City, represents that previous to the year 1776, as the undersigned has understood and believes, the said James Anderson was Chief Armorer for the Colony, and that during the whole of the Revolutionary War, he was public Armorer for the State of Virginia. That upon the establishment and during the continuance of the Corps of State Artificers, the said James Anderson was Captain and Commander thereof. In proof of these representations the undersigned refers to the records and proceedings of the Executive Council for the periods referred to – copies of extracts from which are herewith inserted [?].

The undersigned further represents that the said James Anderson in the year 1781, whilst superintending the passage of public stores across James River near the point of fork, was taken by a detachment of British Cavalry and for some time was retained as a prisoner of War. In evidence of which capture and detention the undersigned herewith presents a copy from the original parole of the said James now in the possession of the undersigned who is his administrator, signed by Hector MacAlester the English Commissary of Prisoners bearing date on the 11 June 1781 with the word "Parole" in the paper handwriting of the said James himself endorsed thereon.<sup>2</sup>

The undersigned is advised that the said James Anderson in virtue of his said offices and commissions of Public Armorer and Capt. of artificers, which he held during the whole war, and

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<sup>1</sup> For an interesting article about James Anderson as the public gunsmith and armorer in Williamsburg during the Revolutionary War, see <http://whatsnew.history.org/2011/01/meet-the-public-armourer-james-anderson/>

<sup>2</sup> The Parole is not included among the documentation in this file.

[indecipherable word or words] other public services during the Revolution became entitled to remuneration in lands and otherwise and for which during his life as the undersigned believes, he did not secure, and which since his death which happened in 1798 his heirs and representatives have not received the customary and legal compensation.

The undersigned therefore for himself and the other children and representatives of the said James Anderson respectfully solicits the attention of the Executive of Virginia to the [indecipherable word] and proof herewith presented which are the best and only evidence on the subject either [to] his knowledge or [in his] possession – and requests its aid in securing to him and his relatives and connections the compensation in lands or otherwise to which he may be entitled for his father's said revolutionary services.

Williamsburg 15 April 1839

S/ Ro. Anderson

*Ro. Anderson*



[Reverse]

Hs. J. Anderson  
Capt. Artificers & Armorer  
[several indecipherable marks]  
Rejected      DC

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] James City County Legislative Petitions

Extracts from Books in the Office of the 1<sup>st</sup> Auditor

In a Journal headed Williamsburg 30<sup>th</sup> October 1779 page 235 James Anderson (on new A/c) is charged – "Gov<sup>r</sup>. War<sup>t</sup> as Armorer £500." And on the same day he is credited "for amounts of his account page sundry workman repairs, Guns &c £2684.3.9."

In Journal A 1780, 1781, page 474 under date of one September 1780 – United States is debited to Army "for amount James Anderson's public Armorer's account of sundries & repairs done for Continental troops £6073.15.0"

In Ledger A pages 88 and 295, and B pages 111 and 556 the account of "James Anderson public Armorer" these are posted from Journal headed "Journal January 1781 to December 1783 Richmond for October 1781 page 220," James Anderson is debited to George Brooke Treas., "to Warrant in part of a balance due him as Armorer for the State per account £125009.0.0." And from Book marked B No. 4 page 202, under date of 26 September 1786 "Capt. James Anderson, Commandant Artificers is debited to Foster Webb late P. M. Gen'l received upon account for the pay of his Troops £175327.0.0."

In the same Book No. 4 "Capt. John Allen, State Artillery" is debited on 26 September 1786 – "Received upon Accounts as supernumerary £15750.0.0" to credit of Foster Webb late P. M. Genl. Page 202.

The account on Ledger A page 88 is headed , "James Anderson public Armorer" the 1<sup>st</sup> debit is

on the 27 January 1779 and contains various other charges down to the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1780, leaving after a credit given on the 30 October 1779 "By the Army £2684.3.9 a balance to his debit of £8500 – which is carried to an account on page 295 of the same Ledger headed "James Anderson" to which is added another charge on the 20 October 1780, per balance of his account £1380.11.0 and a credit on the same day "By the Army for amount of your Account as armorer £9880.11.0 dust balancing the account, – other debits are charged amounting to £17000, which amount is transferred to Led. B folio 111 "James Anderson" where other debits are charged to him amounting with the foregoing balance to £154009 which is again transferred to folio 556 of the same Ledger, "James Anderson" where the last charge of £175327" which remains unclosed – it will thus appear that the foregoing extracts do not embrace the entire account but are such only as are deemed important by the applicant, to show the character of the services rendered by James Anderson.

Auditors Office

11 January 1850

S/ Jas. E. Heath, 1<sup>st</sup> Aud.

[Note: This file contains a number of other accounting entries for payments made to and by Capt. James Anderson in his capacity as State Armorer. I chose not to transcribe them since they are not particularly informative. Those interested in this veteran are encouraged however, to view the file for themselves.]

War office September 19, 1781

I wish you to take every step to get your Core of artificers into immediate business as their services are much wanting and I cannot pay the least attention to execute the plan which has been already formed. I approve of your taking steps to get the necessary houses for the different [indecipherable word]. If you approve of Mr. Rawlins, I do. I shall rest the management of this business solely upon you, and beg your attention to the immediate execution of the object. I enclose the plan to you, it may perhaps admit of alterations and enlargement.

I am respectfully &c

Mr. James Anderson

Executive department Richmond Virginia February 27, 1850

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the War Office Letter Book of date given.

S/ William H. Richardson, S. Comt.

In Council Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1782

Capt. Anderson of the artificers is directed to have the Franklin on the Statehouse put in repair and to have one fixed to the Governor's house as soon as may be.

In Council Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1782

Capt. James Anderson, Armorer and Superintendent of the Company of Artificers, representing that he must of necessity retired from public business for want of means to support himself & family; The members present considering Capt. Anderson services as E Central, are exceedingly anxious to retain him but the Treasury being without money, they are unable to make payment even in part of the large arrears due him for his former services, unless by furnishing him with some of the public flour therefore. The Commissary General is directed to furnish Capt. Anderson with 30 barrels of the public flour in his hands taking his receipt for the same at the current specie price of that article.

In Council Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1782

A Return of the arms &c belonging to this State being laid before the board from which it appears that there are several thousand stands of Arms in want of repair and it being suggested by Major Pryor Field Commissary General of Military Stores that Mr. James Anderson Capt. of the Corps of Artificers is unable to repair the same with any tolerable expedition for want of necessary materials belonging to the public from which circumstance it is necessary, that some effectual mode be adopted for that purpose. Major Pryor having also informed the board that Mr. Anderson who is at present under a contract with the public would undertake to repair two thousand stand of arms without loss of time provided his present contract may be dissolved by authority of this board and assurances given him for the payment of such of his services by the Executive.

The Board are of opinion that it be recommended to the Commissioner of War to accept of such proposition of Mr. Anderson assuring him of payment for such services when the State of the Treasury will admit thereof, and that the said Commissioner be authorized to make similar Contracts for the repairing the remainder.

In Council Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1782

The Board, on considering a Letter from the Commissioner of War relative to the settlement of Mr. James Anderson's accounts, advise, That payment be made to Mr. Anderson in specie – that his account in the public store be stated and an Interest of 5 percent allowed on the balance quarterly, – that Sundays be deducted from his account except where it shall appear that he was employed in working on some particular emergency.

In Council Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1782

Mr. James Anderson's letter to the Commissioners of War, setting forth that for want of money he is utterly incapable of supporting his Family & the artificers employed under him, and praying to be released from his contract with the public, being laid before the Board. The Board are of opinion that it would be improper to release Mr. Anderson from his Contract, but as the present state of the Treasury will not admit of paying him any money, the Commissioner of war is directed to give Mr. Anderson permission to employ, until the further orders of this board, two of his forges in working for private persons, the monies arising from which he may apply to the purposes above mentioned, observing to render an exact account of all money so received.

Executive department Richmond Virginia February 20<sup>th</sup> 1850

I hereby certify the foregoing to be true copies of the Council Journal of dates above.

S/ Wm H. Richardson, Comt.

War office Journal (page 123)

Richmond August 24<sup>th</sup> 1781

Letter to Capt. James Anderson informing him of the appointment of Mr. William Mitchell to be Capt. Lieut. and his Corps of Artificers, & erecting likewise that he would proceed to repair the Arms, at Irvins and to send to Mr. Jordan immediately, see letter Book A, Folio 207

War office August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1781

Sir

Capt. Young does not seem to be adverse to the scheme, but is fearful the men will be idle, for want of Tools – You can make a great number of them yourself, and if that method is not taken we shall find it impossible to get them otherwise.

The Governor seems very anxious that Capt. William Mitchell should be appointed to the next command to yourself in the Corps. His present distressed situation, the character the Governor gives him and his will to be employed our inducements with me to give the appointment, though I would gladly have known your sentiments beforehand – He is now gone to Camp to enlist what men he can. – I approve of your plan of offering exemptions to such men in the Counties as will engage – I will take the earliest opportunity to give the Notice.

I would wish you immediately to Embrace Mr. Ross's offer about the Gun stocks – they are of the utmost consequence. Your going to Irvin's, during the present situation of the point of fork was a necessary and proper measure. I wish you to take the immediate charge of the repairing of the arms, where you are and when fit for service, you will deliver them to Mr. Jordan, who will have them boxed up ready to be sent down. Capt. Young has given orders for your supply of provisions – but you must take care after all of yourselves.

I am &c &c

Capt. James Anderson  
Irvin's Store

Richmond November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1781 (War Office Journal page 176)

Warrant on Foster Web Esq. Pay Master General in favor of James Anderson for five hundred eighty-four thousand and twenty-four dollars for the pay of the Artificers under his command to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1781---£175327.4.

Executive Department Richmond Virginia May 10, 1850

I hereby certify the foregoing are true extracts from books preserved in this department – the 1<sup>st</sup> from the War Office Journal, the 2<sup>nd</sup> from one of the War Office Letter Books and the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the War Office Journal

S/ Wm H. Richardson, Comt.

A Return of Artificers in the service of the State of Virginia under the direction of James Anderson

1782	Names	Occupation	Station	Pay per Day
March 29	James Anderson, Capt. Martin Hawkins Capt. Lt.		Richmond	

Soldiers	Thomas Hunt <sup>1</sup> John Hays	Gun Smith do		9/
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Apprentices	Frank Ferguson Matthew Pate Claiborne Evens William Lenox Benjamin Bryan Thomas Harvey Benjamin Powell Frank Jasper Peter [Slave?]	Blacksmith do do do do do do do do		4/
[Apprentices]	Nathaniel Henderson Martin Palmer Benjamin Sneed Roger [Slave?] Nim [Slave?]	Carpenter do do do do		5/ 4/ 2/6 2/ 2/
Soldier	William Hartgrove	Wheelwright		4/
Apprentices	William Murray William Roundtree Benjamin Roundtree Sam Dunn Thomas Stroud Sim Bryan Berry Evens George Cardwell Donell Fair	Nailor do do do do do do do do		2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3 2/3
Soldier	Obediah Ford Charles Matthews	Shoemaker do		3/ 3/
[Soldier]	Tomkins Martigs	Gun Cleaner		2/
[Soldier]	Martin Palmer	Brickays [sic]		4/

Besides the men returned by Mr. Anderson there were seven taylors [tailors] and five shoemakers, all of them soldiers at Albemarle barracks under the direction of Capt. Alin Peyton, the Continental clothier for the State of Virginia; and these are allowed Three Pounds a month.

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<sup>1</sup> [Thomas Hunt VAS393](#)