

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Thomas Bush (Boush) VAS2567
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). Some online images are illegible.]

State of Georgia } Be it known that before me Thomas Little a Justice of [several
Handcock [sic: Hancock] County } undeciphered words] who being duly sworn deposeth and saith
that John Bush of West Florida and County of Washington is the son of Thomas Bush formerly of Orange
County in the State of Virginia (and of Warren County of the State of Georgia [two undeciphered words]
and that the said John Bush is the only Son of said Thomas Bush [several undeciphered words] Thomas
[several undeciphered words] was in the regular Service and farther states that she saw the Soldiers
exercising in said Thos. Bushes yard in Orange County & State of Virginia and that after being in the
service for some considerable time he returned home to where his family had removed to Henry County
in the State of Virginia on [undeciphered word] in the year that [several undeciphered words] dark day in
the fall of said war and that he returned a Army [two undeciphered words] above Service that he wore
Uniform and eppalets [epaulets] [three undeciphered words] What Commission he bore that after the
above service said Thomas Bush raised a Company of Light horse and went with him into North Carrolina
after the Tories who was said had [several undeciphered words] General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene]
that after the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] said Thomas Bush followed on
after Cornwallace to little York [sic: Cornwallis to siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] where he got
wounded by a bomb and was some time before he recovered after Wallace was take he returned home
and that said Witness further states she has heard said Thomas Bush deceased often say that he never rec'd
Compensation for the above Services and that John Bush as above stated is the only son of said Thomas
Bush deceased and that she is well Convinced that he never rec'd pay for his service
Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 19th day of March in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight
hundred & thirty four
Thomas Little J.P. Jane Richardson

Georgia } Personally came before me Miller Bledsoe [S31556] of the
Oglethorp [sic: Oglethorpe] County } County and state aforesaid who being duly sworn deposeth and
saith that Thomas Bush [several undeciphered words] Virginia served in the Revolutionary War against
Great Britain that he was in the Second Virginia Regiment under Colo [undeciphered; probably William
Brent] commanded by General Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] Said Thomas Bush [several
undeciphered words] in the year seventeen hundred seventy seven [several undeciphered words] with Capt.
Dudley This deponant further states that said Capt Ambrose Dudley [several undeciphered words] and
that he has every reason to believe that [several undeciphered words] him in the Captains This deponent
further states that he with a number of [several undeciphered words] three years and that he never knew
any other person of his name in the Service nor state of Virginia Viz by the name of Thomas Bush and I
have Just reason to believe said Thomas Bush served three years, this deponant further states that the said
Thomas Bush removed from Virginia to state of Georgia where he died and that [undeciphered] Bush of
of Florida (Washington County is the only son of Thomas Bush and that he has know him from his
infancy and have every reason to believe that said Bush has [several undeciphered words] for the services
above rendered Sworn to before me this 26th of [March 1834]
Signed in presents of/ Jesse Carter J.P.



State of Georgia } Personally came before me Elizabeth Bell who being duly sworn deposed and
Taliaferro County } saith that Thomas Bush formerly of Orange County of the State of Virginia
Enlisted a Company of Regulars for the term of three years among which Company were two of the
deponents Brothers and that they served the time out to the best of this deponents knowledge and that the
said service was between seventeen hundred and seventy six and seventeen hundred and eighty and that
before the commencement of the above service said Bush and one of the deponents Brothers serve a tour
of six Months under Capt Madisson [Madison] of Orange County And that said Bush moved from Orange
County of Virginia to Henry County of s'd State. this deponent further states that said Bush as Captain and
Pachy Bledsoe [Peachy Bledsoe VAS1766] a Lieutenant raised a Company of Volunteer [undeciphered
word] under the Command of Colonal Pen [sic: Abram Penn; see endnote] of Henry County served in a
tour against the Tories in North Carolina afterward joined General Greene in an Expedition to the south
that said Bush followed Cornwallis as this deponent always understood and was wounded at the seige of
little York and did not recover until some time after his return home this deponent further states that s'd
Thomas Bush afterward removed to the state of Georgia where he died and that John Bush of Florida
Washington County is the only son of said Thomas Bush and that this deponent has known said John Bush
from his infancy up to the present time and has every reason to believe s'd Thomas Bush has not rec'd
Compensation for the above service and that she never knew any other person by the Name of Thomas
Bush sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st March 1834
John Harrison JP [signed] Elizabeth Bell

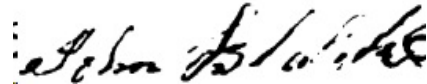
State of Alabama } Personally came before me John Mallary [John Mallery (Mallory) S16931] of
Randolph County } the County and State aforesaid who being duly Sworn deposed and saith that
Thomas Bush formerly of Orange County in the State of Virginia served in the revolutionary war against
Great Britain that he was in the second Virginia Regiment under Colo. Brent Command of General
Mulinburgh. Said Thomas Bush was first Lieutenant and enlisted a number of men in the year seventeen
hundred and seventy seven and were united with Capt. Dudley, that said Dudley Resigned in six or eight
months after the enlistment & that said Bush was Captain in the place of said Dudley [see endnote] this
deponent further states that he with a number of others Enlisted under said Thomas Bush for the term of
three years that he never knew any other person of the name of Thomas Bush in said service nor in
Virginia and has Just reason to believe said Thomas Bush served the term of three years said deponent
further states that said Bush removed from Orange County finally settled in the State of Georgia where he
died and that John Bush of Washington County west Florida is the son of Thomas Bush and further states
he has reason to believe s'd Bush has never rec'd any Compensation for said service above Rendered
Sworn to before me this 18 of April Eighteen hundred & thirty four
Arch'd Sawyers J.C.C John hisXmark Mallory

Georgia Columbia County

Personally appeared before me George W. Hardwick one of the Justices of the Inferior Court
Elizabeth Hardwick of the County and State aforesaid and maketh oth [two undeciphered words] that
Elizabeth Bush who was wife of the late Capt Thomas Bush of Warren County was left an Executrix to
the last will and testament of her father the said Capt Thos Bush, and that she Elizabeth Bush departed life
in the year 1829 the day and month she does not now recollect also Doctor William Lee who died in the
month of March 1815 was allso named in said will of Capt. Thos Bush as one [undeciphered word] and
that John Bush the son of sd Thomas was left an Ex'r to act in the above named and that he the said John
has [several undeciphered words] this deponent is requested to [several undeciphered words] She has any
knowledge of her father's [several undeciphered words] to the Revolutionary war) with Great Britton for
servises rendered to the United States as an officer was destroyed by fire or what has become of him she
has no knowledge of said papers but has often herd her father Thos. Bush speak of being in the
Revolutionary war with Great Briton Sworn to and Subscribed to this the 16 day of April 1834
Geo W Hardwick JPC [signed] Elizabeth Hardwick

[The first part of this document is mostly illegible] him but saw the [undeciphered word] immediately after & was told said Bush was [two undeciphered words] the above Company was enlisted in the spring of seventeen hundred and eighty the last I saw of said Bush was when [three undeciphered words] this deponant does not recollect the name of the Colonel of the Regiment but saw Thomas Bush and the Colonel [undeciphered word] this deponant to join the Company – This deponant further states that he has every reason to believe that John Bush of Washington County and Territory of Florida is the son of said Thomas Bus Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of June one thousand eight and[?] Thirty Four This deponant further states that he was some time with said Thomas Bush some time before they got to little York and that he know of no other person in the Army or in the state of Virginia of the Name of Thomas Bush but the said Capt. Thos Bush

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above written
[undeciphered signature] JP John Blalock [W1807]
[certified in Burke County NC]



Dr. The Commonwealth of Virginia
1778 In Acct with Lawrence Smith ju'r C'r.
Feb'y 20 To Ensign Thomas Bush £12.0.0
Extracted from Lawrence Smith's pay Roll.
Jas E Heath/ Aud'r off/ July 2 1834

To the Honourable Executive & Council of Virginia,
I beg leave Respectfully to submit the following Statement to your honours as to the services of my Father Thomas Bush. I do know of his serving six months in what was called the minute service under Francis Maddison [Francis Madison], as a volunteer Soldier, I have no doubt was at Norfolk when that was burnt [1 Jan 1776] and Foredice was killed [British Capt. Charles Fordyce, Battle of Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775], after which he and Capt. Dudley enlisted a Company for three years in 1777 at the begining of the year and joined the second Virginia Redgmt, to the best of my knowledge. I also believe my Father was ensign at the commencement of said service, I do declare that for fifty fifty odd years, I would have sworn to the best of my knowledge, that the greater part of the three years, my Father Thos Bush was a Capt. in said service, he returned at the end of the three years, with several of the men he enlisted Miller Bledsoe who proves apart of his service was not able from sickness to walk home, stated to me when he made the proof of my Fathers services, that said Thos. Bush purchased a horse for him to ride back, which horse I remember well, I have seen his Commission, which I believe was burnt with a number of other papers, one of which was a bond for title to a valuable tract of Land which caused[?] a Law suit where the loss of the papers were proven, and he received the Land in 1780 I believe about April he entered the service again as a Capt. was ordered to go to the Yadkin in North Carolina, where the Tories had embodied, he was there there some considerable time returned, Joined General Greene with some he had enlisted for three years, and about Twenty five Volunteers all mounted Cavelry Joined Colo. Washingtons Cavelry [Lt. Col. William Washington, 3rd Continental Light Dragoons] as I have often heard him say. after the Battle at Guilford Courthouse which I believe was in Ap'1 1781 Green went back to the south, my Father with others followed on after Wallace to little York, in October 1781 I believe Wallace was taken, my Father there got wounded by a bomb, from which he did not recover for some time he was not called out again, The whole of his services was about five year, in which time, he was out a good plantation he sold in Orange County Va. and a likely Negro girl, in 1783 he moved to Georgia, died in 1812. I am well convinced he never knew there was any provision made for geting any thing, for his services, and have often heard him say he never expected to get any compensation. I have given a just detail, as I possibly could do if sworn, and have made proof of nearly all the Items I submit the case believing you will do me Justice

With due Respect I am/ your most Obd't Serv't/ John Bush/ Jan'y 7th 1835

[the first part of this affidavit by William Cason (S9157) is missing from the online file.]
company replaced part of the American forces there engaged[?], and also a part of the forces engaged at the storming of Stony Point [16 Jul 1779]. That [one or two undeciphered words] Bush and his company were commanded by Genls William Brant, [Charles] Lee and were sometimes under General [Israel] Putnam, and at other times under Generals Mullenberg and [Anthony] Wayne. That about the commencement of the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty the said [several undeciphered words] Fredericksburg in Virginia, and together with the said Bush and his company was discharged. This deponent further states that he himself was a soldier in the said Regiment for three years, and discharged as above stated; That he is nearly seventy five years of age; that he knew of no other person of the names of Thomas Bush in the said Regiment, or state of Virginia; nor did he know that the said Thomas Bush ever received any compensation for the above mentioned services.

Given under my hand and seal this thirteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirty five.

Benj'n Rawlings

1835 Mar 19 Rejected 3 years service not satisfactorily proved

To the Executive of Virginia

The undersigned Executor of Thomas Bush [several undeciphered words] respectfully represent his claim for Land Bounty to the Executive of Virginia, and in support thereof to submit the following statement That your memorialist is son and Executor of said Thomas Bush, and is a Citizen of West Florida That said Thomas Bush Served three years in the second Virginia State Rigmnt. That said Bush and Ambrose Dudley raised a Company of Soldiers who were enlisted for three years and in February seventeen hundred and seventy seven joined the second Virginia State Rigmnt That Ambrose Dudley was the Captain of said Company. That said Bush served three years, eight or ten months as Lieutenant and the balance of the time as Captain of said Company That in the fall of seventeen hundred and seventy seven the said Bush and his Company marched with said Rigmnt from Williamsburg in Virginia to Valley forge in Pennsylvania where they were Enoculated with with the small pox That some time after the above transaction the British Evacuated Philadelphia [18 Jun 1778], when Gen'l. Washington pursued them, and took them at Monmath plains [sic: Monmouth, 28 Jun 1778] That said Bush and his Company composed part of the American force there engaged, and also a part of the force employed at the storming of Stony point. That said Bush and his company were Commanded by Colonels Wm. Brent, Lee and others, sometimes under general Putnam, and at other times under General Mulinburg and Wayne. That sometime about the Commencement of seventeen hundred and eighty the said rigmnt was marched to Fredericksburg in Virginia and together with said Bush and his Company were discharged. Your memorialist Verily belives himself as Executor, entitled to Land Bounty for the services of said Thomas Bush and are enduced to this belief from the law of Congress passed 5th July 1835 I therefore believe that if the claim can receive the advantages of an investigation by the commisioner appointed therefore that it will be fully shown. I respectfully ask as Executor of said Thomas Bush that the case may be considered and that such a dispoision may be made thereof as that right and Justice may be done Signed this 21 day April 1835

[several undeciphered words; certified in Prince George County VA] John Bush Esq'r

Report upon the claim of John Boush [sic] heir &c of Thomas Boush [sic], Captain in the Continental line, for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor

Sir I made a [several undeciphered words] the [?]th of June 1834. Since that time it has been acted upon by the executive on the 19th[?] of March 1835 [undeciphered word] was reputed an ensign for three years not being satisfactorily proved. It has [two undeciphered words] taken up for reconsideration, and after January [?]th 1835 refer'd to me – “for examination with the aid of the additional testimony, and with reference to the law of october 1777 for transferring State Troops to the Continental service (9th Heng

Stat. p. 398 [Hening's Statutes at Large, Vol. 9, p 398])

I beg leave respectfully to report that the additional proof now affords [undeciphered word] wholly of the testimony of witnesses. There is no new evidence of [one or two undeciphered words] documents presented. the only [two undeciphered words] documents, [undeciphered word] of Record, in the case, is the entry in Lawrence Smiths Pay Book, which shows that Ensign Thomas Boush receiv'd pay amounting to £12 on the 20th Feb'y 1778. The additional testimony throws out of this case the proof furnished by Lawrence Smiths pay book, because it establishes the fact, that Thomas Boush the father of the Petitioner was Captain, in command, in the year 1777 (in the fall season) after which time, to wit, on the 20th of Feb'y 1778, an Ensign Thomas Boush received pay from Laurence Smith P. M. [undeciphered word]. If this piece of documentary proof is thrown out of the case, there will remain none of that character, in support of the claims and it will depend wholly on the testimony of witnesses. They will furnish the only proof, that Thomas Boush, the Father of the Petitioner, was a commissioned officer – That he was of the rank of Captain – and that he render'd services, which entitled his heir to bounty land.

The affidavit of William Cason (fil'd with the petition for reconsideration) states all the material facts, on which the executive will decide, in addition to those set forth in the affidavits accompanying the original petition. (I refer to my report upon this claim, on the 3rd of July 1834, for a [undeciphered word] state of the facts prior to the filing the petition for reconsideration & additional evidence.) Wm Cason says – that Thomas Boush and Capt. Ambrose Dudley rais'd a Company of the 2nd Va State Reg't – that the men enlisted for 3 years – that the Company join'd that regiment, in Williamsburg, in Feb'y 1777 – that 8 or 10 months afterwards, Thomas Boush was promoted Captain – that in the fall of 1777 Captain Thomas Boush march'd with his Company to Valley forge – that he serv'd 3 years in the said 2nd Virginia Reg't – that he was with his Company at the Battle of Monmouth, and the storming of Stony-point – and that about the beginning of the year 1780, the said Boush march'd with the said Reg't to Fredericksburg, where they were discharged. That he (the witness) was a soldier in the said Reg't and was discharg'd at Fredericksburg, about the first of the year 1780. Wm Cason further proved to be a respectable witness.

I have been asked to [undeciphered word] this case with reference to the Law of October 77 [several undeciphered words] Stat. p. 117[?] for transferring State Troops to the Continental service &c. The title of that Act is “an act for speedily converting the Virginia Regiments to the Continental establishment, and for raising additional Troops of volunteers. The 3rd Section of the act is in these words “and as our numbers in Continental service, which according to the proportions heretofore stated by Congress, should be eight Thousand, one hundred & sixty men – rank & file – may for some [undeciphered word] be deficient. Be it further enacted that the Troops rais'd for the service of this Commonwealth by an act of Assembly pass'd in the year 1776 and entitled “an act for making further provision for the internal security and defence of this Country shall be forthwith [undeciphered word] by the Governor & Council” &c &c and that a Battalion of such troops be marched to join the Grand Army there to [undeciphered word] until a sufficient number of recruits may be raised to make good our just proportion, or until the terms of their enlistments shall expire.” &c When I refer to the “act for making further provision for the internal security and defense of this Country,” passed in October 1777, I find it, an act providing for the erection of fortifications at Portsmouth – at York Town – at Hampton – at Corotomace[?] – and at Cherrystone; for the raising of their battalions to garrison their fortifications; for transferring to the Continental service five Rifle companies, and five of the Companies to be enlisted under an act of the same session of assembly; (which I presume was an “act for raising Six additional battalions of Infantry on the Continental establishment” passed october 1776) – for the building of two Frigates & four gallies; and for other purposes. The act, which has been refer'd to by the hon'ble the Executive, (7th Hengs. Stat. p. 338) seems to provide for the transfer to the Continent of one Battalion, consisting of eight companies, of men who were recruited to garrison the fortifications order'd, as aforesaid, to be erected under the act of oct. 1776; and of five Rifle Companies, and of five Companies order'd to be rais'd under another law pass'd at the same session of Assembly – october 1776; and also for the transfer or the continuance in the service of the Continent, it being then in that service,) of the 1st Virginia Regt. commanded by Colo. George Gibson, to take place of the 9th Virginia regt, made prisoners by the enemy

at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] &c. I cannot gather, from an examination of the act of Assembly to which the Executive has call'd my attention, and the several acts abovemention'd, any more distinct and certain information, than that above communicated, respecting the Troops in addition to Gibsons Reg't, which were transfer'd to the Continental service by the act aforesaid of oct. 1777 (9th Heng. Stat. p. 338): and I have no information, respecting the said transfer, deriv'd from other services, which is worthy of being communicated to the Executive.

It is not my province, to decide the questions arising in this case – to wit --

Is it proper, or allowable, to dispense with evidence of record, and to receive proof of witnesses, of the issuing of two Commissions; neither of which appears by public documents to have issued?

Is it probable, that an officer of the grade of Captain could have serv'd 3 years, or nearly 3 years, in the 2nd Va. Regt, and his name not to appear on the Army Register, or the Rolls of officers, or on any public document?

Is it probable, that respectable witnesses, or witnesses said to be respectable, who have testified positively to facts in this case, have been mistaken, or made false statements willfully?

These questions involve the admissibility, and the weight of the evidence, which has been relied upon by the Petitioner: on neither of which can I undertake to express an opinion; but on both of which the hon'ble the Executive will decide.

The foregoing report, which I apprehend will be unsatisfactory, and in which I do not intend to express an opinion, either in favor of or against the claim of the Petitioner, is respectfully submitted

John H Smith Com'r &c/ May 5th 1835

1835 May 6 Rejected

NOTES:

There is no record of Thomas Bush having been commissioned a Captain in the militia of Henry County (McAllister, J. T. *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books. 1989. <http://lib.jrshelby.com/mcallister-harris.pdf>.) Bush may have served informally as head of a company, however. He is referred to as Capt. Thomas Bush in the pension applications of John May R7051, John Smith W6085, and Daniel Taylor W6232.

There is also no record of Peachy Bledsoe having been commissioned a Lieutenant in the militia of Henry County. In his petitions to the legislature of Virginia (VAS1766) made from Henry County, Peachy Bledsoe stated that he was discharged from the regular service on 17 Feb 1780 and immediately afterward moved to Georgia.

In the pension application of Benjamin Wilkerson (Wilkinson) W10001, Ambrose Dudley stated that upon his resignation, Harry Dudley [Henry Dudley R13891] replaced him as Captain of the company. Harry Dudley took command of the company on 15 Oct 1777. There is evidence in the pension applications of Thomas Ransone R17293 and John Darnaby S16360 that a Thomas Bush was Ensign in the company, although in official records the name is given as Thomas Boush.

There are rolls for Capt. Harry Dudley's company from March 1778 through November 1779, but none bears the name Thomas Bush or Thomas Boush.

A document in the file states that "Rev. Miller Bledsoe... has for many years been an ordained minister of the gospel."