

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to William Bressie VAS2632  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

Westmoreland County (Towit)

Samuel Templeman sen'r. [S6204] aged seventy three years old deposeth and saith, That he was Carried to the Great Bridge in Norfolk County by his Uncle Richard Templeman, and Continued in his Store untill the Revolutionary warr during which time he was Intimately Acquainted with the family of the Bressey's, And particularly with Capt William Bressey. he always heard and believed that he Bore a Capt's Commission either in the State or United States Service, that he with Capt William Grimes [VAS1713] was ordered on to the North in the United States Service, Capt William Grimes died with the Small Pox before he got to Philedilphia [see endnote] and it was Confidently Reported that Capt William Bressey was Killed in some engagement to the North, Capt William Bressey married a Miss Hudson, and I am inclined to beleive, that John Hudson [R15350] his Brother in Law was his Lieutenant, after his death succeeded him in the Command who was on the foreloan hope at the taking of Stoney Point [sic: forlorn hope, Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779] .



Sworn to before me, One of the Commonwealths Justices of the Peace for Westmoreland County this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831. H. Hungerford JP

I do certify that the Legal representative of William Grymes dec'd is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Captain of the Continental line for three years service.

Council Chamber

Thomas Meriwether

December 14<sup>th</sup> 1784

An Exam'd Copy from Record in the Land Office, Teste.

At the instance and request of Sarah Grimes of the County of Norfolk, We do hereby Certify that the said Sarah is Relict and that Nancy (an infant) is daughter and Heiress of Capt William Grymes deceased, who formerly resided in the said County. Given under Our hands the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1784.

Dan'l Sanford/ Thomas Matthews [Thomas Mathews W17076]

Land Offic Dec'r 8 1831

The foregoing is copied from the Records of the Land office of Virginia

Teste Wm Selden R L Of/ Dec 7 1831

These certificates are filed as corroborative testimony of the facts deposed by Mr Templeman. The advice of Council is for three years service. The certificate of Gen Matthews & Sandford & heirs that Grymes was dead at the date of the certificate. Templeman says he died at the north with the small pox & having spoken truly of Grymes we must suppose he speaks truly about Bressie

Norfolk County S't

This day Mr John Nichols of said county made oath before me, that he was a soldier in the Virginia line under Capt'n William Bressie and served to the end of the War, he made oath that Capt' Wm. Bressie was in service at the time of his death, which happened just about the close of the war.

I certify that Mr John Nichols is a man of credit & truth. Given under my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> July 1832. David Fentress JP

Norfolk County to wit

Personally appeared before me [undeciphered name] a justice of the peace in the County aforesaid Lt Henry Etheredge and made oath that he knew William Bressie who was a Captain during the war of the revolution who served as Captain during the whole time untill just before the war ceased at which time he died



aforesaid is a respectable Old man whose integrity and word may be fully relyed on given under my hand and seal this the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1832

Ag't S Foreman [?]

Norfolk County to wit

Personally appeared before me [undeciphered name] a justice of the peace of the County aforesaid Mrs Sarah Shipwash and affirmed that she was well acquainted with Capt'n William Bressie and that he the said Bressie served during the revolutionary war and was [two undeciphered words] returned just before the war closed and died. Mrs Sarah Shipwash is a [undeciphered word] lady of respectability and standing in society and whose integrity and word may be fully relied on given under my hand and seal the 29 Decr [?] 1832

Norfolk County to wit

This day David Fentriss Esq'r personally appeared before me Wilson B. Scott a justice of the peace of the County aforesaid and made Oath that he knew Capt William Bressie, who was a recruiting officer in the revolutionary war and did to the best of his knowledge and belief go to the north and join the Army and serve during the whole of the revolutionary war.

David Fentriss Esq'r is a man of truth, whose word and integrity may be fully relied on.

Given under my Hand & Seal this 24<sup>th</sup> day of Jan'y 1833 Wilson B. Scott J.P.

This day Mrs Evans made oath before me that her father Capt. Wm Bressie was an officer in the revolutionary war and went to the North where he remained sometime and returned home and was sick about Fifteen months and died in 1782. At the time of his death she believes he was in the Service

Given under my Hand this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 1833 Wilson B. Scott J.P.

I certify that Mrs Evans is a lady of veracity whose word may be relied on

J W Murdaugh on behalf of the heirs of Wm Bressie represents that he was early appointed an officer in the Militia of this State during the revolution & was afterwards a Captain in the State line & marched to the north with the troops of Virginia & was killed

The deposition of the Reverend Mr Templeman proves that he was in Service & died or was killed. The report of the discriminating Board proves that the Va line marched to the north. Templeman's belief relating to Hudson's succeeding Bressie is confirmed by the board of discrimination which reports Hudson was a Captain & the report also establishes the fact that Bressie, if a Captain in the army with Hudson as his Lieutenant must have been in the State line. John Hudson was appointed a Lieut in the 2<sup>nd</sup> State Regiment in 1777 and in 1778 Sept 15<sup>th</sup> was commissioned a Captain. See Half Pay list- The Virg'a State regiments marched to the north Jan'y 1 1777 & were ordered back Dec'r 9<sup>th</sup> 1779 See Half Pay list 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't. now as these Regiments on State line were absent from the State untill Dec'r 1779 and as Hudson was commissioned in 1778 during the time of absence from the State it is fair to presume that Templeman's evidence is true when he says that Bressie was killed and Hudson succeeded him.

Dr Thomas V Webb by J W Murdaugh represents that Wm Bressie was appointed a Captain in the Virg'a State line and died in service at Portsmouth in the Summer of 1782. By the affidavit of the Rev'd Mr

Templeman it is shown that Wm Bressie was a Captain in the State Line & that he was in service at the north, & Mr Templeman adds his belief that Bressie died at the north whilst in service. Mr Templeman is mistaken however as to the place where Captain Bressie died – which was in Norfolk County It appears by an extract from the records of Norfolk County Court at May term 1782 that amongst other allowances the two items numbered One & Five are for provisions furnished Capt. Wm Bressie Company. Item No 3 for Capt. Thos. Bressie [Thomas Bressie R12763] Company which was in the State line – he having acc'd the bounty of a State line officer. The 4<sup>th</sup> Item is for Captain Wm Davenports [William Davenport] Company which was in State line. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Item is for provisions to the State Regiment These allowances were made on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1782 and in July 1782, two months, afterwards Wm Bressie made his will & died – his will is dated July 27<sup>th</sup> 1782 & recorded or proven in January 1783

J W Murdaugh further represents that Capt. Wm Bressie left 3 young children, on of whom was a son & the heir & who had scarcely attained to the age of twenty one years when he died leaving an only child a daughter who could not present the claim sooner. He hopes the proportion of land usually allowed a Captain will be allowed Wm Bressie heir

July 12<sup>th</sup> 1832

Portsmouth March 18 1833

Dear Sir        During the vice gerency of the present Lieut. Governour sometime in the month of August last, the claim of Captain Wm Bressie to land bounty was presented & advised to be allowed, but was nevertheless rejected by Mr Robertson, on the ground of his name not appearing on the Army Roll or on the Reports of 1782. This circumstance is accounted for by the testimony of Mrs Evans the daughter of Capt Bressie, which shews that he was confined to his house & bed for fifteen months before his death in 1782. Capt Bressie left a son who alone is interested in the claim & therefore Mrs Evans testimony may be relied upon. I am fully satisfied in my own mind of the justness of this claim, & therefore, I beg very respectfully that you will examine the papers already filed and decide upon the Justice of it. I herewith file two affidavits one of Mrs Evans, & the other of David Fentress Esq one of the oldest Justices of the court of this County/        I am with the highest respect/ truly yr. Ob. Ser't./ J W Murdaugh

NOTE: Testimony in the file of William Grimes VAS1713 is inconsistent with the statement that he died before reaching Philadelphia.