

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to William Brooke VAS2677  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

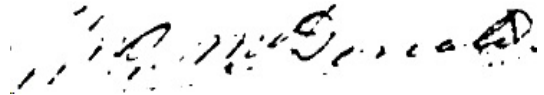
[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents in the file are illegible and the following nearly so.]

Mr Wm Brooke Jr

Sir Your letter dated Falmouth Jany 14<sup>th</sup> 1834 came to hand by mail this morning and I hasten to answer to the best of my recollection [I] remember very well there was a Serjeant Brooke [undeciphered] Lee's [Lt. Col. Henry Lee] Legion and it seems to me that he was removed[?] from the Horse to the Infantry and remained in service to the close of the war in 1783 I have no means in my own Power to give any other information as my memory is become quite [undeciphered word] of late. You had perhaps better write Mr. [undeciphered] in Congress from [undeciphered word] who if he feels an interest may after some time may obtain more correct information from Captain Thomas Cooper in the [undeciphered] who was a Serjeant in Lees Legion, who if Living can give a more correct & satisfactory statement There is also another Person Living in Middlesex somewhere near [undeciphered] but have forgot his name. Should your father be the Person alluded to above he was quite a Surly[?] man but dont recolect the mark on the face but understand he resided in Lower part of Va some where near York River. It seems strange that no memorandam should remain [three undeciphered words] as he ought to have rec'd final settlement certificate from [undeciphered] & also depreciation from the state of Va. & an application at the War office [several undeciphered words] may cast some important Light on the subject for has that [several undeciphered words] 300[?] acres Land [several undeciphered words] a large field to act upon all which is worth your while to [undeciphered word] to. I have in conclusion to state that I have forgotten your fathers christian name [several undeciphered words] However is not strange as he seldom went by any name than the Sir name. any other information that may come to me [two undeciphered words] shall be freely communicated. Respectfully your obt sert

Wm. McDonald [William McDonald W6806]

[16 Jan 1834]



District of Columbia, Washington County To wit

This day personally came before me a justice of the peace in the District & County afores'd Jacob Gideon [S13144] a citizen of s'd County aged 79 years and upwards and being first sworn according to Law, deposeth & saith that when he enlisted in the Legion commanded [by] Maj'r afterwards Colo. Henry Lee of Va in the month of Oct'r 1778 that he found Serjeant William Brooke a Serjeant in s'd Legion, and that he the s'd Brooke continued in s'd Service as a serjeant till the battle of Guilford Court House [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] when affiant was taken prisoner; and s'd affiant believes that s'd Brooke was taken prisoner but is not sure. He saw s'd Brooke afterwards, and his impression is that s'd Brooke served thro' the War but as this affiant thinks Mr. McDonald of Baltimore can give certain information.



Subscribed & sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> of Feby 1834.

[The file contains another document that is illegible except for the signature of Jacob Gideon.]

To the Executive of Virginia

The undersigned Wm Brooke Jr of Falmouth for himself, and Guardian of Mary & Thomas Beale, infant Children of George & Susan Beale – late Susan Brooke Dec'd, Hannibal Brooke Adm'rs of George Brooke, & Guardian of of infant Children, Eliza [undeciphered], Beale & Davis – Fountain Brooke, Whitfield Broke, Reuben Brooke all of the Counties of Rappahannock & Stafford and being Heirs of Wm Brooke late of Virginia, beg leave to represent their said ancestor Wm Brooke, as they have always believed – was a Regular enlisted Soldier in the Legion Commanded by Col. Lee, and received the appointment of Serjeant & acted in that capacity in the service of the War. Your petitioners have not been able to prove positively that the s'd Wm Brooke did enlist for during the War, but having proved the fact positive that he did serve through the War, and that when there was no reenlistment affords the inference that he must have enlisted for during the War They therefore beg leave to say that if it should so appear, they have the right to Claim the bounties which were provided by the act of the Virginia Assembly, of the October Session of 1780. They therefore ask that 300 Acres of Land may be awarded to them, and £60 in Specie with interest from the Close of the War till paid, or if Interest should not be allowed, they would receive a healthy sound Negroe between the ages of 10 & 30 Years in lieu of the s'd £60 and they further ask that Such proof [several words missing at bottom of page] and such may be received in support of their s'd Claims – and that all such Land & money as may be granted to them, may be paid to their attorney, who may, claim the same in their name duly authorised by power of attorney for that purpose & they will ever pray

[signed] Hannah S Brooke/ Reuben Brooke/ Wm Brooke Jr/ Whitfield Brooke/ Fountain Brooke  
[18 Nov 1834]

Report upon the claim of the heirs of William Brooke Serg't in Lee's Legion for bounty land for his services.

To the Governor

Sir I have found no documentary proof of the services of Wm Brooke Sergeant & His name is not on the army Register of the Continental line. Wm Brooks appears to have been a Sergeant of Cavalry of the Continental line. A certificate issued in his name (Wm Brooks August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1786, for £67.14.5, the balance of his full pay, and was deliver'd to John Dunn (see Army Register of the Continental line). The names of Officers & Soldiers were sometimes hastily, if not carelessly, written in the army documents &c. The name Wm Brooks may have been intended for Wm Brooke. There are two circumstances, which render it probable that such was the fact – first, Wm Brooks, & Wm Brooke, were both Sergeants of Cavalry. Second, neither of them has receiv'd bounty land for his services. These circumstances, added to the close resemblance of the two names – Brooks & Brooke – render it probable, that in the beforementioned entry in the Army Register the Ancestor of the present petitioners was spoken of.

A letter from Wm McDonald to one of the Petitioners, and the affidavit of Jacob Gideon, are the only papers which have been filed in support of this claim. Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Gideon, say that they believe, William Brooke serv'd as Sergeant in Lees Legion to the end of the war. Jacob Gideon (who was himself in Lee's Legion) found the said Brooke, a Sergeant in the said Legion, in the month of october 1778, when he enlisted – says, that the said Brooke continued in service, as Sergeant, until the battle of Guilford Court House, when he believes, he was taken prisoner – he thinks, the said Brooke serv'd through the war (see the aff't of Gideon, and the letter of McDonald)

Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Com'r &c/ April 27<sup>th</sup> 1835