

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Rowland Gaines, Sr. VAS3665  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

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

It does not appear by the Register of Military Land bounty warrants that Rowland Gaines ever received such a warrant from the Land off of Virginia      Teste Wm Selden Reg'r/ Dec 12 1826

Auditors Office/ 14 December 1826

I Certify, it appears from a list of such of the names of the soldiers of the Virginia State line on Continental establishment, as received certificates for the balance of their full pay agreeably to the act of Assembly passed the November Session 1781 that a Certificate issued on the 22<sup>d</sup> December 1784 in the name of Rowland Gains a Corporal of infantry for £63.1.4 and that the same was received by the soldier

State of Kentucky Montgomery County Sct

This day John Prince and Elizabeth Griffin personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in & for said County and made oath that they were personally and intimately acquainted with Rowland Gaines Deceased and that Herbert P Gaines & Thomas Gaines and (Lucy and John P Gaines are part Heirs of Richard Gaines Deceased) are the legal heirs of said Rowland Gaines Decd and that they are the only surviveing legal Heirs and Representatives of said Rowland

And she the said Elizabeth Griffin further States that she often heard the said Rowland say in his lifetime that he had served nearly or about seven years in the Revolutionary war, but she is not able to say with certainty in what capacity he did serve, but she thinks that four years of the time was in the regular service, And that he went from Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County & state of Virginia  
Given under my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 1827      Isaac Farrow J.P.M.C.

Kanawha County to Wit

This day Thomas Chilton now of Kawha County but formerly of Fauquier County and Commonwealth of Virginia came before me Sam Bass a justice of the peace in aforesaid County of Kannawha and made oath in due form that he became acquainted with Rowland Gaines upwards of forty years since and that from frequent conversation with General John Blackwell [possibly BLWt264-300], Captain James Wright [possibly BLWt2420-300], Capt Thomas Ramsdell [sic: Thomas Ransdell BLWt1852-300] and others the said Roland Gaines served in the war of the Revolution in various capacities from a Soldier in the Ranks up to a Lieutenant acting as Quarter Master according to the best recollection of the affiant after such a lapse of time, that the said Roland Gains alluded to is the only man of that name that ever this affinant believes, was a soldier or officer in the War of the Revolution, and that Harbert P Gaines whom he has known for a number of years is [undeciphered] that the said Roland Gains departed this life about the year 1805 as this affiant is informed, and believes – this affiant recollects to have heard conversations between the said Roland Gains, Gen'l John Blackwell, Capt Thomas Ransdell & Capt James Wright all Soldiers of the Revolution or offers at the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] Germantown [4 Oct 1777] and some other Battles not now recollected and he the said affiant well recollects to have heard the said Ramsdell frequently observe that said Roland Gains was one of the best Quarter Masters he new in the army of the Revolution that the said affiant believes that the said Roland Gains served in the line as a soldier & an officer from year 1775 until the end of the war or untill the Capture of Lord Cornwalliss at york Town [19 Oct 1781] and in this belief he is the said affiant warranted by his knowledge of the Conversations between the said Roland Gains Gen'l John Blackwell Capt Thomas Ramsdell Capt James Wright and other officers of the Revolution who have been heard by this affiant to agree to these facts and recognize the said Roland Gains as a participater in the dangers and

difficulties of those time of peral and danger and further this affiant satheth not given under my hand this [illegible] day of May, 1827

Thomas Chilton

Sworn to before me Sam Bass J.P.



To His Excellency Wm B. Giles, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Honorable, the Gentlemen composing the Council of State of said Commonwealth.

The Petition of Herbert P. Gaines of Kanawha County in the Commonwealth aforesaid, respectfully represents,

That your petitioner is the eldest son of Roland Gaines, late of the County of Frederick, but originally of Culpepper, dec'd, that your petitioner's said father departed this life in the said County of Frederick on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 1805, in his 47<sup>th</sup> year, leaving as his only heirs, your petitioner and three younger sons, Richard, Thomas and Rowland, of whom the said Thomas and your petitioner, are the only survivors; the said Richard however, leaving two legitimate children and heirs, Lucy and John P. Gaines, yet infants of a tender age; but the said Rowland, your petitioner's youngest brother, leaving no himself heir whatever, he having never been married; that the said Rowland Gaines sen'r, your petitioner's father, often stated to a number of Officers and Soldiers of the War of the Revolution, in the presence and hearing of your petitioner, that he the said Rowland sen'r went into the service of his country at the age of about 16 years, in or about the year 1775 or 1776, in a militia company that Marched from the said County of Culpepper, but how long he served in the Militia Company aforesaid, or any other Militia Company, your petitioner does not now recollect; but he has a tolerably clear and distinct recollection, that his said father stated uniformly that he was a private when he went into the service of his country, at the early age of 16 or about that age, but that he served a considerable time (your petitioner believes for about four years,) in the Regular service, in which time, as well as while he was attached to a Militia Company, he served in [undeciphered word] subordinate officer of various kinds; That for several years, while in the Regular service, he acted as quarter master, with some commission in the line, not now recollected, but Gen'l. Thomas Chilton, formerly of Fauquier County, now residing in Kanawha County, a highly respectable and credible witness, as far as he attempts to prove, says that the said Rowland Gaines sen'r was a Lieutenant, acting as Quartermaster; but your petitioner, who can speak only from recollection of the conversations of his said father, with Capt [undeciphered], Rich'd Beale [Richard Beale], Matthew Hughs, Capt Anthony Hughs and numerous other officers and soldiers of the Revolution, a number of whose names are certified with the history of that stormy period, "which tried mens' souls," and recollects well that they the said officers and soldiers, recognized his said father as an officer and as a soldier, in that war; and according to the belief of your petitioner, gave full faith and credit to his statements of services for the period above mentioned, as well as to his having been in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, the Capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown & several other.

Your Excellency will perceive by exhibits A. and B, that the said Rowland Gaines sen'r never did obtain a warrant for "Military bounty land," for his said services, although he obtained a certificate for the sum of £63.1<sup>s</sup>4<sup>d</sup>, as the balance of his full pay, while acting in the subordinate capacity, in s'd exhibit B set forth; but your petitioner will suggest to your Excellency, that before any pay whatever could have been drawn, vouchers must have been filed in the Auditor's office, proving the term of service, and the rank of every applicant, unless such vouchers were destroyed in the United States War office, several years since, when it is said that a number of vouchers of Officers and soldiers with muster rolls &c the War of the Revolution, were destroyed by fire, your petitioner respectfully suggests, that they may yet be found in the said Auditor's office. Your petitioner never did hear until last winter that his said father had never obtained a warrant for Bounty lands; and had he sooner, obtained such information, he would not until this late period, have delayed his application for a warrant. Jas. W Fry Esq, while in the Legislature, as a Delegate from this county, procured the exhibits A. and B. which he gave to your petitioner when he returned home; and this information was the first upon that fact, obtained by your petitioner. Your

petitioner, hopes, that the testimony under all the circumstances of the case of his and his brothers' minority at the time of the said Rowland Gaines' death; the want of knowledge of their claim being yet unsatisfied; the utter impossibility of obtaining at this late period, direct proof by Officers and soldiers of the Revolution, who actually served with the said Rowland Gaines Sen'r. in that war; (most, if not all of said officers and soldiers being dead;) and the very strong circumstantial proof of the witnesses named in exhibits C and D, when taken in connection with exhibits A. and B., will be sufficient to justify your Excellency and you the Honorable Gentlemen composing the Council of State, in causing a Warrant in favour of your petitioner & the other heirs above na[med] to be issued for 2666<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Acres, to which a Quarter Master was entitled, or for such number of Acres as may be deemed right; there being now, land in the Military Reserve in Ohio, unappropriated sufficient to satisfy such warrant, & your petitioner will ever pray &c.

H. P. Gaines

[18 July 1827]