

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to Lewis Willis VAS5037
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I am well acquainted with Colo Lewis Willis of the Revolution. He commanded a Regiment of [undeciphered word] me at the time of the Review of the troops five miles below Fredericksburg in the fall 1775. Col. Thomas Minor [W5374] acted on that occasion as adjutant. Col. Willis was not long afterward appointed a Colo. or Lieutenant Col. of one of the Virginia Continental regiments [10th Virginia Regiment of Foot on 13 NoOv 1776] that went to the North. How long he continued in the service I do not recollect. He was an honorable gentleman & left the service without impeachment of his character in any respect.

Given under my hand this 31st day of April 1838.
Francis T. Brooke [S8093]



I certify that in the “Virginia Gazette,” of September 22^d 1775, it is stated that at a meeting of the Select Committee for the District of Spotsylvania, Caroline, Stafford, and King George Counties, held in Spotsylvania on the 12th of September, 1775,

Lewis Willis was elected Captain of a Company of Minute Men for Spotsylvania County; and Reuben Briscoe [BLWt81-300] and James Hord [VAS1608] were elected Ensigns in companies of Minute Men for King George County.

And I further certify that the “Virginia Gazette” above referred to, is now on file in the Library of Congress.
John S. Mecham, Librarian of Congress
[Addressee undeciphered]

Spotsylv'a Dec'r 28th 1832

Dear Sir [Archibald M. Green]

Yours of the 23^d Inst. I have just received, & give it an immediate answer. I was well acquainted with Col Gibson [George Gibson BLWt1985-500], who commanded the 1st Virginia S. Reg't [State Regiment]. but do not recollect a Capt'n Pollard in his Regiment. I only served with those Troops while they were stationed in Williamsburg. Lewis Willis I was well acquainted with. We served together in the first Volunteer Company raised in Virginia. In 1775 there was an act for raising a Reg't of Minute Men, in which Reg't Lewis Willis was appointed to the Command of a Company, w'ch Company I joined. We continued with those Troops till they were disbanded – on 1776 Capt. Willis was appointed Lieutenant Col in one of the Virginia Reg'ts. and went to the North, & continued with the army untill the Regiments were consolidated [probably the White Plains Arrangement of 14 Sep 1778] – some person have taken off my Military Book or I could give you the date when the consolidation of those Regiments took place. any service I can render the Willis Family or you, will be done with pleasure. I have been in bad health for some time.

yrs Respectfully/ Tho. Minor

The Governor of Virginia

your Petitioner one of the heirs of the late Colo Lewis Willis dec'd of the Count of Spotsylvania, for himself, and the other heirs of the s'd Colo Willis.

Respectfully sheweth That his father the late Colo Lewis Willis was an officer commanding of a Company or Reg't of the Virg'a forces in the year 1775 and in '76 appointed a Lieutenant Coll in one of the Virg'a Cont. Regts. Soon after his s'd appointment he marched to the north with his Regt and was in

the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777]. His ill health and disease which he contracted whilst in the service made it necessary for Coll Willis to become a retiring officer from the army and accordingly he returned to Virginia. It is not in the power of your petitioner to speak from his own personal knowledge of the services of his father; but those in whom he can place the most implicit confidence and who had a personal knowledge of the services of Col. Willis speak with a degree of certainty that his service in the army was such as is described in this petition. This is the first application presented, as is believed for the usual quantity of Land Bounty granted to the officers of the Virg'a line holding the rank and Com[missio]n that Lieut. Colo. Willis did. Your petitioner prays that the evidences introduced to prove service will be deemed satisfactory and feels in duty bound ever to pray. [signed] Byrd Willis

The evidence in this case is altogether unsatisfactory as to length of service
Rejected DC [Gov. David Campbell]

NOTE: According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*, page 62, Lewis Willis resigned on 1 Mar 1778. A service of at least three years or until the end of the war was a condition for receiving bounty land.