

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

Virginia documents pertaining to William Woolfolk VAS5096
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To the Governor and Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia, your petitioner, William Woolfolk Sen. of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, humbly states:

That he is a native of the state of Virginia; that in the Spring of 1777 he enlisted as a private soldier in the second troop of the third Regiment of horse in the Virginia continental line of the revolutionary army under Walker Baylor [X53] then acting as cornet in Caroline county Virginia; that he went to Fredericksburg where he was trained until sometime in April having been appointed and acted first as corporal and then as sergeant; that he went thence to Dumfries where he was inoculated with the small pox; that after recovering from that disorder, he was marched to the northward and after spending sometime in Philadelphia joined the army; that he was then ordered to the northward and at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] himself and his troop attended on General Washington during the whole day; that while the army lay at Valley Forge he was employed with the corps to which he belonged in scouring the country and preventing supplies from being carried to the British army in Philadelphia; that at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], the corps in which he served in executing their orders fell in between the two armies after the retreat of the Americans and were in imminent danger of being captured or destroyed; that he was next sent to Reading with then Lieut. Walker Baylor and others of the wounded to see that they were well attended; that after the retreat of the British army from Philadelphia he was sent at the head of six men whom he commanded as sergeant to scour the roads and pick up stragglers; that himself and party were the first of the American troops which entered the city after it was evacuated by the British; that passing immediately through the city his party stopped some hundred of the followers of the British army of various descriptions; that he then marched up the river and crossed it at Bristol continuing with the army in their pursuit of the British during which on account of the absence of Hart, the Quartermaster, he was appointed to act in that capacity and did so act until after the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]; that he was at said battle and was sent with several others to the left flank of the British army to take observations where he continued during the whole day forwarding the result of his observations to the commander; that just at night he met a straggling British grenadier, made him a prisoner and carried him in; that after this battle he went with Col. Baylor's Regiment to Hackensack where he was constantly employed in reconnoitering; that he was one of the few who escaped at the surprise and slaughter of Baylor's Regiment [28 Sep 1778]; that he returned to the ground the next morning and assisted in making the wounded who were left on the ground as comfortable as possible; that the Regiment to which he belonged was then broke up and himself together with such of the survivors who were uninjured, was attached to Col. Bland's [Theodorick Bland VAS1859] Regiment of horse in which they continued until October of the same year when they were ordered to Fredericktown [Frederick] in Maryland to join their own regiment again and spend the winter during which he was constantly employed in the Quartermaster's business and was twice sent to Boston to carry forward articles for the army but once met them at the North river and again found them in Philadelphia; that at this time Col. Washington had assumed the command of the regiment, Col. Baylor having been wounded at the surprise of his corps; that in consequence of his having been actively employed during the winter Col. Washington voluntarily gave him a furlough for three weeks to visit his parents; that after two weeks absence he returned when Col. Washington solicited him to resume the duties of Quartermaster in his regiment, but being only a Sergeant and understanding that Congress had passed an ordinance requiring that all persons acting in that capacity should be commissioned officers he declined accepting the solicitation of Col. Washington on those grounds; that he was thereupon appointed Cornet and Quartermaster; that from thenceforward he continued to act as quartermaster and was mustered and paid as Cornet in Col. Washington's Regiment

until he left the army; that from Fredericktown the Regiment marched south as far as Hanover and there halted having heard that the British had left Norfolk; that he was sent express to the Governor of Virginia with dispatches and on his return the Regiment marched northward into the neighborhood of Hackensack, where they were employed in reconnoitering until the winter of 1779-80; that during the time they were so employed your petitioner was sent to north Point to procure a sum of money for the Regiment which service he performed; that the Regiment next marched to Bristol where they continued sometime; that they were then ordered to join the southern army, and after halting some time at Fredericktown resumed their march; that on their arrival at Bowling Green in the spring of 1780, he resigned his offices of Cornet and Quartermaster and returned home.

Your petitioner further states that soon after the peace considering himself entitled to the land bounty allowed to a Cornet, he applied to a man who attended to the claims of revolutionary soldiers and through him drew a warrant for 200 acres only instead of the number to which he considered himself justly entitled. Being entirely ignorant what course to pursue or what evidence to produce to obtain a certification of this error, he gave up the balance of his land for lost and having shortly after removed to the state of Kentucky have not till lately made an effort to recover his delayed rights. But having raised a large family among whom there are unfortunately two children now about thirty years old wholly destitute of the mind necessary to take care of themselves, having lost by other claims most of the land which he had attempted to secure for the future support of his unfortunate children and even been defrauded by artful speculators out of the 200 acres which he received as a bounty from his native state, that he has never realized one cent of advantage therefrom, he trusts the Honorable Governor and Council will look with a favorable eye on his claim and enable him even at this late hour to shew something [illegible word] his children which he has received from his country for long arduous and faithful services in her defence. He is sure that his claim is well founded – it can never be the policy of a just government to let a faithful citizen suffer because he may not have the knowledge requisite for prosecuting his rights – and if this last petition be granted an old soldier will die satisfied with the justice of a country which he has so faithfully served.

And thus prays your humble petitioner.

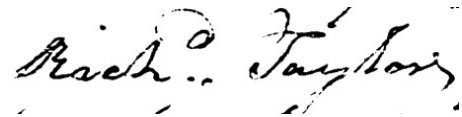


[Certified in Jefferson County KY, 23 August 1821]

I Rich'd Taylor [Richard Taylor S46514] Lieut Colo in the Virginia Continental line, Do Certifie that I have been well acquainted with the Above name'd William Woolfolk Sen'r. fore more than Twenty five years. as he was in the Horse Service I had so little connection with that Corps that I didn't know him in service, but my opinion of his Integraty I believe his aforesaid statement to be correct. Mr. Woolfolk has ever sustained the reputation of a man of Strict Integraty & I do believe every confidence may be placed in his statement. given under my hand this 27th Day of August 1821

John G. Taylor
George Taylor

Rich'd Taylor formerly
a Lieut. Col'n in the
Virg'a Continental Line



State of Kentucky Franklin County Sct,

Appeared before me one of the Justices of the peace in and for the Said County Reuben Griffin [S35993], and made oath that he was a Soldier in Captain Smith's Troop in Col'l. William Washington's Regiment of Dragoons belonging to the Virginia Continental Line, and knew the Service the William Woolfolk Senior mentioned in the petition hereto annexed, and has been well acquainted with him ever since the peace. That the said Woolfolk entered the service some time in the Spring of 1777 and was first made a Sergeant in the said regiment, and was then appointed Cornet in the Troop to which he the said Griffin belonged, and Quarter Master of the regiment, and that said Woolfolk served in those offices until some time in the Spring 1780 when he resigned at the Bowling Green in Virginia as the regiment was marching to the southward, – That the said Woolfolk was always considered an effective and good officer, and was

never cashiered or superseded. Given under my hand this fifth day of September 1821.

I Reuben Plunkett [S25752] a Seargent in Captain Churchwell Jones [Churchill Jones BLWt304-300] Troop belonging to Col. William Washington's Regiment of Lt Dragoons in the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment Do declare, that I knew in service William Woolfolk – he sometime in the Winter of 1777 enlisted as a private into Colo. George Baylor's Regiment of Dragoons in the Virginia Continental Line, and was made a Sergant, and served in that Regiment until after the surprize and slaughter of the Regiment in Hackensack, when he [undeciphered] the survivors of that Regiment attached to Col. Bland's Regiment, and afterwards commanded by Col Washington and was at Frederick Town in Maryland in the Spring of 1777 appointed Quartermaster of the said Regiment and Cornet, in 2nd Troop in the said Regiment and served as Cornet and Quartermaster until sometime in the latter part of the winter or the commencement of the Spring of 1780 when he resigned at the Bowling Green in Virginia, when the Regiment was on the way to the southward. Said Woolfolk was a good Officer and was never cashiered or suspended.

[signed] Reuben Plunkett

[certified in Fayette County 19 Oct 1821]

State of Kentucky

We the undersigned members of the legislature of the said state, do certify, that we are acquainted with William Woolfolk – that he is a man of good standing in society – has ever sustained a good reputation, and we do believe that the most perfect confidence may be placed in his statements. Given under our hands this 22nd day of October 1821. [signed] R. Anderson jr/ Herman Bowman/ David White