

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to William Massie VAS517

vsl 27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/16/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

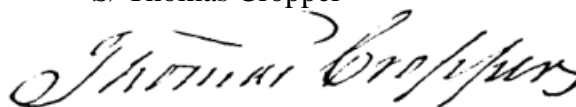
Accomack County State of Virginia September 28 1831

The deposition of Thomas Cropper aged about 69 years who being duly sworn says that the forgoing certificate is wholly in the handwriting of the late Colonel John Cropper who was a brother of this deponent – that this deponent was during the life of said John Cropper in the habit of daily intercourse & correspondence with his said brother Colonel John Cropper & is positive that said certificate is wholly in his hand writing. This Deponent also knows the fact himself that said William Massie served in the Army of the Revolution as stated in said certificate.

Accomack County Virginia

October 28, 1831

S/ Thomas Cropper



The deposition of Thomas Cropper aged about 69 years who states that he is perfectly well acquainted with the handwriting of his late Brother Colonel John Cropper – that this deponent & his brother have always lived near neighbors all their lives excepting while said John Cropper was in service of the United States & until the death of said John Cropper & had a great deal of correspondence & is positive as to his hand writing = this deponent says he has this day seen in the hand of Nat. Ellis an original certificate written wholly by said John Cropper which is in the following words & figures to wit –

"Accomack County Virginia – February 26 1820, I do hereby certify that William Massey was born in the said County, that he enlisted in Captain Thomas Snead's company of the 9th Virginia Regiment the latter end of the year 1775 or beginning of the year 1776 and that at first he acted as Fifer & then as Fifer Major to the said Regiment that he served out the time for which he enlisted & received an Honorable discharge at or about the end of the War, that he returned to Accomack & died about 11 years ago."

[Signed] John Cropper, formerly Lt. Colo. Commdt 11th Virginia Regiment in the War of the Revolution"

This deponent says that all the forewarning is a true copy of said certificate. This deponent also says that he knew the said William Massey & that he served in the Army of the Revolution.

S/ Thomas Cropper

[p 5]

Land Office December 19th 1831

I certify that it does not appear that the following persons have drawn Military Land Bounty to wit: William Massey as Fifer or Fife Major, Con. Line [Continental line], Robert White a midshipman in Virginia Navy, Thomas Bonnewell as Master U. S. Navy, Edward Joynes as Seaman, William Stevens & Stephan Stevens as sailors and Eburn Winebro or Winebrough as Seaman.

S/Wm Selden, R L Off VA

[p 6]

In the case of William Massey the Executive will perceive that the certificate of the auditor shows that Will Massey was a soldier in the Cavalry – but by reference to the book page 217 it will be seen that his pay was received by Colonel Cropper who was an officer in the Continental Army – that he received it with others to wit Thomas Midcalf & Riley Middleton – & that Thomas Midcalf has drawn his land as a soldier in the 9th Regiment – It must have been an era of the auditor in entering the name and in the "ditto." –

S/ Ves Ellis for
Massey's heirs

[p 14]

The deposition of Robert Russell Senior¹ aged about 72 years who being duly sworn says he served in the 9th Virginia Regiment in the Revolutionary War – that he was well acquainted with William Massey & that said Massey served as a Fife Major to said Regiment whilst this deponent was in said Regiment which was about 3 ½ years including his confinement & that said Massey did not return until the war was ended & this deponent always understood & has many good reasons to believe that he served till the war ended, though he cannot swear to that fact positively as this deponent left the Army before the war ended. He has not the slightest doubt that said Massey served till the war ended as he always understood that he had enlisted to serve all the War & has always heard that said Massey received an Honorable discharge at the end of the War.

S/ Robert Russell, Senior, X his mark

[acknowledged September 19, 1831 in Accomack County Virginia.

[p 23: the original of the certificate of Lt. Col. John Cropper quoted by his brother, Thomas Cropper, in his affidavit transcribed above:

¹ [Robert Russell W5753](#)

Accomack county Va. July 26. 1820.
 I do hereby certify that William Massey was born in
 the said county, that he enlisted in Capt. Thomas Sneads
 company, of the 9th Virginia Regiment the latter end
 of the year 1775 or beginning of the year 1776, and
 that at first he acted as fifer and then as fife
 major to the said Regiment, that he served out
 the time for which he enlisted and received an
 honorable discharge, at or about the end of the
 year, that he returned to Accomack and died about
 eleven years ago.

Wm. E. Heath formerly
 Lt. Col. Command of the Virgin. Regiment
 in the War of the Revolution

[p23]

Auditors Office January 20:1831

I certify that it appears from a list of the Officers of the Revolutionary Army in the State line on Continental establishment that Robert Russell Soldier received on the 11th day of June 1783 a certificate of his depreciation pay for £102.14.3

S/ Jas. E. Heath [Auditor]

The deposition of James Thornton Senior aged nearly seventy seven [?]² years now a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States, who being first duly sworn testifies that he was well acquainted with William Massey of Accomack = that he was well acquainted with him said Massey in the Revolutionary War & that said may see was a fifer & this deponent thinks he was a fife Major. Said Massey first enlisted in Thomas Sneads Company 9th Virginia Regiment. This deponent says that he knows of his own personal knowledge that said Massey served during the whole of the Revolutionary War: & was honorably discharged as this deponent believes.

S/ James Thornton Senior, X his mark

2 - Seventy seven