

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Lee VAS871

vsl 24VA + 17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/18/13 supp'd 5/6/15

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] James City County Legislative Petitions

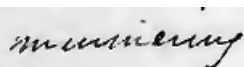
To the Hon. the speaker & other members of the house of Delegates, The Petition of John Lee humbly sheweth, that your petitioner in the year 1775 was appointed an Ensign in Capt. John Green's company, enlisted eighteen men & in October following marched to Williamsburg, that sometime in the month of November your petitioner with fifteen men was on guard at James town when two of the enemy's vessels sailed up James River on a plundering party, on their return in a very windy night one of them a large sloop struck on a sandbar, of which your petitioner had noticed from a Sentinel posted near the place, went with the guard & fired on her; after some considerable resistance her crew quitted her & went on board the other vessel having first set fire to her in several places upon which your petitioner with the men under his command went on board, extinguished the fire & took possession of the vessel, her rigging & cargo, which consisted of a quantity of Ivory, beef & pork in barrels, ammuniton & some other military stores, as soon as the capture of the vessel was notified a guard was put on board of her & being advised to take an inventory of her cargo & stores your petitioner went on board for that purpose but the officer who then commanded the guard on board the vessel being older in command than your petitioner ordered him to desist saying that he then had the management of the vessel & would take the proper steps with her. Your petitioner does not know nor does he believe that any inventory was taken. Some time after the vessel was fitted up for a cruise for the state & was put under the command of Capt. Edward Travers [Edward Travis].¹ In the spring of 1777 some part of the vessels rigging was sold & your petitioner received eight dollars for himself & party which is all your petitioner ever has received although he was offered by Mr. William Holt immediately after the capture the sum of five hundred pounds for the vessel & cargo.

¹ TRAVIS, EDWARD VA Captain, Virginia Navy Edward Travis was appointed as a Captain in the Virginia Navy in April 1776 and assigned to the Virginia Navy Galley *Manley*, [Stewart, 259] then under construction on the James River. Travis was commissioned on 8 June 1776. [NOAR, 314] On 6 September 1776 he was ordered to join Commodore JOHN THOMAS BOUCHER at New Point Comfort, Virginia. [NOAR, 314; Stewart, 16] An escort mission to sea was performed by this squadron. [Stewart, 16] On 9 September George Gooseley was paid £48.13.13 for supplying rum to the *Manley*. On 24 October 1776 he was appointed to command the Virginia Navy Brig *Raleigh*. On 17 April 1777 Travis received sailing orders to annoy enemy shipping. The *Raleigh* was captured in May 1777 by HM Frigate *Thames*. [NOAR, 314] He later commanded the Virginia Navy Ships *Thetis* and *Tartar*. He later lived on Jamestown Island. He died in 1784 while in route to Virginia Springs. [Stewart, 259] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20T.html>

Your petitioner further respectfully sheweth that early in the year 1776 (being then a Lieut. in the 1st Virginia Regiment he was appointed a Capt. of Marines to serve on board the sloop *Liberty*² commanded by Capt. Walter Brooke³ & recruited twenty-eight men for that service & continued on board that vessel till December following when the Assembly then sitting passed an act for raising three regiments of infantry for the defense of this State & that the Marine officers should compose a part thereof, where upon your petitioner being directed there to buy the Executive, reenlisted about forty of the man who were under his command in the Marine service & early in the year 1777 enlisted twenty other recruits & marched them to Williamsburg. Sometime about the month of June a Regiment being formed out of the State troops to join the grand Army in the North and service occasion some [indecipherable word]⁴ among the troops who expected to have been continued in this State, & the resignation of some of the officers, upon which Capt. John Allison & your petitioner were appointed Majors, Capt. Allison being the senior officer was arraigned to the 1st & your petitioner to the 2nd regiments, which last was to continue in Garrison in the State. Your petitioner being dissatisfied with this arrangement endeavored through Col. Brent then commanding officer in Williamsburg to procure an exchange with Major Allison who was about to march to the northward, but being disappointed in this, your petitioner applied to the executive & obtained permission to march with the 1st Regiment as a Capt., preferring that post to a majority in a Regiment which was to remain in Virginia from a conviction that he might render his country more service where there was a formidable enemy to contend with than by continuing in Garrison where none probably would be seen. He accordingly marched to Headquarters with the 1st Regiment & served in it as Capt. 'til the spring of 1778 when the 2nd Regiment joined the Army at Valley Forge and your petitioner received his commission & took rank as major in that Regiment. In the winter of 79 & 80 being ordered to the southward your petitioner returned to Virginia, joined the troops at Petersburg, & by order of General Muhlenburg [Peter Muhlenberg] marched with a detachment under the command of Col. Buford [Abraham Buford] & joined the southern Army then commanded by General Gates [Horatio Gates], where your petitioner continued till late in the fall, when he was sent back to Virginia with some dispatches, & continued with the troops till sometime in the year 1781 when the state troops who had enlisted for the war were separated from those of the Continental line & not being sufficient in number to form two complete regiments the command of them was given to the senior Lieut. Col. Dabney & the other senior officers. Your petitioner conceiving himself to be the oldest major in that line contended for his right but was informed by Col. Dabney that the Governor had given the Major's command to

² *Liberty*. ND5:1051, ND6:1479, ND7:1196, ND8:1016, VANavy:152, boat, sometimes schooner-rigged, Capt James Barron, which captured in 1776 the British troop transport *Oxford* and the British sloop *Dorothy*, and in 1779 the British tender *Fortunatus*. Coggins:102, ND10:40, 325, 628, ND11:1171n, armed boat in VA Navy, Capt James Barron, 1776, 1777. Dandridge:186 shows a schooner. ND5:758, C305, one *Liberty* Capt was Richard Taylor, VA Navy, Mar 1776. .C198, another *Liberty* Capt was Alexander Masinburg/Massenburg of VA, Jul 1776. Eller:201, sold in 1789. Possibly Paullin:518, served 1776-1777. <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20L.html>

³ BROOKE, WALTER VA Commodore, Virginia Navy Walter Brooke was the son of Major Walter Brooke of Charles County, Maryland. He was commissioned in 1776 as a Captain in the Virginia Navy and assigned to the Virginia Navy Sloop *Liberty*. He was aboard the *Liberty* in August 1776. [Stewart, 156] On 29 March 1777 he was promoted to Commodore of the Virginia Navy. [NOAR, 34] He died in 1798. [Stewart, 156] <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20B.html>

⁴ 

Capt. Alexander Dick whereupon your petitioner knowing that Capt. Dick had been an officer in the Marine service, had not recruited a man nor had any command in either of the State regiments, wrote to the Governor informing him of these circumstances & requested a board of officers to determine the right between Capt. Dick & himself. Your petitioner was promised that this inquiry would be made but being taken sick, he was obliged to leave Camp, retire into the country for his health & before he was able to return to Camp & pursue his right the state troops were discharged. Your petitioner humbly conceives that as to the first part of his claim nothing can be more just than that he should receive some retribution [sic] for the loss of the vessel which though it unquestionably belonged to him & those who assisted in the capture was taken from them & applied to the use of the State. To this application your petitioner is impelled not by motives of individual interest only but by the repeated solicitations of several of those men who were of the party that made the capture, & are equally entitled with your petitioner. As to the other parts of your petitioner's claim he has been thus tedious to show that he was among the first who embarked in his country's cause, that he is increasing efforts to promote its interest have been made with alacrity, that his retirement from the Army, if being prevented from pursuing his right by an ill state of health can be considered as such, was not the effect of his own wishes, and that upon principles of general justice or of individual right, he is equally entitled with most who have received & who expect to receive the bounty of their country. Your petitioner therefore prays that he may be paid his proportional part of the value of the vessel & cargo above alluded to & that a certificate may be issued to him for the payment of his commutation. And as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c &c

[Reverse]

Lee's Petition
4th of November 1791
Referred to Claims
Vessel rejected
reported 30 g^{re}[?] 91
Winston

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 1: Affidavit given by Peter H Triplett of Culpeper County Virginia the text of which is mostly indecipherable as posted]

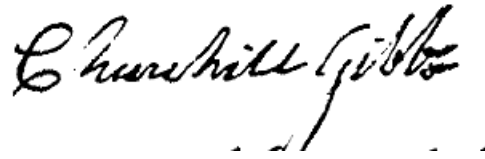
[p 2]

I Churchill Gibbs,⁵ Lieutenant of the first Virginia State Regiment in the revolutionary War, now a resident of Madison County and State of Virginia certify that I was a soldier in Captain Green's Company in the first Virginia Regiment in which company John Lee was Ensign. Green's was the first company raised in Virginia and paraded in Williamsburg in the year 1775. In May 1777 John Lee was a Captain in Colonel Gibson's Regiment and commanded the Grenadier Company. He went to the North in 1777 and served three campaigns and returned I believe about January 1780 and I think became a supernumerary to the end of the war. I knew John Lee well & intimately until he removed to the West in Country where I have heard he died

⁵ [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

in Woodford County. John Lee always sustained a high character as an officer. Given under my hand this 29th December 1832.

S/ Churchill Gibbs



[p 4]

I Angus Rucker⁶ who was a Captain in the first Virginia's State Regiment now a resident of Madison County and State of Virginia – Certify & State upon my oath that I was intimately acquainted with John Lee who was an Ensign in Captain John Green's Company in the first Virginia Regiment at that time commanded by Colonel [text too faint to discern] and was in the first company which arrived at Williamsburg in that year – the said Lee I have understood and believe was a short time promoted to the grade of Captain in the Marine service. In the beginning of the year 1777 the said Lee was a Captain in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson, and marched to the North in that capacity – and we were mustered into service in the place of the 9th Continental Regiment shortly after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777]. Said Lee continued in the Regiment & service until he was promoted to the grade and rank of major & was transferred to the 2nd Regiment. At the consolidation of the regiments said Lee became supernumerary – but I have understood he had the command of a Regiment of militia at the siege of York & was an active and zealous officer and sustained a high reputation during the whole war and further the deponent saith not. Given under my hand this 28th day of December 1832. [Signature illegibly faint]

[p 5: illegibly faint]

[p 6]

I certify Major John Lee deceased late of Woodford County in Kentucky was a native of the same County in Virginia with myself I was well acquainted with him during the Revolutionary War. I do not know the precise time he entered the service though I can perfectly say that he served to the end of the war – I served myself from September 1775 to the end of the war and consequently acquired a General Acquaintance with the Virginia officers and their service.

S/ W. B. Wallace,⁷ late Lieutenant in the
1st Regiment of Artillery of the US in the
revolutionary war



[Attested in Franklin County Kentucky November 16, 1830]

[pp 7-8—illegibly faint]

⁶ [Angus Rucker S19068](#)

⁷ [William B. Wallace S42612](#)

[p 9: Land Warrant No. 474 issued to Major John Lee, his heirs and assigns, for 5333 1/3 acres of land for his services for 3 years as a major in the Virginia state Line. Dated April 29, 1783.]

[p 11]

Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of John Lee Major – State Line

The facts in this case are – That John Lee was Ensign in the Continental line in 1775 (September or October) – Captain of Marines – Captain in the first Virginia Regiment January one, 1777 – Major February first 1778 in the 2nd Virginia Regiment – and reported in 1782 supernumerary, entitled to half pay. The evidence of Colonel Brent, of the 2nd Virginia Regiment in 1782 (filed in the first Auditors Office (& other testimony) shows these facts – Land has been received for a service of 3 years.

The Heirs of Major Lee claim to be entitled to His additional bounty [one or more indecipherable words]. If you will Excellency should allow the claim = it should be for a Service as Major from September or October 1775 to the end of the war.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

To his Excellency
Governor Floyd

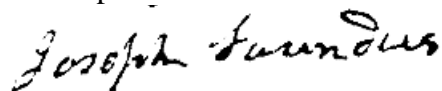
March 20th, 1834

[second file]

[p 1]

State of Kentucky Bullitt County: SS: Personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the Peace in and for said County Joseph Saunders⁸ a Revolutionary officer who being duly sworn saith that he enlisted early in the month of September 1775 for the period of one year in the company commanded by Captain John Green of Culpeper County Virginia of which John Lee was in some that when he deponent resigned his commission as an Ensign of the first Virginia State Regiment in the latter part of the year 1777, that the said John Lee was at that time a Captain in said first Virginia State Regiment having been in service from his commencement in September 1775 and left by him Deponent in service he further says that he has ever understood that the said John Lee after the Revolution settled in the neighborhood of Frankfort or Lexington and further he saith not.

S/ Joseph Saunders



[attested November 2, 1832]

[p 3]

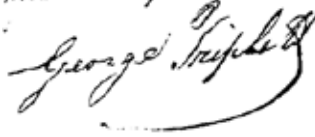
State of Kentucky Bullitt County SS

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County George Triplett a revolutionary officer who being duly sworn saith John Lee was an Ensign in Captain John Green's Company of first Virginia State Regiment raised in Culpeper County in the

⁸ [Joseph Saunders S11347](#)

month of September 1775 of which company the said deponent was enlisted as a soldier for the period of one year, that at the time the said Deponent retired as a supernumerary Lieutenant of the first Virginia state Regiment in the year 1780 or 81 that the said Lee was then a Major of the 2nd Virginia State Regiment having been in service from his commencement in September 1775 to that time, and further he saith not.

S/ George Triplett⁹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Triplett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ George Triplett⁹".

[Attested November 6, 1832]

[pp 12: copy of the last will and testament of John Lee in which he names his son John H Lee¹⁰; son John B. Lee; son Lewis Willis Lee; daughter of Mary B. W. Lee¹¹; daughter Sarah A. Lee¹²; daughter Elizabeth Lee¹³; daughter Lucinda Lee¹⁴; daughter Matilda A. Lee¹⁵; [portion of the document is cut off at the bottom of the page and names probably are missing]; son Thomas B Lee; wife Elizabeth Lee. Probated in Woodford County Kentucky February 1, 1802.]

⁹ [George Triplett W607](#)

¹⁰ later documents indicate that John H Lee died without children

¹¹ later documents indicate that she married Andrew F Price

¹² later documents indicate that she married John J Crittenden and died leaving children, George W Crittenden, Anne Mary Crittenden [who married John C Young], Eugenia A. Crittenden, Thomas L Crittenden, Sarah L Crittenden [who married Edward Watson] and Henry H Crittenden

¹³ later documents indicate that she married Doctor Lyddall Wilkinson

¹⁴ later documents indicate that she married George W Call of the Territory of Florida

¹⁵ later documents indicate that she married Samuel M Wallace of Woodford County Kentucky