

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Joseph Michaux VAS882

vsl 53VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/22/13

[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. 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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

[p 16]

To his Excellency Wyndham Robertson Lieutenant Governor, Acting as Governor, of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of Jesse Michaux of Prince Edward County Virginia; of Joseph Michaux of the same County and State; of Arabella Gibson, formerly Michaux, and of Sarah B. Michaux heirs at law of John Michaux Deceased, of Cumberland County, Virginia; of Richard Michaux of Pittsylvania County, Virginia; of Obadiah Michaux of the State of Alabama; and of Frances W, Mary, who married Robert Moseley, Jesse, Daniel, Betsey, and Emily the children and heirs at law of Daniel Michaux deceased of the State of Alabama –

Your Memorialists represent that they are all in the only legitimate heirs at law of Joseph Michaux Deceased formerly a Captain of the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment during the War of the Revolution –

Your memorialists further state that they were too young to have any personal knowledge of the military services of said Captain Joseph Michaux in the Revolutionary War. That the said Joseph Michaux, some considerable time before he received his Commission as Captain, and marched a company of men to "Head Quarters" in Pennsylvania, had been actively engaged as an officer in recruiting soldiers for the Continental service. He recruited men to serve for the term of "3 years" and "during the War" and was particularly successful in the counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward and Cumberland. He was attached to various regiments, or battalions as they were then called during his service, and particularly to the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment commanded by Colonel Charles Lewis. He was commissioned Captain of the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1777: received marching orders from Colonel Lewis on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1777, and proceeded immediately to "Head Quarters" of the northern Army, under command of General Washington. He was engaged in several battles of importance during the northern campaign; was at the siege of York and surrender of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781; and continued in active service of his country (except when on furlough) to the close of the Revolutionary War – the said Captain Joseph Michaux has been represented to your Memorialists as an officer distinguished for great courage, bravery, and actively during the war of the Revolution; and was respected and beloved in the Army, by all who knew him –

Your Memorialists further represent, that the evidence accompanying this Memorial, is of the most respectable character, being given by those who were in the Continental service with

Captain Michaux and eye-witnesses of his services at various periods; by men of known character for truth and veracity, and whose names appear on the Army Register as soldiers of the war of the Revolution all of which will more readily appear by reference to the accompanying papers, Documents, and Certificates &c &c

Your Memorialists, therefore, humbly pray that your Excellency will grant them as the legal representatives of Captain Joseph Michaux a Warrant for the quantity of Land Bounty to which he was entitled as a Captain, for services rendered by him in the War of the Revolution pursuant to the laws of Virginia in such case made and provided. And your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray &c &c

S/ J. Michaux  
S/ Jos. Michaux  
S/ Richard Michaux  
S/ Obadiah Michaux  
S/ Arabella Gibson  
S/ Sarah B Michaux

[Attested by Jesse Michaux as one of the sons and residual devisees of Joseph Michaux Deceased on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1836.]

[p 13]

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Your Petitioners, the heirs of Joseph Michaux, who was a Captain in the Army of the Revolution, on Continental establishment, respectfully represent. – That they lately presented their Petition to the Executive of Virginia, sitting for the services of said Captain Joseph Michaux and praying for an allowance of bounty land for the service which petition was accompanied by sundry affidavits of respectable witnesses, and by evidence of record which they hoped would be deemed sufficient, to authorize the granting of the prayer of the said Petition. Your Excellency is referred to the said Petition, and the evidence accompanying it, which are on file in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Your Petitioners were disappointed in their expectation of a decision in their favor; for the then acting Governor rejected their said claim. The ground of his decision will appear by an endorsement made by him on your Petitioners Papers; to which endorsement your Excellency is particularly preferred. Your Petitioners are advised that this decision of Gates them is erroneous – and was caused by a mistake respecting the legal force & sufficiency of certain evidence of record (to wit, the statements by State Auditors of the Accounts of Continental officers) and an error in judgment consequent thereupon: when your Petition is expressed this opinion, they all at the same time to say, that they entertain the brightest respect for the then acting Governor.

The Claim of your Petitioners was not rejected because of insufficiency of testimony of respectable witnesses, who proved the services of Captain Michaux. The above mentioned endorsement on the papers show that there was no deficiency of this kind of evidence; and that the claim was rejected because Captain Michaux settled his accounts with State Auditors down to know later period than December 23, 1777. The acting Governor presumed that Captain Michaux then died, resigned or was out of service in some other way: and gave the opinion that no number of respectable witnesses who testify as to his services after that time will suffice to repel the presumption of his death, resignation or in other manner leaving the service at that time.

This being the ground of the decision against your petitioners, they have not thought it necessary or proper, to obtain additional statements of witnesses, to prove the services of Captain

Michaux (which might be easily done) but have directed their attention to the true and only ground of the decision against them; and beg leave to ask the attention of your Excellency to it.

The act of the General Assembly, passed November Session 1781 entitled "an act to adjust & regulate the pay & accounts of the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line on Continental establishment" &c &c directed the Auditors of public accounts, to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of officers &c from the first January 1777 to December 31, 1781. The State Auditors settled with officers &c for their pay &c only between those periods.

If a Continental officer served in Virginia to sometime in 1777, 1778 or 1779; received no pay at the expiration of the said service; was then ordered to join the northern, southern, or Western Army; did join, as ordered; and received pay for his services rendered after he left Virginia – it is clear that the State auditors, when they proceeded to settle the accounts of such officers (after November 1781, the date of the passage of the aforesaid act of Assembly) would have [indecipherable word] for such portions of service only, as had not been paid for ending as the same might be in 1777, 1778, 1779 or 1780 or 1781. Many of the Virginia Continental officers were paid for their services in Pennsylvania – New York, New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina & other states, before the first of the year 1782. General Washington's letters contain abundant proof of this fact. These payments were made by Continental paymaster's, who were with the Army, and who settled with the officers for their services after they left Virginia – many officers, who settled with the state auditors after 1781 had already received their pay, and other states, for their services in 1779, 1780 or 1781 – and consequently settled with the Virginia auditors for only small fractions of their time of service. They therefore appear by those last settlements, to have been but a very short time in service; notwithstanding they may have served & and some certainly did) throughout the War.

The settlements of state auditors do not ascertain the time of service of officers; they ascertain only that pay was due for the time for which it was allowed.

Your Petitioners respectfully present here with to your Excellency a note of a few cases of officers, who settled with state auditors for short services, yet received their bounty land; and some of them for a service of 7 & 8 years and some more. These cases have been taken from the settlements of state auditors – under Letters A. B. C.

If the whole list of officers – from A. to Z. was carefully examined, there is no doubt but it would appear, that many [indecipherable word] of them settled with the Virginia auditors for very short services, who received bounty land for 3 years, or for the War; and many of whom afterwards settled with the Continental Commissioner, Mr. Dunscomb, for services to the end of the War. Such an examination would also show satisfactorily, that the Commissioners of the War Office (whilst he acted) and the Executive, from the year 1783 down to 1833 or 1834 never considered the settlements of the accounts of Continental officers, by the State Auditors, as conclusive evidence, (or were any evidence at all) – that these officers, who did not settle for their pay down to the last of December 1781, resigned, or died, or retired from the service at the end of the time for which they respectively settled.

For the reasons above set forth, your Petitioners respectfully ask a reconsideration of their claim for Bounty land, for and on account of the services of their deceased ancestor, the late Captain Joseph Michaux – and that the said claim may be allowed.

It is in the power of your Petitioners to produce to your Excellency additional evidence of the services of Captain Michaux (should it be required) – but this evidence has not been offered, for the reason herein before given.

The Heirs of Joseph Michaux

late a Captain in the Army  
of the Revolution C. L.  
by

John H Smith, their counsel

[the extracts from the State Auditors' records showing bounty land warrants to officers appear on pp 4 & 5 of this file—most of the entries are legible, but some are not. I chose not to transcribe them.]

Virginia Charlotte County to wit

This is to certify, William Cardwell Senior personally appeared before me William B Wilkins a justice of the peace in and for the said County and State aforesaid who being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is now in his seventieth year of his age and that he resided with his father John Cardwell at Little Row Oak Bridge in the said County where Captain Joseph Michaux marched a company of Cumberland soldiers enlisted for the term of three years and he believes it was in the Spring of the year 1777: he further states that he always understood and believed that Captain Michaux served his full term of three years Continental Army.

I do hereby certify that the said William Cardwell is a credible person and his statement is entitled to full confidence and believes given under my hand this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1833.

S/ Wm B. Wilkins, JP

[p 6]

State of Virginia, to wit,

This day Robert Dallis<sup>1</sup> a Revolutionary Pensioner of the County of Pittsylvania in the State aforesaid Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath that he entered the Regular Service of the Revolution the first of January 1777 and served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment three years – and that Joseph Michaux was a Captain and commanded as such in said Regiment, how long he acted as Captain he does not now recollect, but well remembers that he was in the Service as a Commissary of issues in Virginia in the year 1781 – he was acting as a Captain when he said Dallis entered the service in 1777 – and he never heard of his resigning his Commission as such.

Given under my hand and seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1834

S/ Jno. Pritchett

[p 7]

Virginia Cumberland County to wit:

I William Wright<sup>2</sup> do hereby Certify that Joseph Michaux Deceased, late of Cumberland County, was a Captain in the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the Revolutionary War, and marched a company of Regular soldiers to the northern Army in the early part of the year 1777: the said company was enlisted for the term of three years – I saw Captain Michaux and his company when in the northern Army, being at the time a soldier in Captain John Morton's company attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment. So far as my memory serves me at this time, it is my firm belief and impression that Captain Joseph Michaux continued in the service of his Country until or nearly the close of the Revolutionary War –

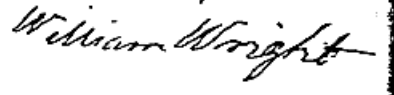
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<sup>1</sup> Sic, [Robert Dallas W6981](#)

<sup>2</sup> [William Wright W6596](#)

Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 1836.

S/ William Wright



[p 12]

Lewisburg 10 September 1836

Dear Sir

My acquaintance with Captain Jo. Michaux began early in 1781 when a schoolboy 15 years old & volunteer in the Army, Virginia being the site of war, he at the same time and Officer in the Staff, in which he continued till after the surrender at York [October 19, 1781], which was shortly followed by the close of the war – this is the sum & substance of all I know & if it can be of use to obtain remuneration to his successors for his revolutionary services shall be at all times ready to testify.

Yr. Obt. Frd.  
Jas. S. Wilson

Richmond October 7<sup>th</sup> – 1837

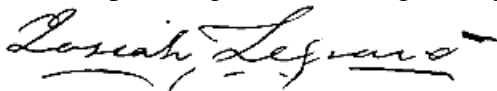
I am acquainted with the handwriting of General J. S. Wilson, and believe the above letter was written & signed by him – and I have no hesitation in saying that he is a gentleman of high standing & character, and that any statement made by him may be relied upon.

S/ Wm J. B. Bedford

[p22: Affidavit given by Josiah Sharp<sup>3</sup>. The image of the affidavit is split and I have not attempted to transcribe it. The witness appears to say that he knew the reputation of the service rendered by Captain Joseph Michaux.]

[p 23: Evidence given in Prince George County May 16, 1836 that Captain Joseph Michaux departed this life in 1807 leaving a last will and testament which is probated in Cumberland County naming his 6 children to wit John, Joseph, Jesse, Daniel, Richard and Obadiah Michaux as his legatees; that son John Michaux died in 1817 leaving Arabella, wife of George H Gibson and Sallie B. Michaux as his heirs; that son Joseph Michaux is still living in Prince Edward County Virginia; that son Jesse Michaux is still living in Prince Edward County Virginia that Daniel Michaux died in Alabama leaving six children: Frances, Mary who married Robert Moseley, Jesse, Daniel, Betsey and Emily: that son Richard lives in Pittsylvania County Virginia.]

[p 26-27: split image of affidavit given by Josiah Legrand



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[p 28-29: split image affidavit given by John Foster

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<sup>3</sup> [Josiah Sharp S6086](#)

*John Foster* ]

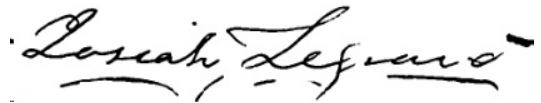
[pp 43-53 are split image of documents which appear to include muster roll and pay records, perhaps belonging to Capt. Michaux but the quality of the images is so poor and, as noted, split, I have not attempted to transcribe them, but if anyone has transcriptions of them, we would welcome being allowed to post them here. C. Leon Harris has risen to the challenge. His transcript of the muster and pay rolls appear as B192 in this database. Thanks to Leon!]

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.]

[pp 26, 27]

Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I Josiah Legrand do hereby Certify that Joseph Michaux Decd, late of Cumberland County, was a Captain in the state line of Virginia on Continental establishment in the Revolutionary war and was attached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment. He enlisted a company of Regular soldiers for the term of three years, and marched them to the North in the early part of the year 1777; he was at the seige of York in October, 1781, and I do verily believe he continued in the service as a continental officer untill the close of the war. He was an excellent officer, and rendered his country much service in the Revolutionary war. Being attached to the Commissary Department, I had frequent opportunities of knowing something of the services of Captain Joseph Michaux at that period. Given under my hand the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1836.

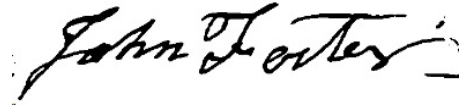
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Josiah Legrand". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

[pp 28,29]

Virginia. Charlotte County to wit:

I John Foster [S1515] do hereby certify that Joseph Micheax, Deceased, was a Captain in the State line of Virginia on Continental establishment and in the Revolutionary war. He raised a company of men, who enlisted for the term of three years; he marched them to the north in the early part of the year, 1777, and I saw them at Roanoke bridge in the county of Charlotte, as they were departing for the Northern Army. The said company was attached to the 14<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on continental establishment. The said Captain Micheaux was in the service more than three years, according to my best recollection. I was also a soldier in the Northern continental Army, and had some opportunity of knowing personally the services of Captain Joseph Michaux at the time. I am in the 82<sup>nd</sup> year of my age. Given under my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1836.

Witness.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Foster". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.