

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Armistead Long VAS968

vsl 1 VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/20/13

[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](#)]

I do hereby Certify that Armistead Long served three years as a Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Light Dragoons

S/ John Hughes Late  
Captain 1<sup>st</sup> Regiments L. D.  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1792

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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 8-page file

I certify that a military Land bounty warrant No. 4602 for 200 acres was on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1792 issued by the State of Virginia to Armistead Long for his service as a Sergeant in the Virginia Continental Line for three years and that it does not appear by the records of my office that any other such warrant was ever issued by [several words too faint to discern] to the said Long on account of his service aforesaid, except a Duplicate warrant No. 4602 for 200 acres which was issued by the said State when satisfactory proof that the Original Warrant had been lost.

S/ Wm Selden, R. L. Off. Virginia  
June 16, 1830

Augusta County:

The Virginia Regiments on Continental establishment when they were first organized and completed consisted, as well as I recollect, of about 700 officers and privates each – and I believe each of them was complete or nearly so, when first raised – much the larger proportion of the soldiers enlisted for three years or during the war – in the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment: everyman enlisted on those terms and the 12<sup>th</sup> also as well as I recollect – and I believe several other regiments enlisted in the same way but I am not [in] position [to say] as to any others – Considering all who enlisted for three years and retired after the expiration of that time – all who died in service having enlisted for three years or during the war recruits who were enlisted from time to time during the [indecipherable word] to fill vacancies and who were in service, on those terms at the end of the war I should think were a thousand officers & soldiers to each Regiment – and I am confident there were 500 at least – I also recollect when soldiers enlisted "for three years or

during the war" the construction given was that the officer could retained them in service if the war lasted longer than 3 years –

S/ Ro. Porterfield [Robert Porterfield]

*Ro. Porterfield*

I do certify that Armistead Long of the County of Culpeper enlisted into the first Regiment of Light Dragoons on Continental establishment in the year 1779 for 3 years or during the war, that he served 2 years as a Sergeant in said Regiment, a part of which time he served under my command, that he discharged his duty in the several duties in which he was engaged satisfactorily to the officers of the Regiment, and had the war continued, of being promoted, Given under my hand this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1830

S/ John Watts, formerly  
Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment  
of Light Dragoons

*John Watts formerly  
Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment  
of Light Dragoons*

To the Governor & Council of Virginia

Your Petitioner Armistead Long of the County of Culpeper respectfully states.

That in the year 1779 he enlisted in the first Regiment of Light Dragoons in the 4<sup>th</sup> Troop Commanded by Captain John Walls to serve three years or during the war. Sometime thereafter, he was appointed a Sergeant and continued as such for about two years longer, when he obtained a furlough and returned to Culpeper, from whence he [several words too faint to discern] he would be directed to join the Army when wanted. Your Petitioner further states that after the capture of York the services of the Troop were very little needed: – he never was again called out, and never did again in her into actual service with the Army. He was with his Troop at Yorktown soon after its capture [October 19, 1781], but was not present on the occasion – he being with the troop at Manakin[?]<sup>1</sup> town when the firing at York was first heard. He was in service with Lafayette during the most trying & [word too faint to discern] period of the War in this State but does not conceive it necessary to narrate his services minutely as they were sufficiently attested by his commanding Officer – Sometime after the War your petitioner applied to the executive for his Land Bounty & received 200 acres as a Sergeant for 3 years –

When the Act of Congress of May 1828 giving pay to the officers & soldiers of the Revolution who were in service at the time of the war was passed your Petitioner conceived himself as much entitled as any of the soldiers – But as the enlistment was for three years or during the war he has been unable as yet to draw all the pay so allowed by the act of May 1828.

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<sup>1</sup> *Manakin*

But he is given to understand that if the executive of Virginia will allow land Bounty to him as a Sergeant who had served to the end of the war, instead of for 3 years only, the allowance of the pay will be made at Washington. He has done us a double inducement in prosecuting this petition for 200 acres as a Sergeant who has served to the end of the war in addition to the 200 [acres] heretofore received.

The practice of the Executive has been heretofore in cases of enlistment for 3 years or during the war to allow the bounty given for the former services, which is one half only of what is given in the latter –

The facts are That your Petitioner was a soldier & a Sergeant in the Virginia Continental line from the time of his enlistment in 1777 until the end of the war – and had reason to expect the receipt of a Commission until the peace; indeed he was positively promised by Colonel White [Anthony Walton White] a Commission to fill the first vacancy, but never received it. The certificate of Colonel Walls who was Captain of the Troop, shows that after the three years had expired your petitioner continued in service, a word is omitted in his certificate but he evidently meant that if the war had continued your petitioner should have been promoted –

The facts being that your petitioner enlisted for three years or during the war and continued in service over three years & until peace, the question is, does the alternative stated in the term of enlistment deprive him of the Bounty promised for service during the war?

If is notorious to all who are acquainted with the private history of the Army of the Revolution that the soldiers who enlisted for three years or during the war, were compelled to continue in service after the expiration of three years when that occurred before the end of the war. It is conceived that this fact alone, should entitled the soldier to the benefit of the latter service – The officers put that construction upon the term of enlistment, which ensured to the state, the service for the longest period – In other words, those having then the power, decided that such an enlistment was, and enlistment for the war and exacted obedience accordingly – & it was rendered – and yet when the state had to pay the Bounty land, another construction was put on the contract of enlistment, and the soldier has been compelled to submit. Is it right, is it just? Your petitioner has been informed that many of the soldiers contended that they had a right to leave the service after the expiration of three years, and a threatened revolt was made, but their patriotism prevailed, and they submitted to the decision – your petitioner contends that as the Government at that time claimed and received the benefit of the service [image of the document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

[next page]

be taken as the true one and the state all not to deny it – Whether your petitioner will now be able to prove positively what was then notorious he is unable to say – but hopes he will be able to do it –

It may be said of such as heretofore given by the Executive had not been the proper conclusion, would the soldiers have acquiesced so long? To this it may be readily answered, that few of the soldiers were able to discuss [the document goes on at length hereafter but the image of it as posted online is so poor that I have decided to suspend transcribing the document. If anyone has a better copy of the document and is willing to share a transcript of it with us, we would welcome the opportunity to post it in this database.]