

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

Pension application of Francis Minnis [Minnes] BLWt1525-300

f1VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/14/13

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

[cover sheet only]

VA. Minnis, Francis

BLWt1525-300—Capt.  
Issued Nov. 17, 1791 to  
George Chandler assignee  
No papers

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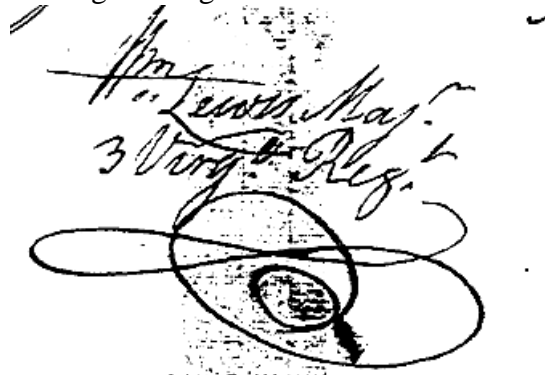
[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)  
Minnes}

2-page file indexed under "Francis

I do Certify that Captain Francis Minnes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment enlisted as a soldier in the said Regiment in September 1775, that he continued as such until November 1776 at which time he was Commissioned an officer & that he continued in actual Service as such until the first day of January 1783.

Given under my hand this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1783

S/ Wm Lewis, Major [William Lewis]  
3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment



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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 10-page file indexed under the name "Francis Minnis"

I Henry Buchanan aged 71 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Francis Minis [sic] formerly of war it County and know that early in the war as early as 1775 he entered the

Continental service in the Revolutionary War as a Lieutenant in Captain Thomas Nelson's Company of Infantry, and I confidently believe he remained in service until the close of the war. I know that he was in service for some time after the siege of York. During his continuance in the Army he was promoted first as a Captain and then as Major, to my recollection sometime before the siege of Yorktown. He first belonged to the first Virginia Regiment but after that was discharged, he was attached to some other Regiment. He resided after the war in the County of York and there died

S/ Henry Buchanan<sup>1</sup>



[Attested in York County Virginia November 21, 1833.]

#### Petition for additional Bounty land

Heirs of Francis Minnis – Major C L

Captain Francis Minnis, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1783 received 4666 and 2/3 acres of land for a service of 7 years (see the printed list of officers of the Revolutionary Army, who have received land for their services – No. 1)

He settled his accounts as a Continental officer with State auditors, for a service from January first 1777 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 1781 – as Lieutenant, Captain, and aid de camp. By a Document, which is on file in the first Auditor's office, called "A list of officers in the Virginia line who have been killed, invalided, assigned, superseded &c since the Chesterfield arrangement in February 1781 – and not included in the late arrangement at that place in May 1782" – it appears that Francis Minnis Captain was superseded. This document bears date September 1782.

Afterwards – in December 1782 – Francis Minnis was reported as Captain & prisoner of war, by a Board of officers appointed by General Muhlenberg for the purpose of arranging & finally settling the Virginia line, of which Colonel James Wood was President. This Board met at Winchester December 17<sup>th</sup> 1782 – Francis Minnis' name is at the bottom of the list reported by the Board of officers who were prisoners of war of the Virginia line & artillery and is noted as having been omitted in the list (see a [the image of this document is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point]

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The testimony of witnesses, who have been relied upon to sustain this claim for additional bounty land, is as follows – to wit –

Henry Buchanan, a credible witness, says he knows, that Francis Minnis entered the Continental service as early as 1775, as Lieutenant in Captain Thomas Nelson's Company, and was in service until sometime after the siege of York – and confidently believes he served to the end of the war – that he was promoted, first to the rank of Captain – then to that of Major.

Dorothy H Harwood, a respectable witness, says – that after the death of Francis Minnis's widow she was requested to examine some old papers of the said Francis Minnis – and, in performing this service, she saw the commission of Major Francis Minnis – that the time, she believed the said Commission was of no importance, & threw it into the fire, together with other

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<sup>1</sup> [Henry Buchanan S37807](#)

papers which were considered not worthy of preservation. She further says – that Francis Minnis was known & recognized as Major – and that he frequently said in her presence he had entered the Army at the commencement of the war, and served to the end of it – that he received a wound &c.

It has appeared above, that Francis Minnis settled his account as Lieutenant – Captain – and aid de camp. He had certainly the rank & title of Major: but, taking into consideration all the evidence in this case, I am [the image of this document cuts off at the bottom thereof at this point]

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as major.

I have not seen any proof of his having been in service to the end of the war. But, the allowance of bounty land to him, for a service of 7 years, and the late period of the war when he was noticed as a Prisoner of war, renders it probable that he continued to the end of it.

Your Excellency, upon this state of facts, will decide whether the heirs of Francis Minnis are entitled to additional bounty land – As Major – war for a service as Captain of more than 7 years – I consider the claim, in either point of view, as being doubtful.

Respectfully Submitted  
John H Smith, Commissioner  
July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1834

to his Excellency  
Governor Tazewell