

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land documents of John Russell BLWt1856-200

f39VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/16/12 supp'd 5/5/15

[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.]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Henry Circuit: April Term 1832 April 3rd

Satisfactory evidence was adduced in Court to prove and it was proved that John B Russell, Gervas E. Russell, James L Russell, Mary S Smith, wife of John Smith, Elizabeth Q Smith wife of Thomas Smith, Susan P Hollingsworth wife of James Hollingsworth, Malvina A Wheeler wife of Josiah H Wheeler, Louisa A Hughes wife of James N Hughes are the children and the only and all the children and the only and all the legal heirs at law to John Russell late a Lieutenant in the Regiment of the Continental line commanded by Colonel George Gibson.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at New Castle this 3rd day of April 1832 in the 40th year of the Commonwealth.

S/ Edm. P. Thomas, C

[p 5]

Council Chamber, March 19th [17]'83

I do certify that Lieutenant John Russell is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Lieutenant of the Virginia State Line for 3 years service.

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Meriwether

A warrant for 2666 2/3 acres issued to Lieutenant John Russell April 30, 1783
No. 278.

The foregoing is a true copy of the papers upon which Land bounty was allowed to John Russell copied by me in the land office at the request of the auditor.

S/ Samuel T Pulliam

[p 12]

To the Honorable the Legislature of Virginia the petition of John Russell respectfully sheweth that your petitioner joined the minute company of Captain Samuel Hawes of the County of Caroline and State of Virginia in the year 1775, and in May 1776, he enlisted with Captain Thomas Meriwether for two years, and while in service he enlisted on board the brig *Liberty*, commanded by Captain Thomas Liller [Thomas Lilly], and continued on board the brig until the month of January following while at sea we took a fine ship and cargo which was sold as a prize at the town of York in Virginia. Your petitioner after serving at sea for the time above stated again enlisted with Captain Thomas Meriwether for three years in the month of November 1778, was appointed a Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment, and continued to serve as Lieutenant in said Regiment until October 1780, at which time he was sent home as a

supernumerary, being at all times liable to be called into service. Your petitioner was prevented from entering into any other employee months. Your petitioner with many other officers similarly and 1791 presented to the Auditor of Public Accounts their claims for half pay for life or full pay for 5 years in commutation thereof. The Auditor neglected their claims and thereupon they appealed to the District Court, where they obtained a judgment, which was reversed by an appeal to the Court of Appeals in the year 1792, for reasons which your petitioner is unable to state. –

Your petitioner is now a resident of the State of Kentucky, and is old and is very infirm, and in a condition requiring the assistance of his native state which he served 5 years in the war of the Revolution. Your petitioner was engaged in the same Regiment and at the same time Captain William Campbell, which will be seen by documents accompanying this petition, to which he refers your honorable body for information. Your petitioner is advised by an act of Assembly that your predecessors have allowed to Captain William Campbell full pay for 5 years.

Now your petitioner humbly prays your honorable body will not exclude him, equally entitled to remuneration for his services, but will pass an act giving that relief which to your honorable body may appear just and right and as in duty bound will ever pray &c. And for the better information of your honorable body your petitioner herewith presents the original petition and the accompanying documents which were presented to the General Assembly of 1820, referred to the Committee of claims and reported reasonable, but was subsequently withdrawn on account of the death of the petitioner and at the session of your honorable [body] commencing December 1821 your petitioners renewed the claim, the petition was again referred to the committee of claims and reported reasonable, and was acted upon by your honorable body on the 27th of February 1822, and past, allowing the claims of your petitioners, and was transmitted to the Sitting for their concurrence, but unfortunately for your petitioners the documents were misplaced, in consequence they have understood of the absence of the clerk of the Committee of claims to had charge of the documents. The bill was laid on the table of the Senate and was not acted upon during the session.

Your petitioners would further state that the said John Russell, deceased left a widow and eleven children, a part of whom are still living with their mother and a part of whom are striving to obtain an education to fit them for active and useful lives. The wife of the deceased and the mother of his children is old and infirm and is scarcely competent to keep together and support the remnant of her late husband's family which are not yet provided for in the world, without assistance from her connections, or that pittance which the father of her children earned for his country in the days of his youth. To show your honorable body the right which your petitioners have to receive the money which may be due there testator, a present herewith a copy of his will duly attested. Wherefore your petitioners pray that a law may pass granting to them, heirs of the said John Russell, disease, the sum which injustice and equity your honorable body shall believed to have been earned and view the testator, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray –

S/ Hannah Russell, Ex'x
S/ James L Russell }
S/ Gervas E. Russell }
S/ Joshua S Russell }Ex'rs
S/ John B Russell }

[p 15: last will and testament of John Russell in which he describes himself as being of Henry

County Kentucky and in which he names the following: he appoints his son's James. Gervas. Joshua & John B. Russell his executors; he names his wife Hannah Russell as executrix; Mary S Russell now wife of John Smith; Elizabeth J Smith now wife of Thomas Smith; Susan P Russell [also referred to as Susanna the Hollingsworth] now wife of James Hollingsworth. The will is dated the December 1821.]

[p 18: legal proceedings dated October 29, 1792 in which Thomas Carter, late surgeon of the Cavalry under the command of Colonel Dabney; James Minson Galt late a senior field surgeon in this State service; Thomas Quarles, late a Lieutenant and Colonel Dabney's Legion; William Vowles, late a Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia Regiment; John Williams, late Captain in the State Artillery; Frederick Woodson, late Captain in the State Service; William Armistead, late a Captain of cavalry in the Legion commanded by Colonel Dabney; Christopher Roane, late Captain in the State artillery, William Campbell, late Captain in the 1st State Regiment; Nathaniel L Savage late Lieutenant of cavalry in the Legion commanded by Colonel Dabney; Samuel Tinsley, late cornet in the Legion commanded by Colonel Dabney; John Russell, late Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment; William Hoffler, late a Captain in the 1st Virginia State Regiment and Robert Brough, Administer of James Bradley, late a Captain in the State Regiment of artillery; filed a claim for the amounts due them by the Auditors of Public Accounts for half pay for life or 5 years full pay in commutation thereof.]

[p 20]

We hereby certify that Lieutenant John Russell was appointed an officer in the 1st Virginia State Regiment in December 1778 & continued therein until October 1780 & retired a supernumerary for want of command. Given under our hands this 7th September 1791

S/ William Campbell¹

S/ William Hoffler,² Captain

late of 1st Virginia State Regiment

[all of the above are copies and not the originals]

[p 21]

I certify that John Russell was a Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel Gibson, and I believe retired as a supernumerary officer.

S/ Cha. Dabney [Charles Dabney]³

Lieutenant Colonel of the Virginia State Legion

[a copy]

[p 21]

I do hereby certify that Major John Russell was a 1st Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel William Brent and after the expiration of the time of the soldier's enlistment Lieutenant Russell remained a supernumerary officer, but I believe he was called on by Colonel Charles Dabney to perform some duties in the detachment to which he attended, but he was an officer of a superior grade & was not wanted I was well acquainted with Major Russell, in early life we entered into service together and perform duties both by sea and

¹ Probably the same man as [William Campbell W4149](#)

² [William Hoffler S38047](#)

³ [Charles Dabney R13624](#)

land; we were promoted from sergeants to lieutenants and I can say he acted as brave officer – given under my hand this 18th of December 1825

S/ Peter Foster⁴

[p 22]

Orange 28 December 1821

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 15th instant I have just received – had it been directed to Barboursville, P.O. I should have received it several days sooner; letters directed to the County are lodged at the Courthouse & never forwarded – my residence is near 15 miles above – for answer I can say he Lieutenant John Russell served in the 1st Virginia State Regiment with me from the spring of 1777 until sometime I think in the summer of the year 1780 when several officers were supplied with money to recruit but whether then he left the Regiment as a recruiting officer or as supernumeraries I can't say, to the best of my recollection he had been several months before the said Regiment was organized in the Marine service as that Regiment was composed of some companies raised for the United States service other companies for the service of the State Infantry & Marines.

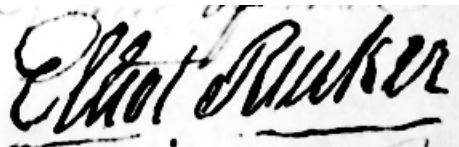
Very respectfully your Sir
Your Obedient Servant
S/ William Campbell

Mr. Reuben Burton Esquire of the Virginia Legislature City of Richmond

[p 39]

I Elliott Rucker⁵ of Shelby County and State of Kentucky do certify that I was intimately acquainted with John Russell and that he was a Lieutenant in the Revolution, belonging to Captain Thomas Meriwether's Company attached to the Regiment of Colonel George Gibson which Regiment has been since acknowledged as Continental by a [indecipherably faint word] act of Congress; as I myself can testify having received from the General government the benefits of the act alluded to. I am conscious that the said Russell entered the service in 1777 and I knew him commanding as a Lieutenant in 1781 and I am informed and have every right to believe that he was returned as a supernumerary: he having obtained the commutation allowed by the State of Virginia 2 officers of that denomination and of that Regiment.

S/ Elliott Rucker



[Attested April 22, 1831 by Robert T Robb, JP]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Kentucky Counties Legislative Petitions

To the Hon. the General Assembly of the State of Virginia the petition of Hannah Russell widow and Executrix of John Russell Deceased and of James L Russell, Gervas S Russell, Joshua

⁴ [Peter Foster S46443](#)

⁵ [Elliott \(Elliott, Eliot\) Rucker S46408](#)

Russell and John B Russell sons and executors of the said John Russell humbly Sheweth: That the said John Russell husband and father of your petitioners at the 1st session of your Hon. body caused to be presented a petition of which the following is a correct copy: viz.

To the Honorable the Legislature of Virginia the petition of John Russell respectfully sheweth that your petitioner joined the minute company of Captain Samuel Hawes of the County of Caroline and State of Virginia in the year 1775, and in May 1776, he enlisted with Captain Thomas Meriwether for two years, and while in service he enlisted on board the brig Liberty, commanded by Captain Thomas Liller [Thomas Lilly], and continued on board the brig until the month of January following while at sea we took a fine ship and cargo which was sold as a prize at the town of York in Virginia. Your petitioner after serving at sea for the time above stated again enlisted with Captain Thomas Meriwether for three years in the month of November 1778, was appointed a Lieutenant in the 1st Virginia State Regiment, and continued to serve as Lieutenant in said Regiment until October 1780, at which time he was sent home as a supernumerary, being at all times liable to be called into service. Your petitioner was prevented from entering into any other employe months. Your petitioner with many other officers similarly and 1791 presented to the Auditor of Public Accounts their claims for half pay for life or full pay for 5 years in commutation thereof. The Auditor neglected their claims and thereupon they appealed to the District Court, where they obtained a judgment, which was reversed by an appeal to the Court of Appeals in the year 1792, for reasons which your petitioner is unable to state. —

Your petitioner is now a resident of the State of Kentucky, and is old and is very infirm, and in a condition requiring the assistance of his native state which he served 5 years in the war of the Revolution. Your petitioner was engaged in the same Regiment and at the same time Captain William Campbell, which will be seen by documents accompanying this petition, to which he refers your honorable body for information. Your petitioner is advised by an act of Assembly that your predecessors have allowed to Captain William Campbell full pay for 5 years.

Now your petitioner humbly prays your honorable body will not exclude him, equally entitled to remuneration for his services, but will pass an act giving that relief which to your honorable body may appear just and right and as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

S/ John Russell

And for the better information of your honorable body your petitioner herewith presents the original petition and the accompanying documents which were presented to the General Assembly of 1820, referred to the Committee of claims and reported reasonable, but was subsequently withdrawn on account of the death of the petitioner and at the session of your honorable [body] commencing December 1821 your petitioners renewed the claim, the petition was again referred to the committee of claims and reported reasonable, and was acted upon by your honorable body on the 27th of February 1822, and past, allowing the claims of your petitioners, and was transmitted to the Sitting for their concurrence, but unfortunately for your petitioners the documents were misplaced, in consequence they have understood of the absence of the clerk of the Committee of claims to had charge of the documents. The bill was laid on the table of the Senate and was not acted upon during the session.

Your petitioners would further state that the said John Russell, deceased left a widow and eleven children, a part of whom are still living with their mother and a part of whom are striving to obtain an education to fit them for active and useful lives. The wife of the deceased and the mother of his children is old and infirm and is scarcely competent to keep together and support the remnant of her late husband's family which are not yet provided for in the world, without

assistance from her connections, or that pittance which the father of her children earned for his country in the days of his youth.

To show your honorable body the right which your petitioners have to receive the money which may be due there testator, a present herewith a copy of his will duly attested. Wherefore your petitioners pray that a law may pass granting to them, heirs of the said John Russell, disease, the sum which injustice and equity your honorable body shall believed to have been earned and view the testator, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray –

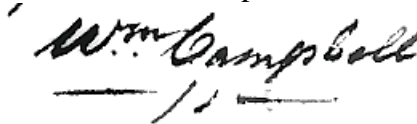
S/ Hannah Russell, Ex'x
S/ James L Russell }
S/ Gervas E. Russell }
S/ Joshua S Russell }Ex'rs
S/ John B Russell }

Orange 28 December 1821

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 15th instant I have just received – had it been directed to Barboursville, P.O. I should have received it several days sooner; letters directed to the County are lodged at the Courthouse & never forwarded – my residence is near 15 miles above – for answer I can say he Lieutenant John Russell served in the 1st Virginia State Regiment with me from the spring of 1777 until sometime I think in the summer of the year 1780 when several officers were supplied with money to recruit but whether then he left the Regiment as a recruiting officer or as supernumeraries I can't say, to the best of my recollection he had been several months before the said Regiment was organized in the Marine service as that Regiment was composed of some companies raised for the United States service other companies for the service of the State Infantry & Marines.

Very respectfully your Sir
Your Obedient Servant
S/ William Campbell



Mr. Reuben Burton Esquire of the Virginia Legislature City of Richmond

Auditor's office Richmond 13th of December 1826

I certify that it appears from a List of such of the Names of the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as received Certificates for the Balance of their full pay agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed at the November session 1781 the Certificate issued on the 12th day of May 1783 in the name of Lieut. John Russell for two hundred and three pounds one shilling and five pence which Certificate was received by Lieut. Vaughter.

S/ J. E. Heath

Mount [word too faint to discern] Henry County, Kentucky, 12 July 1820

Dear Sir

Although I have not the pleasure of being acquainted with you, I hope you will [indecipherable word] the liberty I have taken: when you are informed the Subject which induces me to write to you – having seen in the Palladium in January last, the petition of sundry Officers

of the late Revolutionary Army to Congress, I find Sir the Committee were of the opinion that the petition was reasonable – I also find a Resolution of Congress 17 January 1781 given [giving] all Officers in the Staff, or Medical line & has [who have] continued in Service, until the end of the war or should be reduced before that time as supernumeraries should be entitled to pay for their Services, – I joined the minute company under Capt. Samuel Hawes Caroline County in 1775 but never was called on and [in] May 1776 enlisted with Capt. Thomas Meriwether for two years on board the Brig *Liberty* commanded by Capt. Thomas Liller, continued in said Brig until January, went to sea and was fortunate enough to take a fine ship which ship and cargo was sold at York town Virginia January 1777. I enlisted with the said Meriwether for 3 years, in 1st Virginia State Regiment was lucky enough to be appointed 1st Lieut. in said Regiment December 1778, and continued in said Regiment until October 1780, at which time I was sent home as Supernumerary for want of Command, The Officers belonging to said Regiment Served the State of Virginia. At the District Court held in Richmond in September 1791 – and Obtain judgment for half pay for life or 5 years full pay in commutation – I should suppose although sent home as before stated that I stand as much entitled, to my pay as any Officer, as I stood liable to be called on until the end of the War, which kept me from all kind of business, – perhaps, you may think it flattery for me to say, that I do not believe there is a man in the [indecipherable word] that can out Vote you in this County – so must conclude wishing you success, in your Election – I am Dear Sir

Your friend & Obedient Servant
S/ Jno Russell



Colo. Richard H Johnson

P. S. [several indecipherable words] the letter I have [indecipherable word] to which the copy of the Judgment as you can judge better whether I can obtain anything or not by petitioning Congress.

At a District Court held in Richmond the 9th day of September 1791

John Russell a Lieut. in the 1st State Regiment – Appellant

against the Commonwealth: upon a appeal from a Decision of the Auditor of Public accounts

Refusing to issue to the Appellant warrants or certificates either for half pay for life or five years full pay in Commutation thereof – this day came the appellant, by his attorney, as the Attorney General for the Commonwealth, who being fully heard and the Appeal aforesaid scene and inspected it is the Opinion of the Court that the Appellant is entitled to five years full pay in Commutation for half pay during life, Therefore it is ordered that the Auditor of Public accounts issued to the Appellant, Certificates for the said five years full pay bearing and interest at the rate of 6 percent per annum from the 22nd day of April 1783, the day on which the troops raised for the late war were discharged in this State

At a District Court held in Richmond the 12th day of September 1791 on the Motion of the Attorney Gen. of the Commonwealth an appeal is allowed from the Judgment to the Court of Appeals, I have never made application since to the State of Virginia.

S/ J. R.