

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Lewis BLWt1864-300

f56VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/30/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

Bounty Land warrant issued July 18, 1832

[p 5]

To his Excellency John Floyd, Governor of Virginia

Your petitioners William Lynn Lewis, the heirs of Susanna Massie, deceased, late Susanna Lewis viz. (Sarah Stanley, the wife of ___ Stanley, Mary P. the wife of John H Pleasants, Henry, Thomas and Eugenia Massie), James L Woodville and Mary S. his wife, late Mary S Lewis, John H Peyton and Ann M. his wife, late Ann M. Lewis, John Cochran and Margaret Lynn his wife, late Margaret Lynn Lewis, Sarah, John B, Thomas and Pollydora Lewis, which said William, Susanna, Mary, Ann, Margaret, Sarah, Thomas, John B. and Pollydora are the children and heirs of the late John Lewis of the Sweet Springs in the State of Virginia, respectfully represent to your Excellency that it appears from the annexed Commission & Affidavits marked A. B. C. D. and E. that there aforesaid father was in Officer in the Revolutionary War, in the Virginia line on Continental establishment – that he entered the Army as an Ensign in Captain John Hays Company, which was attached to the Regiment commanded by the late Colonel George Mathews, in the spring of 1776 – that he continued in actual service till the spring of 1779, – that during his said service he was promoted to the rank of a Captain, and was about the latter period discharged as a Supernumerary Captain, and that he continued as Supernumerary till the end of the War; Having never received the bounty lands, to which he was entitled under the laws of the Commonwealth. – Your petitioners further represent that the said John Lewis departed this life in the month of June 1823, intestate as to this property, which of course by the laws of the Commonwealth has descended upon your petitioners – they prayed therefore that your Excellency may award what they as the Heirs of the said Lewis are in justice entitled to in the premises, and they as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

S/ John H Peyton, on his own behalf and in behalf of the other heirs of

John Lewis, deceased
February 4th, 1832

[p 6: A.-- a copy of the commission granted to John Lewis as an Ensign in the Virginia forces as granted by the Continental Congress and signed by John Hancock, President

[p. 7 D]

Augusta County, Sct.

This day personally appeared before me William Moore¹ of Rockbridge County, a brother of the late General Andrew Moore aged eighty-two years – who made oath that he was well acquainted with Captain John Lewis, late of the Sweet Springs in Virginia, deceased – That his brother Andrew and the said John Lewis were subaltern Officers in the Company of Captain John Hays attached to the Regiment of regulars in the Army of the Revolution, commanded by Colonel George Mathews, the late General George Mathews of Georgia. Your affiant was with his brother Andrew at Valley Forge in the year of 1777 or 1778, and found the said Moore and Lewis Officers in General Washington's Army and messmates – Captain Hays and most of Colonel Mathews Regiment had been taken prisoners at the battle of German-Town [Germantown, October 4, 1777], fought not long before, and the way that his said Brother and Lewis escaped as he then understood and believes was that they were detached under the late General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] to from [sic] General Gates [Horatio Gates] for and expedition up the Hudson [River] to meet General Burgoyne, and after the surrender of Burgoyne they had not time to join the main Army until the battle of German Town was fought. About the period above alluded to his brother Andrew more resigned and came home, and Lewis I left with the Army – The capture of Captain Hays and resignation of Andrew Moore would open to Lewis an opportunity for promotion and he presumes he was promoted, though he does not know the fact, for he was not in the regular service and returned home in 8 or 10 days thereafter.

Given under my hand, a Justice of the peace for the said County this 24th of January 1832
S/ Wm Boys

[p 8]

Corporation of Staunton, to wit:

This day personally appeared before me Smith Thompson,² a citizen of said Corporation, who made oath that he is now about eighty-four years of age, that he entered the Revolutionary Army in the year 1777, that he was in the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778], and was afterwards marched with Woodford's Brigade to the South, that they left Philadelphia for the Southward in January 1780, and was afterwards taken prisoner at the Siege of Charleston [May 12, 1780] – the said affiant says that he was well acquainted with the late John Lewis of the Sweet Springs – he was well acquainted with him when he entered the service in the Spring of the year 1776 as an Ensign in Captain John Hays Company of Continental troops – that he also was well acquainted with the said Lewis after he joined the Army under General Washington. He well recollects that the said John Lewis and the late General Andrew Moore were subaltern Officers in Captain John Hays Company – that the said Lewis and Moore with the troops under their command were attached under the late General Morgan to join General Gates before the surrender of General Burgoyne – that whilst they were absent upon this service the battle of Germantown was fought, in which Colonel George Mathews Regiment was taken, and with it the late Captain Hays – this made an opening to Lewis and Moore to be promoted – they were promoted – sometime thereafter Andrew Moore resigned, and John Lewis was promoted to a captaincy. This affiant well recollects that the said Lewis commanded a company at the Battle of Monmouth, and continued to act as Captain until he was discharged as a supernumerary in the year 1779 – When the Regiments were organized in the latter part of the year 1778 the ranks were so much sand that there were a number of supernumerary Officers – some of whom resigned – some were ordered on the recruiting service, and others were discharged as

¹ Probably the same man as [William Moore S5787](#)

² [Smith Thompson S38438](#)

supernumeraries – Your affiant never heard that Captain John Lewis had resigned, and does verily believe that he was discharged as a supernumerary. Given under my hand and seal as Mayor of the Corporation of Staunton this 24th day of January in the year 1832

S/ Thos. J. Michie

[p 10]

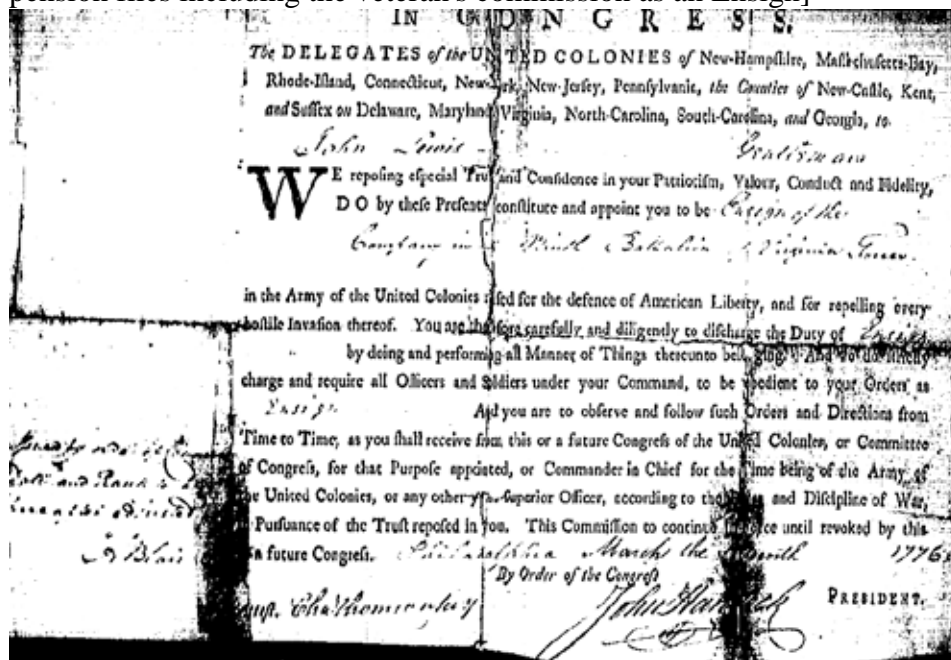
Robert Porterfield³ of the County of Augusta states that he was an Officer in the War of the Revolution in the Virginia Line on Continental establishment, that he knew the late John Lewis, deceased of the Sweet Springs – that he was an officer in the War of the Revolution, that he does not know with certainty when he retired from the service, his impression is that it was in the year 1778 – In that year from various causes, the ranks of the Virginia Line had become thin, and the recruiting service lingered – it was then thought expedient to blend and consolidate the regiments, which left a number of supernumerary Officers, some few of whom took umbrage at their fate and resigned, others were ordered on the recruiting service, and the residue returned as supernumerary, subject to be called on, should there service be required, and although Mr. Lewis was not again called into service, he has no doubt he was of the last description – from the fact of his commission being found as I have been informed, among his papers which it was usual for an officer when he resigned to surrender.

S/ Ro. Porterfield [copy—not original document]

[Attested January 16, 1832 in Augusta County Virginia]

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

[Note: this file contains the originals of the same documents transcribed above from the federal pension files including the veteran's commission as an Ensign]



³ [Robert Porterfield S8965](#)