

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Muir BLWt237-300

f9VA/MD

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/30/13 supp'd 4/30/15

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

Know all on Men by these presents that I Francis Muir of the County of Dinwiddie and State of Virginia do by these presents nominate, constitute and appoint Major Hezekiah Rogers of the City of Washington, and District of Columbia to be my true and lawful attorney in fact for the purpose of asking for and receiving from the Honorable Henry Dearborn Esquire Secretary of War or his Successor a Warrant for three hundred acres of Land due me in consideration of my services as a Captain in one of the Sixteen Additional Virginia Continental Regiments commanded by Colonel Nathaniel Gist in the late War between the United States and Great Britain and to the End of said War (Having served a considerable time as Aid de Camp to General Smallwood) and on receipt of said Warrant to grant the necessary acquiescences therefore as fully as I could do myself—[boilerplate power of attorney language not transcribed.]

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of August, 1805.

Signed, Sealed and Acknowledged in presence of

S/ Nathaniel Manson

S/ John Booth

S/ F. Muir {Seal}

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "F. Muir". To the right of the signature is a circular seal impression, which appears to contain the name "F. Muir" and some other text, though it is difficult to read clearly. The signature and seal are written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

Dinwiddie County August 19th 1805

Sir

In consequence of a Letter which I received lately from Mr. James Gayton of Kentucky I have enclosed you a power of attorney to obtain a Warrant from the War Office for three hundred acres of Land which he informs me I am entitled to as an officer in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. You will therefore greatly obliged by obtaining the Warrant for me, and delivering the same to Mr. Taylor or order.

There is a Doubt arises whether I am entitled to the Seven years additional Bounty: as I was not in the Land Service of the United States on the 13th of November 1776. I was before that period and Officer on board the Ship of War, *Defence* [*Defense*], from the State of Maryland, consequently in actual Service against Great Britain more than Seven years but I did not receive a Commission in the Continental Army until the summer 1777. – If from this representation there appears a probability of my being entitled to the 666 2/3 acres additional Bounty your [sic, you] will confer a particular favor by giving me information thereof, and of such steps as I must

pursue in order to obtain a Warrant for said Bounty.

Most respectfully

I am

Your Obedient Servant

S/ F. Muir

Please direct to me in Dinwiddie County near Petersburg

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

I do hereby Certify upon Honor that I served three years in Colo. N. Gist's Regiment of Infantry in the Service of the United States, and that I was not superseded or cashiered and considered myself as a Citizen of the State of Virginia at the time of entering the Service.

Given under my hand this 5th day of August 1783

S/ F. Muir, Capt.

*I do hereby Certify upon Honor that I served three years in
Colo. N. Gist's Regiment of Infantry in the Service of the United
States and that I was not superseded or cashiered and
consider myself as a Citizen of the State of Virginia at the time
of entering the Service*

*Given under my hand this 5th day of
August 1783.*

F. Muir Capt.

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Dinwiddie County Legislative Petitions

The Honorable the Speaker of the Senate & the Speaker of the House of Delegates

The Memorial of Frances Muir Capt. in one of the Additional Sixteen Battalions
commanded by Col. Nathaniel Gist

Humbly sheweth that Whereas your Memorialist having in January 1781 returned from South Carolina with General Smallwood [William Smallwood] to Virginia to whom he acted as Aid & having obtained on his the General's departure from this State his permission to remain behind for the purpose of settling some Accounts which the Public were concerned in and rendering every Service in his power in a Military Character during the Invasion, he repaired to Chesterfield Court house and alternately applied himself to settling his Accounts and his Duty as an officer, both of which he flatters himself were discharged to the satisfaction of the Public and of his Superior Officers.

Unfortunately for your Memorialist at the time he proposed setting out for Maryland to General Smallwood's Quarters to whom he your Memorialist acted as Aid the Marquis de Lafayette sent for him to Orsburns [Osborne] on the Evening of the 11th of May 1781 and

requested he would undertake a piece of business or Duty which he (the said Marquis) supposed the Service and Public would be benefited by. Your Memorialist being well assured that any attempt of him in executing a Command of so important a nature particularly at such a crisis would be sufficient to atone for his long absence from his duty, although he was acting in the line of Aid to General Smallwood, informed the Marquis he would cheerfully undertake anything that would be of public Utility.

And received Orders from the Marquis to go to Blandford immediately. Your Memorialist set out with instructions and between 11 & 12 o'clock at night your Memorialist arrived in the town of Blandford [sic] about 12:30 o'clock in the morning on the 12th of May 1781 was taken Prisoner by a party of the British under the command of General Arnold [Benedict Arnold].

The Marquis de Lafayette on notice thereof in justice to and in Order to clear your Memorialist of any imputation which might tend to injure his Character as an officer for being captured in that manner & time wrote to General Washington & the Hon. Congress representing your Memorialist's peculiar situation & justifying his conduct at the same time ordering Horses &c taken from your Memorialist by the Enemy to be valued by two Gentlemen acquainted with them, this was done and in order for twenty-eight hundred weight of Tobacco for said to horses agreeable to the Valuation Which Order was lodged with Gov. Nelson but no Answer was obtained as it could not be attended to at that time owing as your Memorialist supposes from the confused Situation of affairs in the State occasioned by the Enemy about that time. Your Memorialist therefore hopes as the Certificate is lost or mislaid by Gov. Nelson that the General Assembly will take up the matter & think it a grievance were the [of] their redress by ordering that he shall be paid for the said two horses such a as they in their Wisdom Shall Judge Them Worth in Specie or Tobacco. And Your Memorialist shall ever pray &c &c

[Reverse]

Muir's Petition

21st November 1788

Referred to Claims

Not to be considered without the Attendance of Mr. Joseph Jones