

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Wallace R11068

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/28/11 rev'd 1/7/15

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

Joseph Wallace, then of Charles City County State of Virginia, was engaged with the Army under Lord Dunmore to subdue the Indians, before the revolution; and early in the Revolution I enlisted under Captain John Bard in Bedford County and State aforesaid, and was from thence marched to Savannah Georgia and remained there till late in the fall. General Macintosh [Lachlan McIntosh] was the commander. My first enlistment was for 3 years. Captain Bard resigned; I was then commanded by Captain Alexander Commings [Alexander Cummins? or Cummings] and we then marched to the North and joined the grand Army under General Washington then at the White Plains. I belonged to the \_\_st Virginia Regiment. Officers names belonging to this Regiment was Colonel Parker, some by the name of Mennces & others not material to mention. I was at the battle at Monmouth, and sometime after that I enlisted for during the war, which a great many dead besides myself. The Bounty was \$150 and 150 acres of land, not one acre of which have I ever got to this day. After I enlisted for during the war I had a furlough of 4 months to see my friends in Virginia, and before the time expired Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] came down to little York. General Washington soon after he arrived – I joined his Army although my furlough was not out – he, Cornwallis, surrendered and I was soon after discharged. I am now in my eightieth year of my age, quite weak and feeble, poor & necessitous. I, 12 or 15 years ago, tried to get what the law allows, but my agent neglected to do anything. I had a certificate from Henry Wells of Charles City County, proving my service in said war, and that paper was certificate I cannot obtain from the person I employed and to whom I gave it. There is hardly any person now living that was in war of the revolution. Mr. Wells is dead (I mean in this part of the United States) – there may be some in Bedford where I first enlisted, but I am unable to travel.

April the 25 1835

Joseph Wallace<sup>1</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "April the 25 1835 Joseph Wallace". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Personally appeared before John S Stubblefield a justice of the peace for Charles City County and made oath in due form of law that the statements made by him touching his services in the ware [war] are all true. Given under my hand the date and year above written.

<sup>1</sup> The signature of the veteran was taken from the original of the affidavit on file in the Virginia Library's digital collection. [http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve\\_image=Revolution&type=rw&reel=28&start=389&end=396](http://image.lva.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/drawer?retrieve_image=Revolution&type=rw&reel=28&start=389&end=396)

S/ John S Stubblefield, JP

Executive Department June 9th 1843

The above is a true copy of a paper on file in this department.

S/ Wm H. Richardson, Secy. Comth [Secretary of the Commonwealth?]

[p 4: On May 19, 1843 in Charles City County Virginia, John Wallace, son and administrator of Joseph Wallace, filed a claim stating that his father Joseph Wallace died January 1, 1836 leaving no widow and two children viz. the affiant and his sister Sally Harris who is now a widow. The declaration was made in order to obtain the benefit due the veteran under the act of Congress of June 7th, 1832. The claimants signed his application with his mark.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 30th day of June 1783, in the name of Joseph Wallace, as a Soldier of Infantry for £38.5.2, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the first January 1782.

P. 313 Given under my hand, at the Alters office, Richmond, this 2nd day of September 1843.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

Richmond 20th of November 1843

Colo. J. L. Edwards

Commissioner of Pensions

Dear Sir

Yours of the 18th instant rejecting the application of Joseph Wallace's heirs for a pension, states "that there is no proof whatever of the identity of Joseph Wallace named in the Auditor's certificate, with the father of the present claimant while the failure on the part of the father to assert any claim creates a presumption adverse to the present application. It should be proved by the testimony of persons who had an opportunity of knowing, that the father of [the applicants] is the person named in the certificate of the Auditor."

Having [could be Finding] some doubt, as to the precise kind of proof of identity required – I beg leave to ask if it is admitted, that the affiant filed for land bounty, made 25 April 1835 was made by the father of the applicants? I should infer from the reasons assigned that that was not doubted by you.

If so, I beg leave to say, that affidavit states the reasons for failing to claim his dues – viz.: that for 12 or 15 years previously he had failed from the neglect of his agent &c and that he has given his proof to the agent, from whom he had been unable to get it – Surely, from this affidavit & proof of his death, within 2 1/2 years of the date of the Act 7 June 1832, before you, there can be no inference against this claim from his failure to apply for it – and ignorant negro, who evidently thought there was no living proof of his services, unless in remote parts, probably never heard of this pension law. It is hardly probable that he knew of the allowance of his land claim, before his last sickness came upon him. No inference therefore can be drawn against this claim, because he did not apply for it – especially as so few in Virginia did apply by that time.

Again, that affidavit made in 1835 evidently without reference to the Pension Law & in ignorance of it, is itself the same highest kind of evidence of identity. That the entry in the

marriage Bible<sup>2</sup> is of the date of a marriage – provided the statements in the declaration correspond with the evidence on the record.

It is hardly possible in any case, for an honest witness, to say a claimant to a Pension, is the person referred to in the Alters certificate. He cannot say to whom the Auditor referred – the most he can do, is to specify services which by similarity to those referred to on the auditor's books leave us to and for that he is the same individual –

I had supposed the affidavit in 1835 of Joseph Wallace referred to his services at so many places, that the records in your office, which are said to be pretty full, would enable you to trace him on them – independent of the Auditor's certificate which corresponding with the affidavit & in the absence of any ground for supposing there was any other Joseph Wallace in the Virginia Line, I thought would be considered as corroborating the affiant's statement.

You will please to inform me if Wallace's name appears on your rolls so as to make out even six months service, that the evidence may be used in an application to Congress where a more liberal construction may be given and the Department may feel at Liberty to give to the proof in the case.

I am yr obt sert  
S/ Thos. Green

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<sup>2</sup> I did not find any Bible record in this file.

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Addendum to Joseph Wallace R11068

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 24 Dec 2022.

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

I Joseph Wallace then of James City County State of Virginia was engaged with the army under Lord Dunmore to subdue the Indians before the revolution, and early in the Revolution I enlisted under Captain John Bard in Bedford County & state aforesaid and was from thence Marched to Savannah Georgia and Remained there till late in the fall Gen'l Macintosh [Lachlan McIntosh] was the Commander. [see endnote] My first enlistment was for three years. Captain Bard resigned; I was then commanded by Capt'n Alexander Commings [sic: Alexander Cummins VAS1730, 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment of Foot] and we then marched to the North and joined the Grand Army under Gen'l Washington then at the white plains, Belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment. Officers names belonging to this Regiment was Col Parker [Richard Parker BLWt525-500]. Some by the name of Mennces [possibly Calohill Minnis BLWt1507-300] – others not material to mention. I was at the Battle at Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], and sometime after that, I enlisted for during the war, which a great many did besides myself, the Bounty was 150 Dollars and 150 Acres of Land not one Acre of which have I ever got to this day. After I enlisted for during the War I had a furlough of 4 months to see my friends in Virginia, and before the time expired Cornwallace Came down to little York [Cornwallis to Yorktown, 22 Sep 1781] Gen'l. Washington soon after arrived I joined his army altho my furlough was not out [see endnote], he Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781] and I was soon after Discharged. I am now in my eightieth year of my age Quite weak and feeble Poor & Necessitous I twelve or fifteen years ago tried to get what the Law allows But my agent neglected to do any thing. I had a Certificate from Henry Wells of Charles City County proving my services in said war, and that paper or Certificate I cannot obtain from the Person I employed and to whom I gave it. There is hardly any person now living that was in war of the revolution Mr. Wells is dead (I mean in this part of the U. States) there may be some in Bedford where I first listed, But I am unable to travel [Certified April 25, 1835 in Charles City County]

Charles City County June 3<sup>d</sup> 1835 [To Hon. John Robinson, care of Mr. A. Lamb, Richmond]  
Sir, I here with inclose such papers as I could obtain in regard to Jos. Wallace's claim he no doubt had other papers proving his services in the said war. Jas M. Gregory was his former agent, and Mr Richard Garrot had the papers to arrange them for Gregory both of Williamsburg. The old man states that Gregory informed him, that he had sent them on to Washington and would let him know the result, and that when he applied to him about it that he never had the papers at all; I wrote lately to Mr. Garriot about it, he sent me word that he gave all the papers to Gregory & Gregory [illegible] and says he knows nothing about it. Strange indeed, Poor old man he suffers both in body & mind, for he thinks the money has been got long ago, he is certainly a very poor man. You will therefore take these papers and make as early application as Possible, and let me know the result as I am acting for him as his authorized Agent

Respectfully your Obt Servt

Joseph Vaiden

N.B. Since I wrote this I have been in Richmond & the clerk in the land office to see if he was on the pension list and he was not I forgot to see whether he was inscribed[?] as a soldier I suppose after he enlisted during this war that some evidence of it might be had at the war office You will do whatever you think best.  
J. V.

Charles City County State of Virginia to Wit.

We whose names are hereunto annexed have Examined Joseph Wallace a free man of color touching his services during the Revolutionary War and do believe from his statement which agrees with the general history of the war, that he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, Inlisted early and was discharged after

the Capture of Cornwallis, and it appears he could not have obtained his information any other way than by experience as he can neither read nor write as is now a very old man and very infirm  
April 25<sup>th</sup> 1835                      James P. Apperson/ Wm. H. Graves/ Joseph Vaiden

NOTES:

Capt. John Bard was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Battalion of Foot, which was allowed to recruit in Virginia.

A muster roll for Oct. and Nov. 1778 of Lt. Col. Burges Ball's company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Richard Parker lists Joseph Wallace as having enlisted for the duration of the war on 22 Dec 1778 and on furlough. A muster roll for March 1779 for the same company, then commanded by Capt. Charles Pelham, states that Wallace was on furlough in Virginia until May 1, 1779.