

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Andrews R12123

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Dec 2016.

City of Richmond SS.

This day Lewis Burwell personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the City aforesaid and made oath that he was well acquainted with the Rev'd Robert Andrews of Williamsburg who was a chaplain to one of the Virginia Regiments during the War of the Revolution

He further made oath that the said Andrews acted as Chaplain at and after the siege of Little York – that he heard him preach to the troops and thinks he was thanked in General orders for his patriotic services after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. The Affiant was himself a member of a Volunteer troops of horse which remained with the army during the whole siege Given under my hand this 3<sup>d</sup> day of June 1833.

Martin Drewry

The Rev'd Robert Andrews was appointed chaplain to the 2<sup>d</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colo [George] Gibson at an early period of the Revolutionary war, and was subsequently transferred to the first Regiment of State Artillery, commanded by Colo [Thomas] Marshall, and continued to act as such until the year 1780 when the Regiment being broken up into detachments, for different Garrisons, and a portion of it sent to reinforce the Southern army under General [Nathanael] Greene the Staff of the Regiment was declared to be supernumerary by the Legislature. By reference to the proceedings of the board of Officers which sat at Richmond by order of the Executive of which Colo Marshall (the Commander of this regiment) was president it will be seen that they notice particularly the cases of Dr. Pope [Matthew Pope R17152] Surgeon & Mr Andrews Chaplain, both of whom contended that the resolution of the Legislature (which was to save expense) only reduced them to the state of supernumeraries. The board did not determine, but referred the decision to the Executive. Very recently Dr Popes claim has been allowed (by the late Secretary of the Treasury) and the heirs of Mr Andrews hope for a similar result in their case, as it is precisely analogous, both belonging to the same regiment & both by the resolution of the Legislature becoming supernumeraries at the same time.

The supernumerary officers were when the state was invaded by Phillips and Arnold [Generals William Phillips and Benedict Arnold, Apr 1781] again called into service, and continued therein until the capture of Lord Cornwallis. Mr Andrews was in service at the siege of York, and received thanks in a general order for his patriotic services. These services were not performed in the Regiment of Artillery to which he had belonged, because it was not at the Seige, having as before stated, been distributed at different places

Mr Jeffersons [Thomas Jefferson's] letter to Baron Steuben filed herewith [not found] shews that the Supernumerary officers were called into service when the state was invaded – Mr Andrews obeyed the call and according to the decision of the Court of appeals was entitled to half pay for life – All which is respectfully submitted Wm Lambert Thos Green attorneys for the heirs  
Washington 17 June 1833

Virginia At a circuit Superior Court of law and Chancery held for Henrico County May 15, 1833.

It being proved to the satisfaction of the Court it is ordered to be certified that the Reverend Robert Andrews who is said to have been a Chaplain in the Army of the Revolution died since the year 1800 leaving five children to wit; Ann, Elizabeth, Catherine, Robert and John Andrews; that the said Robert Andrews subsequently died, intestate and without heir, his sisters and brothers, the said Ann, Elizabeth, Catherine & John are his only heirs; Ann intermarried with William Randolph who is now dead, subsequently the said ann herself died leaving two children, Robert Randolph, and Catherine Randolph. The aforesaid Catherine Andrews intermarried with J B Wilkinson. The Court therefore certifies that the said Catherine Wilkinson, Eliza'h. Andrews, and John Andrews and the said Robert

Randolph and his sister Catherine now Catherine Taylor are the only heirs at law of the aforesaid Robert Andrews.

[The following is part of an extensive correspondence.]

Pension Office August 3, 1842

Sir, In the case of Robert Andrews, dec'd. referred to in the enclosed papers, I make the following report:

The deceased was appointed a Chaplain in the Virginia State regiment of Artillery, and served from the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1778 till October 1779, when his services were discontinued under a Resolution of the Legislature of that State. The law of Virginia authorizing the appointment gave to the Chaplain the same pay which officers of the like grade had in the continental army. At no time whatever was a regimental Chaplain (except of Dragoons) allowed more than \$40 per month by Congress. Mr. Andrews could not therefore have received more than that amount. Under the act of July 5, 1832, when that law was executed at the Treasury Department, the representatives of Mr. Andrews were allowed half-pay accordingly, i.e. at the rate of Twenty Dollars per month. a claim is now set up for higher pay; but I can discover nothing to justify such a claim. The amount paid to a Dragoon Chaplain, a Hospital Chaplain, or a Brigade Chaplain, cannot be a guide to settling this claim; nor can any special allowance made to Mr. John Hart, or any other person for extra service, have any bearing whatever on the case. Hart was allowed extra pay for officiating as Chaplain for three regiments instead of one only.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully Your Obedt. servt.

J. L. Edwards [Pension Commissioner]

Hon. John C. Spencer  
Secretary of War

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some online images were undecipherable.]

This is to Certify, that it appears from a List in the Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1783, in the name of Robert Andrews as Chaplain for £214.8.3, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to [undeciphered] and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1781.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 1883.

Jas E Heath AUDITOR.

The case of the Revd Robert Andrews as Regimental Chaplain having been suspended for additional evidence – beg to refer to the report of the Board of Officers at their session on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1782 in which they appoint Colo [Charles] Dabney Colo. [George] Muter & the Rev'd Mr. Andrews the Officers on behalf of themselves & the other Officers of the State Line to join the officers appointed to the Officers of the Continental Line in [undeciphered word] & locating their bounty Lands. This fact shews that the board considered Mr Andrews then (1782) and officer of the State Line & entitled to lands – although the board on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Feb'y in considering the claim of [undeciphered] Andrews to Half Pay expressed itself incompetent to decide that matter, & referred its decision to the Executive. Under the late decisions of the Court of Appeals in the cases of Markham & Dills[?] it settled that a Supernumerary officer who continued such to the end of the war & never having been ordered again into service, is entitled to Half Pay, and consequently Mr. Andrews claim to Half Pay will be paid. There is no evidence on the records of the Board when Mr. Andrews was appointed Chaplain, but the inference is that he was appointed when the Regiment of Artillery was first raised sometime in the year 1776, & the act for his discontinuance passed in Nov'r 1779 which might not have been carried into effect sooner than January. If

he were appointed when the Regt. of Art'y was raised in 1776 & served to the time of the act of 1779 discontinuing him he would have served three years & be entitled to his bounty

April 2 1782/ J. W. Murdaugh

The children and heirs of Robert Andrews respectfully represent to the Governor and Council of Virginia that their father was Chaplain during the Revolutionary war. That he [several undeciphered words] in the Second State Regiment on the first day of January 1777 and that subsequently he was transferred to the State Regiment of Artillery commanded by Col. Marshall with which Regiment he continued until 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1780 when he became a Supernumerary and was discontinued in pursuance of a Resolution which passed the Assembly some days previous (22<sup>nd</sup> Dec'r 79) a copy of which together with the orders of the Governor and Council for carrying it into effect and the Certificates of payments made to him from the first auditors office are filed herewith. [several undeciphered words] upwards of three years service. They pray therefore that they may be allowed the Land Bounty given by law to officers of Virginia for similar services.

Wm. Lambert/ Atty for the heirs/ of R. Andrews

Names, Rank promotions &c of the Officers of the Virginia State Artillery regiment from the first entering into the service to the [undeciphered word] of the Regiment

Names	First rank in service	[undeciphered]	Present rank	Present date of Commission	Present State
Revd Robt Andrews	Chaplain	13 June 1775. became supernumerary and discontinued by a resolution of the assembly 22 Decem'r 1779.	Chaplain	June 13 <sup>th</sup> 1778	Supernumerary Jany 19 <sup>th</sup> 1780 [undeciphered word]

The foregoing [undeciphered word] is truly made from the original return of Colo Marshall now on file in this department  
Aud'r Office/ 15<sup>th</sup> April 1833

“Resolved that it is the opinion of this Committee, that the following officers on the Staff Department are Supernumerary and ought to be discontinued to wit. The Director General, Chaplains and purveyor general, and that during the continuance of the troops in garrison Regimental Hospitals superintended by Regimental Surgeons ought to be established and that the General Hospital with its expensive train of dependencies, ought to be discontinued and that no officer in the Staff ought to be allowed full pay and rations both in the employment of this State and of the Continent and that the Governor and Council be empowered and directed to take order for carrying this Resolution into effect.”

passed 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec'r 1779

19<sup>th</sup> January 1780 when Dr. Andrew became Supernumerary in the period when the Governor and Council acted on the above Resolution and notified him of it. W.L.

J W Murdaugh on behalf of John Andrews, Robert Andrews, Elizabeth Andrews, Joseph B Wilkinson, Catharine his wife, George Taylor and Catharine his wife & Robert Randolph the heirs of the Revd. Robert Andrews decd respectfully represent to the Executive Council that the said Revd. Ro. Andrews in his life time was the Chaplain to the Virginia State line, as appears by the report of the Board that has convened for the administration of such officers as were entitled to half pay. The board report that Ro. Andrews had performed the duties of Chaplain and came within the [undeciphered word] of the Law relative to half pay: and consequently that report is sufficient evidence to entitle him to his land bounty, which is fixed by the act of October 1779 at the same quantity allowed to a Commissioned officer receiving the same pay; which is a Lieutenant Colonel; He is therefore entitled to 6000 acres of land – which has been allowed to the Revd. Mr Griffith [David Griffith VAS2257] a Chaplain in the Continental line and Mr Ciapin[?] Chaplain of the Navy – J W Murdaugh begs to refer the executive board to the

Report of the board of [undeciphered word] which [undeciphered word] in Apl 1782 – Now on record in the Auditor's Office – and [undeciphered word] that the bounty of 6000 acres will be allowd the heirs of Mr Andrews  
Richmond August 27<sup>th</sup> 1830/ J W Murdaugh for the heirs.

NOTE: Andrews's heirs were allowed his pension up to the date of his death, 1 Jan 1804. Another document states that Andrews was also Professor of Mathematics at William and Mary College.

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Addendum to Robert Andrews R12123

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 18 November 2023.

[The [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](#) includes a note in recent handwriting as follows: “Robert Andrews, dec’d Oct. 17, 1848.” This date does not agree with the date 1 January 1804 given in the federal pension application. A note on the file jacket reads, “This case is erroneously shown on Photostat List of Half Pay as Robert Anderson.” Most of the records in the file are copies of the federal pension application.]

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