

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Cherry R13143

VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 December 2023.

Head Q Yohogania Court House

Sir/ Agreeable to Instructions from his Excellency the Governor of Virginia.

You are hereby appointed and fully authorised to act as Commissary of Provision Stores to the army destined to the Westward under my command &c taking charge of Stores &c Belonging to that Department. All persons are hereby required to obey you as such in the Lawfull Execution of your Duty, Subject to the rules Prescribed in such cases. And you are hereby authorised to appoint one or more Assistants as the nature of your Business my Require.

Given under my hand and seal this 1st day of June 1781.

Cap'tn William Cherry G R Clarke B.G. [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269, Brigadier General]

I do certify that Cap'n William Cherry acted as Commissary from the within date till the 8th day of December 1781. Given under my hand this 29th October 1784

George Walls [R18785]/ late Major W[estern] B[attalion]

Land Office Military Warrant No. 158.

To the Principal Surveyor of the Land set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This shall be your Warrant to survey and lay off in one of more surveys for William Cherry one of the Deviseses of Wm Cherry dec'd. & one of the Heirs at law of Mathias Cherry who was one of the Devises of Wm Cherry dec'd. their Heirs or assigns, the quantity of three hundred & thirty three & $\frac{1}{3}$ Acres of land, due unto the said Wm Cherry, partly in exchange for Nos 7133 & 4 iss'd 5 of March 1832. In consideration of the services for 18 months over 6 years of Wm Cherry de'd. as a Captain in the Continental Line, agreeably to a certificate from the Governor and Council, which is received into the Land Office.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said Office, this 22^d day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and 33.

W Selden Reg't L Off.

333 $\frac{1}{3}$ Acres

Land Office Military Warrant No. 159.

To the principal Surveyor of the Land set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This shall be your Warrant to survey and lay off in one or more surveys for Richard & John Cherry Devises of William Cherry & Heirs at law of Mathias Cherry who was a Devisee of Wm Cherry dec'd. their Heirs or assigns, the quantity of six hundred & sixty six & $\frac{2}{3}$ Acres of Land, due unto the said Richard & John partly in exchange for No. 7133 & 4 issued in March 1832. In consideration of the services for 18 months over 6 years of Wm Cherry dec'd. a Captain in the Continental Line, agreeably to a certificate from the Governor and Council, which is received into the Land Office.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the said Office, this 28th day of Dec'r. in the year one thousand eight hundred and 33.

W Selden Reg. L Off

666 $\frac{2}{3}$ Acres

In the House of Delegates/ the 28th of June 1784

Resolved that the Petition of William Cherry setting forth, that he acted as Commissary of Provisions under General Clarke in the Illinois Country in the year 1781, for which he has received no satisfaction, and praying relief, is reasonable, and that the Auditors settle the Petitioners account and grant him warrants for his pay, after discounting any monies which may have been advanced to him by the Public to be carried to the account of the Illinois department.

Teste/ John Beckley CHD
1784 June 30th/ Agreed to by the Senate/ Will. Drew CS

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

To the Honorable the Executive Council of Virginia the petition of the heirs of William Cherry, praying for the additional proportion of lands, promised to officers of the Virginia line for service beyond six years, respectfully represent.

That on the 2^d of February 1776 their ancestor William Cherry was commissioned a Lieutenant in a Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment, and continued in the service as such, untill the 9th of November 1779, when he was promoted to a Captaincy in a Virginia State Regiment under the command of Col. Joseph Crockett [S46377], and served in the capacity of Captain in the war, and as Paymaster to the Battalion, untill the end of the war.

The said William Cherry has already rec'd a warrant for the original proportion of land promised a Captain for three years service or [illegible word] to the end of the war – but they are advised that he is entitled to an additional quantity for one year & nine months service [three illegible words] which they pray may be granted to them Sheperd S. Church/ in behalf of the/ Heirs of Wm. Cherry

[19 Nov 1830] The deposition of Henry Eisler, of Charlestown Jefferson county Virginia, now in his 75th year take to be used as evidence before the Executive Council of Virginia, upon the petition there presented by the heirs of William Cherry dec'd for the additional proportion of land promised [several illegible words] six years.

Question. Were you in the War of the Revolution, and what where your opportunities of being acquainted with the events of that period?

Answer. I was in the war of the Revolution. I served at different times under Captains Morgan, [Charles] Morrow & Swearigen [sic: Josiah Swearingen] – always however as a volunteer.

Question. How long have you known William Cherry, formerly of this place. When did he enter the service of his country in the Revolutionary War & how long did he serve.

Answer. I have known him many years – I may say, that I have known him well for at least forty three years. He entered the regular service as an officer in the Virginia line in the year 1776 – I think it was early in that year – but I will not be certain. I will not be particular as to a few months – as to [several illegible words] and cannot say. And further saith not.

[Henry Bedinger (S8059) also certified the service of William Cherry.]

[From [Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com.](#)]

Virginia

At a Court held for Frederick County the 3^d day of November 1834. It appearing to the Court from satisfactory evidence accompanying the petition of Charles H. Clarke, guardian of Sarah Ellen, and Mary Cherry that there remains due to them as the only heirs of William Cherry dec'd (who died intestate) who was one of the devisees of Capt. William Cherry deceased, and one of the heirs at law of Mathias Cherry dec'd who was one of the devisees of Capt. William Cherry dec'd. Three hundred and thirty three and one third acres of Land Scrip, and that it will be for the Interest of said heirs that the said Scrip be sold, and its proceeds invested for their benefit: [the rest power of attorney to Charles H. Clark]

State of Ohio } Sct
Hiland County }

The affidavit of Richard Cherry taken at said County on the 23rd day of Dec 1843 affiant states that he is the only surviving son of Captain William Cherry decd of the Virginia Line. He states that Captain William Cherry died in the year 1802 or thereabouts in Jefferson county Va, that this affiant is

informed & believes that he was commissioned a capt in the Va Cont army during the Revolutionary war & that in that capacity he continued to serve untill he retired as a supernumerary officer, at what time affiant does not now recollect & that he subsequently was commissioned a Capt in the Va State line, and served in Col Crocketts Regiment in the western army during said war, that he is informed & believes that for his Continental Service he is entitled to Land from the United States and therefor most respectfully ask the commission to admit the Claim of said Cherrys heirs. Affiant would further state that his brother John Cherry has departed this life intestate & left a son Isaac B Cherry of said county, his other children having died, that Elizabeth Wysong wife Joseph Wysong Mary Harris wife of James Harris, of Clinton County, Ohio, Ellen & Mary children of William Cherry of Winchester Va are all the heirs at law of Captain William Cherry dec'd, that Mathias Cherry went to sea & has not been heard of since 1815 & further saith not
[signed] Richard Cherry

At a Court of Common Pleas held in and for the County of Highland and State of Ohio on the first day of May AD 1844 at the Court House in the town of Hillsborough in said County the following entries were made in the records of said Court

“On motion of Richard Cherry of Highland County and State of Ohio, it was proven in open Court to the satisfaction of the Court by the oath of Travis Glasscock of said County and State, that Elizabeth Wysong late Elizabeth Cherry wife of Joseph Wysong, Mary Harris late Mary Cherry wife of James Harris, both of Clinton County and State of Ohio, William Cherry late of Frederick County and state of Virginia, John Cherry late of Highland County, Richard Cherry of said County of Highland, Eleanor Cherry and Matthias Cherry were the only children and heirs of Captain William Cherry deceased of the County of Jefferson and State of Virginia, reputed to have been an officer of the army of the Revolution and that said affiant is informed said William Cherry, John Cherry, Eleanor Cherry and Matthias Cherry are dead, the said William Cherry and John Cherry dying with issue and said Eleanor Cherry and Matthias Cherry without issue” On motion of Isaac B. Cherry of Highland County and State of Ohio it was proven in open Court to the satisfaction of the Court by the affirmation of Richard Cherry that Alsina Cherry of Highland County and State of Ohio is the widow of John Cherry deceased late of said County who died intestate in said County and that his heirs are his son Isaac B. Cherry of said County of Highland and his granddaughters Adelaide Bunce and Lydia Emily Bunce of said County of Highland, the children of Emily Cherry a deceased daughter of said John Cherry and that said Adelaide and Lydia Emily are minors, and that said John Cherry was a son and heir of Captain William Cherry deceased late of Jefferson County and State of Virginia who was an officer in the Revolutionary war, that the persons proven to be children and heirs of said Captain William Cherry by Travis Glasscock were the only children and heirs of said Captain William Cherry.”

Know all men by these presents that we James Harris & Mary his wife formerly Mary Cherry, Joseph Wysong & Elizabeth his wife formerly E Cherry of Clinton County Ohio nominate & appoint Wm H Todd our attorney in fact with power of substitution to receive from the War department a United States a military land warrant for 300 acres due us for services in the Va Line during the Revolutionary war, to receive additional bounty from the State of Virginia for said services & for each warrant get Scrip from the U States to sell assign or locate the same,

To receive from the proper department at Washington City a small ballance of half pay due for the service of Captain Wm Cherry under the act of the 5th of July 1832. To receive and receipt for all small sums of half pay as fully as if we were there, as witness our hands & seals this 27 May 1844.

[signed] James Harris Mary Harris Joseph Wisong Eliza Wisong

NOTES:

The federal file includes copies of many documents signed between 3 Aug and 28 Nov 1781 by William Cherry as Paymaster in the Western Battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Joseph Crockett.

The file contains a copy of the last will and testament of William Cherry signed in Berkeley

County in 1797 and probated on 13 Feb 1805. The will bequeathed to oldest daughter Elizabeth, wife of David Patten, 5 shillings besides the portion of the estate already given; to all other surviving children (Eleoner, Mary, William, John, Richard, and Matthias) equal shares of the remaining estate, "excepting back land commonly called soldiers Rights or claims in Kentucky or elsewhere." The will also provided for the sale of his "houses & lots in Charlestown, a tract of land I purchased of Capt. Jno. Cooke of two hundred acres, and a tract of land I purchased of Jno. Jones of one hundred acres, or thereabouts all in the County of Beakely [sic]," the proceeds to be divided with the rest of the property in Berkeley County "between my children above named (Elizabeth excepted) share & share alike as soon as the males arrive at the age of twenty one years & the females eighteen." The rest of his estate outside of Berkeley County was to go to his four sons

The file also includes a 24 Oct 1844 letter from the pension office granting one-fifth share of the claim to half pay to "Mary G. Cherry, widow of William Cherry, dec'd. who was the son and one of the heirs of the late Captain William Cherry, an officer of the Virginia State Troops, and of Mary E. Cherry, daughter and only child of said William Cherry, dec'd." A certificate with the 24 Oct 1844 document states that Mary G. Cherry lived in Winchester, and that one of her two daughters, Ellen Cherry, had died.