

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Nicholas Cabell R1577

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Warminster, Nelson Co. Va. Feb. 3^d 1855

Col Edward A. Cabell [see note below]

Dr Sir. A trunk of old papers belonging to the late Judge Cabell was lately sent up from Richmond to his brother Joseph, who turned them over to me for examination. On looking them over I found a number which go to shew that my Grandfather, Colo. Nicholas Cabell, rendered military service during the Revolution, which should entitle his descendants to further compensation from the Government.

It appears from them, that in the years 1775 & 1776 he raised two Companies of 'Minute Men' - the first perhaps as a Volunteer Recruiting Officer, the second certainly by appointment: - that he marched with the latter Company to Manchester [across James River from old Richmond], Jamestown & Williamsburg; & that his company did not return until late in the month of September.

One of the Papers which prove this most clearly is an extract from the Records of Amherst Court, sent herewith & marked (A). Another is an extract from a Letter of Col. William Cabell Sr. to Colo. Hugh Rose of Amherst, (marked B). A third is a series of extracts from the Diary of the same gentleman, having reference to this service. Of the first paper I can get an authenticated copy from the Amherst Office. The hand-writing of the other two can be proved by Wm Horsley Sr, who is still living at an advanced age. Perhaps you would recognize it yourself from your familiarity with it in your youth.

Among other papers I may specify his 'Pay-Rolls' containing lists of his officers & men & the days of their service, - some of these being in his hand-writing & others not; - Also, Receipts from his men for part of their pay, the body of which receipts was most generally written by himself, - and the identical Account Book in which he kept the accounts of each of his subalterns & men, in his own hand, the which can be attested by my neighbor Maj'r. Yancy.

I mention this last not that I suppose it could be used as evidence by any one who would present a claim against the Government as his Representative. But I have been requested by a neighbour who is the representative of his Lieutenant, to enquire whether, if proved genuine, it could be used by him for such a purpose. There are yet other papers - such as his accounts with The Public for the Service & incidental Charges of his Company &c, and singular coincidences of statement among them as to various parts would serve to show that they are not manufactured for the occasion.

But all this is only preliminary to my informing you that the Representatives of Col. N. Cabell, supposing that they are fairly entitled to something under the Pension Laws of the U.S., are preparing to present their claim. They believe the case to be too plain to require the services of a Professed Agent, & have determined to apply directly to the proper authorities for information as to what now is wanting to complete the proof, as also for the proper forms of proceeding, if possible. The papers now sent shew that he served "a Considerable time", & the Pay Rolls & accounts though imperfect, show a service of more than [illegible] months on the part of the men of the Second Company; & in the two years of twice or thrice that time on the part of the Captain, computing from the date of his several appointments. But they do not state it with exactness. Where shall I look for this? - In the Auditor's Office at Richmond, or in the proper Department at Washington? Have we not already presumptive proof of service sufficient to entitle us to access to the Public Records which may enable us to complete it? And if perfected, what is the provision, both in kind & quantity, which the Government has made for claims of this character?

Col. N. Cabell - as you will remember - left six children, all of whom have left representatives but the one who still survives.

I am - as you know - the sole representative of my father, & in this matter I am at present the authorized agent of two other branches & may shortly be of the fourth & fifth.

Henry Carrington Esq of Charlotte, who has heretofore had similar claims against the

Government, & who is interested in this, suggests a direct application to the 'Commissioner of Pensions'. But as you, I believe, are connected with the same department, I have concluded in the first instance to trouble you with this statement & the accompanying papers as proof; - with this farther request that after perusal, you would lay them formally before that office, & thus put me in relation with him for farther communication, as well as for immediate answers to the enquiries here made. I propose to go to Washington myself, but wish first to procure the papers required for my purpose, & in proper form, that I may be spared the trouble of repeated journies.

It so happens that you knew, either personally or by reputation, all the parties deceased herein referred to, & you know myself & most of the other living claimants; and a word of explanation from you to the Commissioner may spare me the necessity of much writing, or a previous visit.

Hoping shortly to hear either from you or him I remain

Very respectfully & truly yours N Fran's Cabell

[The following items A, B, and C are evidently copies.]

A

Amherst County, September Court 1780

On the motion of Nicholas Cabell Esquire, the Court doth certify that the said Nicholas Cabell early in this present contest with Great Britain, did Actual Service as Captain of a Minute Company, that since by recommendation from this Court he received a Colonel's Commission, in which capacities the said Nicholas Cabell has acted some time past, that lately this Court hath recommended him to Executive as a proper person for Colo of the first Battalion, that in the different public capacities aforesaid in which he has acted, this court entirely approves of his conduct.

Copy Test. Wm Loving D. Clk

B

Extract from a letter of Col Wm Cabell Sr addressed to Col. Hugh Rose. Aug 1st 1780 —
"N. Cabell early in the present dispute was appointed Captain of a Minute Comp'y in which capacity he was called into into service for some considerable time, after which he had an appointment by the Gen'l Assembly of Lieut. Colo in the State Service, but as the reg't. was not raised he was not called into duty, & it is not long since that he was recommended by our Court (with only one dissent [one or two illegible words]) as a proper person to be Colo. of the militia, in which character he has since acted, & as far as I have been informed, with the approbation of the people, or at least the virtuous part of them"

C

Extracts from the Diary of Col Wm Cabell Sr of Amherst (now Nelson)

1776	Feb	5 th	The recruiting officers appointed for this county.* (*Hening's Stat's IX. 17;18, 19 st. 4.C).
	"	6	Pd Wm Pollard 20s [20 shillings] for Nich's Cabell which he paid them[?] [illegible word] on his enlistment.
	"		Pd. Wm Pollard £3 " 13 for Nicholas Cabell
	July	20 th	Paid Colo Nail £3 " 13 for a Rifle furnished by Capt Thomas' Estate to Capt. Nicholas Cabell's Company of Minute Men.
1776	July	20 th	Paid Joseph Cabell £11 " 19 for the guns he furnished Capt Nicholas Cabell's Company with[?], & for his receiving public money in Fincastle.
	Nov.	2.	Paid Capt Nicholas Cabell £2 3 7 in part of his & Company to 12 th Sept'r last.
		6.	Pd Wm Pollard £6.4.6 for provisions furnished Capt'n Nicolas Cabell's Company of Minute men & for carrying their baggage to the River.
1777	Jan'y	6.	Pd Nicholas Cabell £82.15.7 in full of £319.15.7 rec'd for his Company's Pay &c as Minute Men.

Warminster, Nelson Co. Va. Feb. 1855

Mr. L. P. Waldo Comm'r of Pensions

Sir, Your letter of the 12th Inst addressed to Edward A Cabell Esq was forwarded by that gentleman to myself.

There is only one surviving child of the late Col. Nicholas Cabell; viz. Mr. Joseph C. Cabell of this county & vicinity. He is disposed to prosecute his claim against the Gov't. for the military service of his father during the Revolutionary War & as you will learn by letter from himself by the present mail, he has appointed me his agent & Attorney to attend to that matter.

I send you herewith an Extract from the Family Record shewing dates of the birth, marriage & death of Col. Nicholas Cabell & the date of his widow's death. You did not say in your letter to Mr E. A. Cabell that its correctness should be sworn to, & therefore I have not done it. Its accuracy may be relied on, but any required formality [one or two illegible words] will be complied with.

Mr. Joseph C. Cabell would have signed an ordinary Power of Attorney forthwith, but as we did not know but some particular form was required by the Dept. we concluded to wait until we could hear from you.

May I ask then Sir, that you would send on such forms [several illegible words] as may be necessary in my future procedure

Some years since, - I do not now recollect how many, - Bransford West, of this County, applied for & obtained a Pension [W6447] for services as a soldier. That man served in the Company of Minute Men raised by Capt'n. Nicholas Cabell. The gentleman who prepared his papers, in reply to a letter of enquiry which I addressed to him states as follows:

"On his application for a pension I prepared Mr. Bransford West's paper, but it is so long ago I have a very imperfect recollection about them. They were sent to the War Office and I presume they are on file there. I kept no copy. My impression is that Mr West claimed for several short tours, under different officers, making in all eight or nine months served. I am confident he stated in his declaration, that he belonged to a company of Minute Men, but I do not recollect whether the Company was called into service." (signed) Alex'r Brown

If these papers be on file in your office, I would, if it be a legitimate request, ask you to examine them & see whether he mentions having served under Capt. N. Cabell & whether he has proved the fact.

Respectfully yrs N. Fran's Cabell

Extract from a 'Family Record' in possession of Joseph C. Cabell.

1. Nicholas Cabell, (fourth son of William x Elizabeth Cabell) was born Oct 29th 1750, — Married Hannah Carrington, (daughter of Col. George Carrington of Cumberland) April 16th 1772; & died Aug 18th 1803, — Mrs Hannah Cabell died August 7th 1817 Aged 67.

NOTE: A letter dated 22 Feb 1855 from Joseph C. Cabell explains that Edward A. Cabell was an official at the General Land Office in the federal government.