

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Matthew (Mathew) Pope¹ R17152

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/4/12

[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.]

[f p. 13]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this 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 ___ day of~~ in 1782, in the name of Matthew Pope, as a Surgeon of Artillery for £1013.3.4, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
9th day of February 1833.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[f p. 23]

Copy from the Journal of the Council of Virginia 18th February 1782

"The Board are of the opinion that Doctor Mathew Pope should be continued as Surgeon & apothecary at Richmond with an allowance of twenty shillings per diem; and that a regimental Surgeon & mate be also appointed, each to be stationed as the Commanding Officer of the Legion may from time to time direct."

See Page 317 of Book labeled "Virginia Claims" in the Commissioners Room

[indecipherable word] S/ V. Ellis

Ex'd J. E. Heath

[f p. 27]

Extract from a return by Colonel T. Marshall [Thomas Marshall] of the "names, Rank promotions &c of the Officers of the Virginia State Artillery Regiment, from their first entering into the service, to the reduction of the Regiment."

Names	First rank in service	Year	Different promotions	Present rank	present date of commission	Present State
Doctr. Mathew Pope	Surgeon	1780	Continued such till the Regiment was reduced	Surgeon	January 30, 1780	Supernumerary

S/ T. Marshall, Colo. S. A.

¹ Va. Half Pay N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 134 Half Pay Matthew Pope

truly copied
S/ Jas. E. Heath, Aud. of Va.

[f p. 7]

Pension Office
September 29 1842

I hereby certify that I have examined the application of the Administrator of the late Mathew Pope, deceased for [indecipherable word] half-pay under the act of 5th July 1832, as a Surgeon of Artillery in the Virginia State Line; and it appears that the half-pay should have commenced on the 6th of February 1782 instead of the 22nd of April 1783. It is therefore my opinion that the administrator Francis A. Dickins is entitled to receive the amount due, viz. half-pay for the service of said Pope as a Surgeon of artillery from the 6th of February 1782 to the 22nd of April 1783 at the rate of \$450 per annum.

Commissioner of Pensions

Approved

[f p. 2: Power of attorney dated February 3, 1852 executed in the District of Columbia by Francis A Dickins, "administrator of the estate of Doctor Mathew Polk deceased formerly Director or Certain General of the State Hospitals of Virginia in the Revolutionary War...."]

[f p. 5]

Pension Office
February 13, 1852

I certify that I have examined the claim of the Administrator of the will annexed of Doctor Mathew Pope, under the Act of 5th July 1832, as Surgeon and Apothecary of the State of Virginia & that he was entitled to half pay from the 22nd of April 1783, at the rate of 10 shillings per day – \$1.66 2/3 – to the 1st day of February 1792, the date of his death, which was half the amount fixed as his pay by the Executive of Virginia, on the 18th of February 1782; and which sum is payable to Vespasian Ellis, Attorney of the Administrator, deducting all payments under said act of 5th July 1832, to the representative of said Matthew Pope, as Surgeon of Artillery in the State line.

S/ J. E. Heath, Commissioner of Pensions

Approved
Alex H. H. Stuart
Secretary of the Interior

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

Auditors Office 19 February 1833

It appears by the Return of the State Artillery Regiment as made by Colonel Marshall to the Board of Field Officers in February 1782 – that Doctor Matthew Pope was Surgeon in that Regiment, That his commission as Surgeon was dated 30 January 1780, and that he continued in service until the Regiment was reduced when he became supernumerary.

S/ Jas. E. Heath

To the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The representative of Hugh Nelson shows, That Doctor Mathew Pope late a Regimental Surgeon in the service of the Commonwealth during the War of the Revolution in the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Colonel Marshall on State Establishment, was engaged in the active service of the State in the Medical Staff from 1777 to the end of the War. That it appears from sundry documents, and especially from the Records of Receipts in the Treasury Office: from a report of the Officers appointed in 1782 to ascertain the officers of the Virginia line on Continental & State Establishment, who were entitled to half pay on the laws of the Commonwealth which report seems authenticated by the signature of the Governor of the Commonwealth: and from a report made by a Committee of the House of Delegates at the May Session in 1783; that Doctor Pope entered the Service of the State as a regimental surgeon in the year 1777: That he continued in the service of the State in the Medical Staff, holding his Commission as Regimental Surgeon of Artillery, during the year 77, 78, 79, 80 & 81, and during a part of 1782 when he became a supernumerary, still ready for active Service, should he have been called again to fulfill his duties – but which it is presumed, he was not called to resume in effect terminated with the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis' Army at York-Town in October 1781 and which suggestion is confirmed by the fact of the appointment of a Board of Officers in 1782, to settle the Half Pay list of Officers, who were to be entitled as having served to the end of the War. The Board being appointed in the beginning of the year 1782. The Report of the Board of Officers shows that Doctor Matthew Pope never resigned his Commission of Surgeon of the Regiment of artillery, but continued to hold it during the War. By the Treasury Books such as can now be found, it appears, that he was in actual Service, at the head of the Surgical Department and the State Hospitals during the years 78, 79, 80 & 81. It appearing that during these periods he received sundry large sums of money for the use of the late Hospitals and other Medical exigencies of the State. And by the Report of the Committee of the house of Delegates it appears that Doctor Matthew Pope continued in active Service until 1782 – having entered the Service in 1777 as the Report exhibits.

It appears that Doctor Matthew Pope applied to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth at their Session in May 1783 for his Bounty Lands by Petition. That the Petition was referred to a Standing Committee of the House of Delegates, who made a special report of the above mentioned facts at Large – and concluded with a resolution that the said Doctor Matthew Pope was entitled to the Bounty Lands of a regimental Surgeon for his Services as such in the State Line. This Resolution for some cause unknown to this applicant was not agreed to by the House.

's It does not appear that any further application was made during his life, by Doctor Matthew Pope for his Bounty Lands. He departed life in 1792 having first made his Last Will and Testament wherein he [one or more indecipherable words] should not be withheld. Nor would it be equitable that by any Act of the State itself, a right which had accrued to an Officer holding a Commission in a lower Grade should be considered as destroyed by availing of his skill and knowledge in an employment of higher rank. To one the least conversant in Military Operations, it is no anomaly to see an officer of inferior rank sometimes from necessity employed in a station of much higher grade without any change in his Commission. The Report of the Board of Officers shows that Doctor Matthew Pope did not resign his Commission as Surgeon in the Artillery.

All which is duly submitted to the Executive with a Petition, that what is right and proper in the premises may be done in behalf of this Applicant, and in duty bound &c &c

April 21st 1832

S/ Hugh Nelson



Thursday June 23rd, 1783

Mr. Mann Page reported from the Committee of Propositions & Grievances that the Committee had according to order had under their consideration two petitions to them referred and had agreed to a report, and come to several resolutions thereupon which he read in his place and afterwards delivered in at the Clerk's tables where the same were again read and are as followeth –

It appears to your Committee that Matthew Pope was in the year 1777 appointed senior surgeon to the Hospital of this State who acted in that capacity until the said hospital was discontinued when he was immediately appointed surgeon to Colonel Marshall's Regiment in which he served until the month of October 1780 when he was appointed by the Executive surgeon and apothecary to the troops in service of this State and continued to act in that capacity until the month of January 1782. –

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Committee that the petition of the said Matthew Pope is reasonable.

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Committee that the said Matthew Pope all to be allowed the same bounty in land as his by law given to a regimental surgeon.

The foregoing is a true copy of a portion of the Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia of Thursday June 23rd 1783, extracted from the original in my office.

S/ George W. Munford
Keeper of the Rolls

Wednesday February 13th 1782

Present : Colonel Marshall, Colonel Brent, Colonel Muter, Colonel Dabney & Major Dick

"The board proceeded to the further consideration of the business before them

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On examining the list of Officers of the State artillery the board are at a loss how to determine respecting two other gentlemen including, in the list of Artillery Officers viz. Doctor Matthew Pope and the River and Mr. Andrews. The first, surgeon, & the last, Chaplain to the Regiment. Doctor Pope after the greatest part of the Regiment marched under the command of Colonel Edmonds to the southward so there were very few soldiers of the Regiment remaining in the State, and they much scattered, so that there was no duty for him to do as regimental Surgeon, accepted of an appointment from the Executive of Position and Apothecary to the State at Richmond, and afterwards of Chief Surgeon to the Army commanded by General Muhlenberg; but without resigning his appointment as Surgeon to the Artillery, though it does not appear to the board that at the time of his accepting the first of these appointments from the Executive, has stipulated, that his appointment as Surgeon to the Regiment should be secured [?] to him.

The board consider themselves as incompetent to decide in these 3 cases meaning those cases of Allen, Pope and Andrews and therefore beg leave to refer them entirely to the determination of the Executive."

[Indecipherable word] State P. 278, 453, 452