

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Reynolds¹ R17380

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/19/12

[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.]

William Reynolds was paid, as Conductor \$40 per month

In addition, as director of the Laboratory $\frac{12}{\$52}$ " "

He will be entitled to half pay at \$26 per month from the 22nd of April 1782 to the 30th of June 1801 when his account as collector at York was settled at the Treasury (see the Register's certificate filed with the papers in the War Office)

[f p. 3: Letters of administration of the estate of William Reynolds issued in Henrico County Virginia November 6, 1844 to William Reynolds Trent.]

[Note: There is no petition or application in this file nor could I find any relevant documents in the online files of the Library of Virginia relating to this veteran. Below is correspondence which sheds some light on the claim.]

For James E. Heath Esqr.

Washington 12th May

Year Sir

Your despicable opinion of the Virginia patriots of the revolution, astonishes and grieves me. Dr. Pope in his petition to the legislature for bounty land, states, that he was surgeon to the garrison at York, until it was discontinued, in 1781. We know, historically, that the posts in the seaboard, were broken up in the spring of the year 1784, when most of the Army went to Carolina, and, the Regiment was stationed in the upper counties. Some 15 years ago, a few old man about York, testified, that Dr. Corbin Griffin was surgeon to the hospital at York, and continued to act in that capacity, to the close of the war. These men, no doubt, believed what they stated, but not one of them said that they were attached to the hospital, in any way. Yet, you have decided that these men told the truth; and, of course, that Dr. Pope did not. The claim of William Reynolds is proved by documentary evidence. He was paid as conductor to the State artillery: In May 1782 he was appointed director to the State Laboratory, by the order of the Governor, to Colonel Davis, to appoint an officer of artillery, to that post. This, you say, is no proof that Reynolds was an officer of artillery: and so saying, you charge Colonel Davis with disobedience, and the artillery officers, with pusillanimity. Do you really believe that those men were mean-spirited fellows.

I showed you, the other day, that the Laboratorys, were schools for artillery officers: that

¹ Va. Half-Pay See N. A. Acc. No. 874 #050 141 Half Pay William Reynolds

Congress recommended, that they resent [?] these, "for instruction," the Governor of Virginia sent W. Reynolds to the Laboratory, "for instruction." This, with you, is no proof that he was an officer all of artillery. The legislature of Virginia, in December 1779, directed, that the Staff [staff], of the State, should be formed "upon the Continental model, particularly by failing the Quarter Masters department, with the officers of the Line." A copy of this document, is in your office with Thomas Slaughter's papers, and would convince any reasonable man, that the military staff officers were taken from the line. You look up Reynolds claim, a month ago, and wrote to your agent in Richmond, to search for evidence, pro and con, if he had found any, con, he would have sent it to you. It is your duty to "search the records," and to reject any claim not sustained by some documentary proof. If, in any claim, which I may present to you, there is the slightest cause to suspect fraud, I wish you to reject it. In every claim, confided to me, I have searched the evidence, kind, as well as pro, and would not advocate it, if I doubted its truth. 12 years ago, Dr. Waller employed me in Dr. Griffin's claim. I found, in the Virginia Gazette, that, in May 77 Dr. Griffin was removed from the hospital at York, and Dr. Pope, put in his place. In the Journal of the House of Delegates, I saw, that Dr. Pope stated, that he continued in the hospital at York until it was discontinued. I gave the information to Dr. Waller, and thus, I thought the claim would be abandoned. I pray you Sir, to decide in Reynolds claim either pro or con, and relieve me from suspense, and detention here, when my business calls me away.

I am, cordially, your friend

S/ Richard Randolph

J. E. Heath [then Commissioner of Pensions]

Dear Sir,

Mr. Peachy has requested me to employ someone to attend to Reynolds's claim there is no occasion for it, until you have disposed of it: when you have done so, you will oblige me, by sending your decision to me.

3 weeks ago, I sent you a file copy of a pay role of the field, and staff officers of the Regiment of Artillery for the months of April & May 1780. Own it is William Reynolds, Comdt., With the pay of Captain. A commandant is always a commissioned officer.

I salute you respectfully

S/ Richard Randolph

J. E. Heath

9th of June 1851