

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Epaphroditus Rudder¹ R17580

f114VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/13/12

[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. 43]

I Epaphroditus Rudder [sic], Lt. 1st Va. State Rgt., do acknowledge the United States of America to be free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great Britain, and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents and will serve the said United States in the office of Lieutenant which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

S/ Epaphroditus Rudder

Sworn before me at camp 12th May 1778

S/ P. Muhlenburg, B. G. [Peter Muhlenberg, Brigadier General]

[f p. 44]

I do certify that Lieutenant Epaphroditus Rudder was appointed Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment Light Dragoons 1st day of August 1780 and is now in service.

Given under my hand 8 February 1783

S/ Charles Dabney, Lt. Col.

1 year £138

Mr. Rudder shew'd his commission in ye State Line dated

[the above document was certified as a copy]

[f p. 6]

Council Chamber February 13, 1783

I do certify that Lieutenant Epaphroditus Rudder is entitled to the portion of land allowed a Lieutenant of Virginia Cavalry on Continental establishment for Military service from April 1778 to this day.

S/ Thomas Meriwether

Benjamin Harrison

Warrant for 2666 2/3 acres issued to Epaphroditus Rudder 13th of February, 1783 No. 128.

A Copy from the Records of the Virginia Land Office

Teste: S/ J. H. Parker, Reg. L. Office

¹ BLWt2472-200 and VA Half Pay

[f p. 3: Power of attorney attested October 1, 1840 given in Choctaw County Alabama by David Rudder heir at law of Epaphroditus Rudder, allegedly a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line. The power of attorney is signed by the mark of David Rudder.]

[f p. 24]

On this 5th day of June 1843 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful County Court now sitting for Knox County in the State of Tennessee Robert Rudder a resident of said County of Knox aged seventy-nine who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration, on oath in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of an act of Congress passed July 5th 1832 viz. that he is the Nephew & one of the heirs at law of Epaphroditus Rudder who was a first Lieutenant of Cavalry in the Continental line of Virginia that the said Epaphroditus Rudder entered the service in Lunenburg County Virginia about the commencement of the Revolutionary war under Captain Edward Garland and continued until its close. He was taken prisoner by the enemy at Petersburg Virginia & was detained as a prisoner until the close of the war. After the war he removed to Darlington County in the State of South Carolina where he continued to reside until the year 1793 [unclear could be 1783] where he died intestate and without wife or issue when living in Darlington County South Carolina he was employed as a house carpenter and was engaged in framing houses and shipping them to the west Indies Islands. He died having only two brothers his heirs at law to wit Samuel and Alexander Rudder who are both dead. Samuel Rudder died in Lunenburg County Virginia leaving some children the names & numbers not known. Alexander Rudder also died in the County of Lunenburg Virginia leaving affiant as his only child and sole heir at law. Affiant was too young to participate in the service of the Revolution but he well recollects seeing his uncle the said Epaphroditus Rudder marched into the service in Lunenburg County Virginia where affiant then resided. He does not remember the officers under Captain Edward Garland who was immediate command or affiant further declares that sometime after the death of the said Epaphroditus Rudder he affiant received several hundred dollars out of the estate left by his father Alexander Rudder one of the brothers of said Epaphroditus.

S. Robert Rudder

[f p. 13]

State of Tennessee Knox County: SS

On this 28th day of April 1847, personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the peace for said County Mrs. Catharine Rudder, aged seventy-six years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following affidavit. That she is the widow of Robert Rudder deceased who died on the 18th day of November 1842 that she was raised in the County of Lunenburg and State of Virginia that she well recollects the revolutionary war. She had three brothers [who] participated in the war two of them in the militia the other in the Regular Service she further declares that she was well acquainted with her husband's uncle Epaphroditus Rudder who was a Lieutenant of Calvary [sic, Cavalry] in Captain Edward Garland's Company in the regular service; affiant was well acquainted with Captain Edward Garland she lived many years in his neighborhood & heard him frequently speak of her husband's uncle Epaphroditus Rudder and being his Lieutenant, & of him being taken prisoner & being detained a long time by the British she further declares that the aforesaid Epaphroditus Rudder was a carpenter by trade & moved to Darlington County South Carolina and there as she understood at the time was building houses & shipping them to the island of Cuba this information affiant received from letters

cotton by the family. She further declares that the aforesaid Epaphroditus Rudder in the year 1793 died intestate and without wife or issue leaving two brothers is only heirs at law to wit Samuel and Alexander Rudder who are both dead Samuel Rudder time in Lunenburg County Virginia leaving seven children the names & numbers not known, Alexander Rudder died also in the County of Lunenburg Virginia leaving affiant's husband his only heir at law affiant's husband the aforesaid Robert Rudder died as above stated viz. November the 18th 1843 leaving the following named children his only heirs at law viz. Martha Smith formally Martha Rudder, Samuel Rudder, Robert Rudder, Alexander Rudder, Catharine Courtney formerly Catharine Rudder, G. E. Debusk formerly Catharine Rudder, Joseph Rudder, Edward Rudder, Jorey Bearden formally Jorey Rudder & Benjamin J Rudder, & she further declares that the aforesaid Epaphroditus Rudder served through the greater part of the war of the revolution as a Lieutenant in Captain Garland's Company and up until its close for she being at the time of such an age that the most lasting impressions are made.

S/ Catharine Rudder, X her mark

[f p. 96]

State of Tennessee Campbell County: SS

On this 24th day of May 1847 personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for said County Bartholomew Elliott aged eighty-seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following affidavit. That he was well acquainted with Robert Rudder of Knox County Tennessee and was well acquainted with his uncle Epaphroditus Rudder a Lieutenant of Cavalry in Captain Edward Garland's Company. Affiant was living in the County of Lunenburg and State of Virginia at the time of the Revolution and served a three months tour of duty as a substitute in Captain John Falkner's Company the said company was raised in the County of Halifax previous to affiant's substituting & the Regiment in which affiant served was commanded by Colonel Haddington.

Affiant further declares that in the year 1799 he emigrated to the County of Green in the State of Tennessee a few years afterwards the said Robert Rudder and his family removed to his affiant's neighborhood in Green County. The aforesaid Robert Rudder afterwards removed to Knox County in this State. He further declares that in the year 1838 he affiant was in the County of Knox and visited the aforesaid Robert Rudder since which time he Affiant has understood the aforesaid Robert Rudder died and leaving his widow and children in said County of Knox. Affiant further declares that the aforesaid Robert Rudder and his heirs on the heirs at law of Epaphroditus Rudder an officer of the war of the Revolution. Affiant further declares that he understood that the aforesaid Epaphroditus Rudder served to the close of the war he well recollects his return to the County of Lunenburg Virginia at the close of the war and working at his trade it being that of a Carpenter. Affiant understood that the aforesaid Epaphroditus Rudder died without marrying leaving no wife or children.

S/ the following new Elliott



[f p. 11]

State of Virginia Norfolk County to wit: At a Court begun and held for the County of Norfolk at the Courthouse on Monday the 15th of October 1849.

The Court doth certify that it has been made to appear to the Court from satisfactory evidence that Epaphroditus Rudder a Lieutenant of the Virginia State line during the War of the

Revolution died about the year 1787 in Norfolk County without issue, but leaving two brothers Charles and John and two Sisters Betsy and Mary. That Charles is dead leaving five children viz.: James, John, Charles, William and Nathaniel. That James is dead leaving four children viz.: Mary Elizabeth, Sackwell B., Margaret, and Horatio M. Rudder – that Mary Elizabeth Rudder married William P Porter and died leaving three children viz.: Emily R, Elizabeth and Clarence – Emily R Porter is alive in Norfolk city aged fourteen years, Elizabeth Porter is alive at City-Point Virginia aged ten years, Clarence Porter is alive at City-point Virginia aged five years; Sackwell B. Rudder is alive in Mobile Alabama aged thirty-seven years, Margaret Rudder married and is the wife of Christopher Proctor aged thirty-five years and resides in city-point Virginia, Horatio M. Rudder is alive at city-point Virginia, aged 28 years: – John Rudder son of Charles, lives in Rowan County, North Carolina aged thirty-seven years, Charles Rudder son of Charles is alive in Norfolk County aged thirty-eight years, William Rudder son of Charles is dead leaving four children viz., Jonathan K Rudder, Louisa Rudder, Margaret Rudder and Joseph Rudder: that Jonathan K is alive in Norfolk city aged thirty-five years, that Louisa Rudder is married and is the wife of Sheldon T Burton, living in the Town of Portsmouth aged twenty-five years. Margaret Rudder married and is the wife of John Thomas living in the town of Portsmouth aged about twenty-two years, Joseph Rudder is living in the Town of Portsmouth aged fifteen years, Nathaniel Rudder is alive in Texas aged twenty-two years – John Rudder is dead leaving seven children viz.: Thomas, George, Sally, Patsy, Betsy, Nancy and Henry – Thomas Rudder is dead leaving one son Thomas aged about thirty years and lives in Norfolk County; George Rudder is dead leaving three children viz.: Betsy, Sarah & James: that she married and is the wife of Littleton T Ward, and is living in Norfolk County aged twenty-five years; Sarah married and is the wife of John M. Boggs living in Norfolk County and is aged about twenty-three years, James Rudder is alive living in Norfolk County aged about twenty-one years. Sally is dead without issue – Patsy married ___ Parr and is dead without issue – that she married and is now the wife of Ezekiel Davis, living in the County of Princess Anne aged thirty-four years – Nancy is dead without issue – Henry is alive living in Norfolk City aged thirty years. That Betsy Rudder the sister of Epaphroditus Rudder is dead leaving Franky Holstead her only heir at law living in the County of Norfolk. Mary the sister of Epaphroditus Rudder is dead without issue – and that Thomas Rudder, Betsy Ward, Sarah Boggs, James Rudder, Betsy Davis, Henry Rudder, John Rudder, Charles Rudder, Franky Holstead, Emily R. Porter, Elizabeth Porter, Clarence Porter, Sackwell B. Rudder, Margaret Proctor, Horatio M. Rudder, Jonathan K. Rudder, Louisa Burton, Margaret Thomas, Joseph Rudder and Nathaniel Rudder on the only heirs at law of the said Epaphroditus Rudder deceased.

I Arthur Emmerson Clerk of the County Court of Norfolk County in the State of Virginia hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the records of said Court.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court this 22nd day of October in the year of our Lord 1849 and our Independence the 74th.

S/ Arthur Emmerson, C.C.

[f p. 46]

Affidavit of Lemuel Fentress Senior taken before me K. W. Sylvester a Justice of the Peace for the County of Norfolk, State of Virginia the 18th day of May 1850

The said Lemuel Fentress Senior having been first duly sworn deposes and says. I was acquainted with Lieutenant Epaphroditus Rudder commonly called Fratus, that he was from the said County of Norfolk and has often heard him say that he served until peace was proclaimed

and would have served as long again, if it had been necessary to do so, he did not come home until after Peace was proclaimed. I have no doubt but he served as he said. I have heard several persons, who was old men at the time say that they had not the least doubt, but Rudder served as he said. It was in time of harvest that he died which is about the twentieth of July and is been dead about 61 years. I am now seventy-two.

Beaufort County to wit

This day personally appeared before me R. W. Sylvester a Justice of the Peace for said County Lemuel Fentress Senior who having been 1st duly sworn deposed and saith that the facts set forth in the above affidavit are true. Given under my hand & seal this 18th day of May 1850

S/ R. W. Sylvester

[f p. 9: Power of attorney attested September 16, 1856 in the City of Norfolk, Virginia signed by Simon S. Stubbs, administrator of Epaphroditus Rudder deceased.]

[f p. 20]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line 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, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 22nd day of February 1783 in the name of Epaphroditus Rudder as Lt. Inf.. And evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £91.12.5, delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
13th day of October 1856.

S/ G. W. Chilton
Aud. P. Accts.

[No Seal of Office]

[f p. 23: Joel Rudder filed an affidavit dated May 3rd, 1847 in Knox County Tennessee stating that he is the administrator of the estate of Epaphroditus Rudder deceased an officer of the War of the Revolution; that he, affiant, is the son of Robert Rudder deceased the nephew of Epaphroditus Rudder aforesaid; that Epaphroditus Rudder died in South Carolina without wife or issue leaving affiant's father as one of his heirs at law.



[Note: There are two files in the Library of Virginia online collection relating to bounty land claims made on that state which relate to an officer named Epaphroditus Rudder, but the contents of those files are largely illegible, at least as posted online. If interested, see: [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

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Addendum to Epaphroditus Rudder R17580

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 2 June 2020.

[The following is from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also contains the original of Charles Dabney's certificate in the federal file, as well as mostly illegible certificates by Richard M. Owen (VAS1603), Edward Wills (VAS2966), and Charles Tuggle (S32559).]

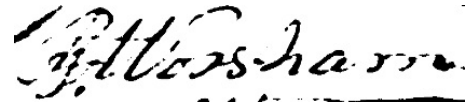
I do hereby Certify that I knew Epaphroditus Rudder a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War with Great Britten he entered into Service in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six [two or three undeciphered words] he Continued more than three years in the fifteenth Virginia Regiment on Continental Establishment Given under my hand this 18th day of February 1815.

R. Worsham [Richard Worsham S38478]

Lieut in 1st & 14 Virginia

Reg't on Continantal

in the Revolution war

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Worsham", written in black ink on a white background.