

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Welch R18894 (Half Pay)¹ f20VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/23/11: rev'd 5/28/20 & 7/14/21

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[Transcriber's Note: All of the documents in this file are copies of originals in the Virginia records.]

To the Legislature of Virginia

The Petition of Oliver Welch, Nathaniel J Welch and Uriel Mallory in right of his wife, Melinda formerly Melinda Welch, beg leave respectfully to represent to your Honorable body, that their father Nathaniel Welch died in the year 1815 leaving three children who are your Petitioners, that the said Nathaniel Welch embarked in the war of the Revolution in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment, that he continued in active service, until 1779 when the Legislature passed an act promising to pay all of the officers belonging to the State line who should become supernumerary half pay for life, upon condition that they should hold their commissions and should join the standard of their country when called on. Your petitioners further represent that their father the said Nathaniel Welch was a Captain of the infantry of the line, that he continued with the Army until the end of the war, after being made supernumerary and rendered essential and efficient services to his country but in his lifetime he never received, nor has his legal heirs since his death received an adequate remuneration for his services. The liberal and disinterest patriotism manifested by your Legislation for several preceding sessions in rewarding the war worn soldiers of the Revolution and of granting to the heirs of those who united in the same glorious struggle, has induced your petitioners to ask a similar measure of justice in awarding to them the commutation pay, to which their deceased father where he living would be entitled. Your Petitioners respectfully call the attention of your Honorable body, to the several acts of assembly, giving commutation pay to the heirs of Russell, Armistead, Carter &c to the officers, who are now living, and have received their commutation pay, Nicholas, Ewell, Broadus, Rucker &c. These were the companions in arms of the father of your petitioners they enlisted in the same service, continued in service the same period of time, their claims are perfectly identical upon the justice and gratitude of their country – they devoted the prime of their lives and their fortunes in breasting the storm of Revolution and achieving that independence we now enjoy: being thus united in the common struggle for independence they should not be separated in receiving from their country that reward to which your petitioners are equally and justly entitled. They cannot believe that the liberal and enlightened Legislature of their native state will permit

¹ Virginia Half Pay: N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 187 Half Pay Nathaniel Welch

their equitable claim to pass unpaid, when others standing upon no better ground have had their claims promptly liquidated without difficulty. They refer your Honorable body to the evidence herewith exhibited and pray that a law may pass allowing them 5 years full pay in lieu of half pay for life to which their deceased father would have been justly entitled. Annual petitioner's will ever pray &c.

S/ Oliver Welch
S/ Nath'l J. Welch
S/ Uriel Mallory

Auditors Office December 6, 1826. It appears by a list of the officers of the State line in the Revolutionary Army who received certificates for the balance of their full pay under the act of 1781 that Nathaniel Welch was enrolled as a Captain of Infantry and received his certificate on the 26 May 1783 – It does not appear by anything in this office that Captain Welsh ever received half pay or commutation – his claim cannot however be allowed without a special act of Assembly.

S/ J. E. Heath, Aud.

[p 5]

Lieutenant Nathaniel Welch is promoted to the rank of Captain from the 1st day of May 1779. Given under my hand at Camp near Morristown the 8th of December 1779.

S/ Cha. Dabney, Lt. Col.

I Churchill Gibbs² of the County of Madison do hereby certify, that I became acquainted with Nathaniel Welch deceased in the Campaign of 1778 about the time of the battle of Monmouth at which time the said Welch was a subaltern officer in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment first commanded by Colonel Smith and afterwards commanded by Colonel William Brent. The said Welch served the two campaigns in 1778 and 1779 under General Washington in the Continental Army and I think the said Welch was advanced to a Captain sometime in 1779. The said Regiment returned to Virginia sometime early in the year 1780 and sometime in the month of May 1780 I met the said Welch in Williamsburg and repaired to Petersburg at which place an arrangement of the officers took place when I believe the said Welch became a supernumerary and believe the said Welch so continued to the close of the war and further I always considered the first and 2nd regiments as standing upon the same footing and that the said Welch is the same who died in Madison County Virginia a few years ago.

Given under my hand this 4th of October 1826.

S/ Churchill Gibbs
formerly a Lt. U. S. Regt.
commanded by Col. G. Gibson

[p. 6]

I Angus Rucker³ do hereby certify that Nathaniel Welch deceased formally of Orange was appointed an officer in the Second Virginia State Regiment in the Revolutionary War commanded by Colonel Smith and that the said Welch marched with the said Regiment to the north and joined the Continental Army commanded by General Washington, early in the year 1778, and there continued in actual service in 1778 and 1779 and sometime early in the year

² [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

³ [Angus Rucker S19068](#)

1780 the said Regiment then being commanded by Colonel William Brent, returned to Virginia and officers and soldiers had three months furlough and were directed to meet at Williamsburg and afterwards changed to meet at Petersburg; at which meeting an arrangement of the officers took place for the want of soldiers to command – I was there arranged a supernumerary and believe the said Welch was arranged a supernumerary at the same time, and believe that he so continued to the close of the war and considered the said Welch upon the same footing with myself and that he the said Welch is the same who died in Madison County Virginia a few years ago.

Given under my hand this 4th of October 1826

S/ Angus Rucker

Captain 1st Virginia State Regiment

Madison County to wit

This day Angus Rucker (the within named) came before me a magistrate of said County and made oath to the within certificate – Given under my hand this 4th day of October 1826

S/ Rich'd Booton

[p 7]

I do hereby certify that Nathaniel Welch was a Captain in the Second State Regiment and that the said Regiment went with the First State Regiment to the North and joined the main Continental Army in the Fall of the year 1777 – That each Regiment remained in the Continental service until the latter end of 1779, when each of the said Regiments returned to Virginia. That sometime in the summer of 1780 the two Regiments were consolidated and several of the officers retired as supernumeraries among whom Captain Welch was one – and as well as I recollect remained as such until the close of the War. I will recollect that while in service Captain Welch was considered to be a most excellent officer. Given under my hand at Harper's Ferry the 16 day of November 1826

S/ Will Broadus⁴

Jefferson County To wit

William Broadus made oath before me a Justice of the peace for said County that the above certificate is true according to the best of his knowledge & belief. Given under my hand the day & year above written

S/ Durrett Long, JP

[p 8]

In the Campaign in this State in 1781 it was very desirable to procure officers who were confident to train the militia then in service the late major Nathaniel Welch of Madison County a supernumerary Captain in the Virginia Stateline proffered his services and obtained a command of a Battalion – he was considered as one of the most efficient officers in the discharge of the duties devolving on him. I believe he continued with the Army till the capture at York Town [October 19, 1781]. I always understood that he retained his commission in the regular army to the close of the war. In confirmation of this understanding I further state that being a near neighbor of the late Nathaniel Welch and frequently in conversation with him on the operations of the Army during the revolution he often complained of not having received the compensation promised by the State other than his land warrants and I am confident if he had resigned his commission he would have communicated the fact to me

⁴ [William Broadus W8396](#)

S/ Wm Madison⁵
Madison County Virginia

Addendum to Nathaniel Welch R18894

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 27 May 2020.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Virginia }
Culpeper County } S.S.

On this 16th day of May 1834 before the subscriber a justice of peace in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared David Jameson [S5607] of said county aged 81 years and of good character for veracity who being sworn deposed and saith that in the month of August or early part of September 1775 there was (under an ordinance of the Virginia convention) a Battalion of minute men raised in the District composed of the counties of Culpeper Orange and Fauquier designated the Culpeper Minute Battalion and that he was an Ensign in a company of s'd Battalion raised in Culpeper commanded by Capt. John Jameson [R15404], and that in a company of s'd Battalion raised in Orange commanded by Capt Joseph Spencer [S37436], Nathaniel Welch was one ensign that in the early part of September, when the Battalion was completed we were called together into an encampment for the purpose of being trained and within a few days the Battalion was ordered to march to Williamsburg by the committee of safety (our then Executive) and that the said Nathaniel Welch and himself continued to the latter part of March or first of April 1776 active as Ensign in our respective companies, when the Battalion was permitted to return home. Given under my hand this day and year first above written. Edmund Broadus J.P.

Take the affidavit of Colo. David Jameson to prove that Major Welch entered service in 1775 that after his return from the minute service, he joined the regular army in the first [undeciphered word] state regiment or in one of the 6 additional Regts authorized by ordinance of Convention in Decr 1775. It is material to show that the [undeciphered word] in the service was early as possible its termination is shown by the testimony already in the archives of the Executive at Richmond – after taking this testimony send it to Richmond to John H. Smith Esq. “Commissioner for Land claims” and ask additional bounty Lands & refer to the allowance of 1333^a acres additional lands; an [undeciphered word] Colo. Campbell, [undeciphered] who held the same commission, in the same service with Major Welch.

J. L. B.

Petition for additional bounty land.

The heirs of Captain Nath'l Welch – S. L.

This officer received 4000 acres of land, for a service of three years, ending 4th Feby 1780. The warrant for this land issued to Captain Nath'l Welch, April 24, 1785.

The heirs of Capt Welch received Decr. 7th 1832 a warrant for 888 2/3 acres of land, being the additional bounty due for his services as Captain from July 4th 1776 to the end of the war.

The heirs now claim additional land, for the services of their Ancestor from Sept 1775 to the end of the war; and have filed the afft of David Jamieson, which is the only proof offered. Jamieson who, is a respectable witness, says that Nath'l Welch was Ensign in the Culpeper batln of Min. Men [battalion of Minute Men], early in Sept. 1775 – that he marched to Williamsburg with the Batln, and continued in service there until the last of March, or first of April 1776 when “the Battalion was permitted to return home.”

⁵ [William Madison W9944](#)

The minute men were not regulars. The minute service has been sometimes taken into the estimate with the regular service, when they ran into each other with out interruption or intermission. But in the case of Capt. Welch, there is no proof, that they did run into each other. Unfortunately for the claimants, there is proof that they did not. the statement of the witness is, that the "Battalion was permitted to return home" about the last of March, or first of April 1776 – that is as much as to say it was discharged. The executive order of the 7th Dec'r 1832 for additional bounty land for the services of Captain Welch, fixed the date of his entrance into the Regular Service of the state, the 4th day of July 1776: and allowd for his service from that time to the end of the war. From April to July 1776 he was not in service.

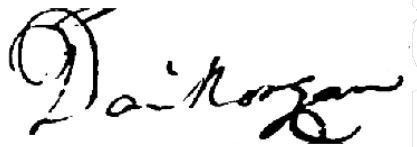
Respectfully submitted/ John H Smith Comm'r./ June 7th 1834

To his Excellency/ Gov'r Tazewell
1834 Aug 13 Rejected

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents in the file are not clear enough for transcription. The file also contains a copy of the pension application of William Taylor1 W6238.]

I do hereby Certify that Nathaniel Welch was appointed a Lieutenant in the 2nd Virginia State Regiment the 4th day February 1777 and served as such till the 1st day of May 1779, and from that time as a Captain of the said Regiment till the 6th February 1781 in actual Service, and then was returned as a Supernumerary

Dan'l Morgan [Daniel Morgan]
Br Gen'l

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan'l Morgan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

I William Maston of Orange County & State of Virginia do hereby certify that Cap'tn Nathaniel Welch dec'd entered the army of the Revolution as an ensign in the fall of the year one thousand seven hundred & seventy five, given under my hand 3^d day Dec'r 1832. Wm Maston

Culpeper County to wit

This day William Nalle of said County made oath before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid that he was a soldier in service in 1781. That he saw Major Nathaniel Welch in service at that time; That he left him at the Malvern hill on the 27th July 1781 at which time he the said Nalle was discharged. He did not see said Welch's commission but he was in command of the Rigiment as a Major was called Major, did the duty of Major & was obeyed & respected [rest missing at bottom of page]

Virginia, Orange county, to wit [8 Nov 1843]

Robert Taylor of the said county and state, aged upwards of eighty years personally appeared before me a Justice of peace in the said county and made oath that he was personally acquainted with the late Nathaniel Welch formerly of Culpeper county in the said state, that this affiant was attached to the army during the siege of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] where he saw the said Welch in command as an officer belonging to the regiment of Colo. Alcock [see endnote] – that this affiant understood his rank to be that of Major, by which title he was there addressed and was after, as this affiant most fully believes, during his life – and that the said Welch lived in that part of Culpeper county which was afterwards divided off and called madison county where he believes he died.

Reuben Taylor

State of Virginia }
County of Culpeper }

Reuben Rossen [Reubin Rosson (Rossin) S6016] of the State and County aforesaid made Oath before me the Subscriber a justice of the Peace for Culpeper County that he was a Soldier in the War of the Revolution. That he was in the Militia Service of the state of Virginia in the Summer & fall of the year 1781 when the Marquiss Lafayette was Commander of the forces. That he was at Richmond at Malvern Hills below Richmond – at [one or two undeciphered words] – Green Spring [battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] – Hot Water [Hot Water Plantation, 26 Jun 1781] – the neighbourhood of James Town and at the Seige of York, when Cornwallis & the British troops under his command were captured the 19th of October 1781. That Colo [Edward] Stevens, Colo. Thornton [John Thornton BLWt1870-450] and Major Graves at times were in Command of the Regiment of Militia to which he belonged That Major Nath'l Welch was sent to take command in that regiment & drill & discipline it, which duty he performed in the best manner. he said Welch was a good officer & was the best in that regiment, after he came into it. That he continued in this command as Major doing all his duties until the surrender of the British at York Town, and was in the fighting [undeciphered word] those & before said Regiment reached York Town. That he knew nothing of Major Welch before he was sent to command in the Regi[part missing at bottom of page] -able officer & did good service – being well acquainted with Military duty. After the British up & the prisoners were taken, there were marched off in three parcels – one to Winchester – one to Albemarle barracks & a third some where else. said Rossen was part of the guard that marched these prisoners to Winchester in Virginia; and the said Major Welch had command of the said guard & the said British Prisoners marched up to Winchester. Said Rossen does not know where Major Welch went afterward, as he returned home. Given under my hand this 15th December 1843.

C. C. Baskham

State of Virginia }
Orange County to wit }

This day personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the state & county aforesaid Colo. Nathaniel J Welch of the County of Madison and state aforsaid & made oath that he understood & believes that his deceased father Maj Nath'l Welch was engaged (after the war of the revolution) in the city of Williamsburg in settling up his accounts & also in the care of some arms & ammunition; and that whilst the said Welch was so employed in a room in which some cartridges were kept by some casualty as he believes on the part of the servant the said cartridges took fire & exploded which injured his father the said Maj Welch and with these injuries the Military commission, sword & [undeciphered word] was burnt up & destroyed Said Colo Welch made oath that of this explosion & loss of the commission, sword &c aforsaid he has no personal knowledge but it was often spoken of by his father & there were shown said Colo Welch true proof of its truth in the scars of his fathers hands which place it beyond doubt in his said Colo welch's firm belief & he verily believes it to be true. Given under my hand this

31st day of January 1844

Nath'l J Welch

Culpeper County to wit

This day Isaiah Welsh [S7859] of said County made oath before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid that he was a soldier in service in 1781; that he saw the late Major Nathaniel Welch in service at that time. That he was called Major, did the duty of Major & was obeyed & respected accordingly. That he was a first rate officer, attending well to his own duty & saw that others under him did theirs also. Given under my hand this 15th January 1844.

N. Bannon

I have examined the minutes of the county court of Culpeper from March 1781 to October 1781 and do not find that Nathaniel Welch was recommended as Major in the Militia of this county
F Mauzy/ 1844 [?] day Oct.

State of Virginia } SS.
Culpeper County }

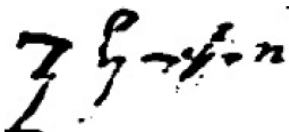
This day Samuel Wood [S7959], who is a pensioner of the U. States for his Military service in the War of the revolution; made Oath before me, a Justice of the peace for the State & in the County aforesaid, that he knew the late Major Nathaniel Welch in the Military service in the years 1781 & 1782, he was then a Major in a regiment commanded by Colo. Elias Edmunds [Elias Edmunds VAS2004] – Major Welch was in Command as a Major in the Troops that guarded the British prisoners taken at York Town & Marched to Winchester & a short distance beyond it. Said Welch remained in that service as one of that guard until the tour of said Wood for three months expired; and when Wood left it he left Welch still in service as a Major. He also testified that he knew Edmunds & Welch, in the War of the revolution & afterwards, & he knows that Welch was in Service as a Major at the close of the War. He also knew Gen'l. Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850] in the same service & as commanding above.

I also certify that the said Samuel Wood is a man of unusually strong & tenacious memory, & I give full credence to what he testifies.
[several words missing] 29th[?] day of October 1849.

Culpeper County. Viz.

This day Capt. Z. Griffin [Zachariah Griffin W7585] of said County now in his eighty ninth year of age made oath before me a justice of the peace for said County, that he is now a pensioner of the United States for his Militia service in the Revolutionary war, that in the year 1781 He was in service just before the siege of York at the Malben Hills [sic] that Nathaniel Welch was then a Major of the regular service of the State line of Virginia, he was an excellent officer & his impression is [he] went from what is now Madison but then Culpeper County & that Major Welch remained in service to the close of the war. He knew him well in the war & after the war was over.

Given under my hand this 31st day of October 1849



State of Virginia

Culpeper County to wit

Peter Triplett [Peter H. Triplett W2706] aged about ninety seven personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he is now a pensioner for his military services in the revolution, that he entered service in 1775, in 1777 he marched to the North and was there in service in the Virginia State Line with Nathaniel Welch who was a Captain at their return from the north that he said Triplett went afterwards with Col. George Slaughter [W8729] to the westward[?] as a soldier under Gen'l George Rogers Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark VAS269], and that he was engaged in fighting against the Indians under Clark at the Pickaway Towns [Piqua, 8 Aug 1780] in the present State of Ohio and elsewhere under Clark and Crockett [Joseph Crockett S46377] and others, that the said Welch was promoted to be a Major in the state line of Virginia in Brents [William Brent VAS2639] regiment when or about the time that Col Dabney [Charles Dabney R13624] took command of the legion [18 Jan 1782] and that Welch continued in service to the close of the war, said Triplett heard of the peace on his return to Virginia in the mountains of Virginia Welch was a Major at that time, he knew him in the war and after the war and from personal knowledge gives this evidence.

Given under my hand this 31 day of October 1849

Wm T Humphreys J.P.

State of Virginia }
County of Culpeper } Sgt.

This day [2 Nov 1849] Captain William Lewis [S8827] of the State and County aforesaid now in his eighty fifth year of age, and who is a pensioner of the U States for his services in the War of the Revolution, made oath before me, a magistrate for the County aforesaid and State aforesaid, that he the said Captain Lewis was in the military service of the country in the year 1777, and in the year 1781 against the British, that in July 1781 he was in service at Malvern Hill below Richmond, where there was an encampment of Soldiers & Officers that he then and there saw the late Major Nathaniel Welch in service as a Major. He served in a Regiment of which Colonel Elias Edmunds was the Commandant, and said Welch was Major. That Welch was entirely employed in drilling and disciplining the soldiers of said regiment. He wore the uniform of a Major – held the command of a Major and called, obeyed and respected as a Major. He was a regular officer, & stood high as an excellent officer and a severe disciplinarian. Said Lewis further made oath that the said Major Welch had the duty assigned him of drilling the Militia called out for the defence of the Country. He knows that Welch was not a Militia officer, but an officer of the regular service, and from what he saw at tthe time, and heard and understood, Welch was a Major of the Virginia State line. He knew Major Welch very well, after the war, & his knowledge of him in service and after the close of the war enables him to testify to his services, rank and office. A circumstance that makes a strong impression of the Truth of what by the said Lewis now states, is this that when he the said Lewis left the military service in 1781 his discharge was written by Major Welch. That discharge is lost. Witness was then very young and thinks it probable that he gave it to his father on his return from the Army. He is not certain of this, but he is certain that the discharge is not now in his possession, else he would produce it to corroborate his present evidence. He left Major Welch in service, and believes that he continued in service to the close of the war.

(signed Wm Lewis)

To his Excellency John B Floyd/ Governor of Virginia [29 Nov 1849]

Your petitioner Nathaniel J. Welch who is the son of the deceased Maj. Nath'l Welch of the Revolutionary War, & is also his executor & one of his heirs at law; Shews to your excellency that his father entered the military service in the month of September 1775 in the Virginia state line – that he was in the battle of the great bridge near Norfolk the 9th of December 1775 [9 Dec 1775] & in almost every other battle with the enemy in Virginia, & to the north of it except Saratoga & Quebec down to the close of the war, as this petitioner believed – namely at great bridge as above, at Norfolk 1st Jany 1776 [1 Jan 1776], in the skirmishes & engagements with Dunmore & his forces in Virginia and at the north at Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], (the hard winter at Valley forge [1777-1778],) the battles in the Jerseys, Monmouth Court House [28 Jun 1778], Stony point [16 Jul 1779], & afterwards at Jamestown, Hot water, Williamsburg & the Siege of York. And he was one of the guard of the British prisoners Captured at Yorktown & which were marched over the Ridge [Blue Ridge Mountains] to the cantonment near Winchester & kept there under Gen'l Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg [BLWt1495-850]. In Jany 1783 it appears that his father received a land Warrant for a service of three years, as a Captain in the state line of Virginia when he was in actual service as a Major of the state line & when he had been between seven & eight years in the war. It appears that the Governor in office, when this allowance allowed for three years service, as Captain, was not the same personage that filled that office, when he was made a major & that at least two others had [undeciphered] had followed him. Mr Jefferson was then Governor & subsequently General [Thomas] Nelson, Colo Wm Fleming [William Fleming] of Botetourt (who for a time exercised the executive functions in 1781). & Benj. Harrison [Benjamin Harrison], who was the Governor when this land warrant for three years was issued. It is possible that this was done upon the report of the board of officers assembled in 1782 who reported on the claims it is supposed as they stood the 5th day February 1781. This report states in substance that some of these officers then reported to be supernumerary, were afterwards called into service & that “the board had no

information of those officers on which to rely.” And it is known that the records & rolls were destroyed in 1781 by the incursions of the enemy. It appears that the first & second state regiments commanded by Gibson [George Gibson BLWt1985-500] & Brent & Dabney returned from the north prior to the 2nd of December 1780. (See Journal House Delegates for that day) and thus these officers were commended to the favor of Gen’l Washington for Commissions. But on the 1st January 1781 the Governor was required to discontinue for the present from actual service the officers who were supernumerary to the men. Upon the day following it is believed an invasion of the Commonwealth was made by Arnold [Benedict Arnold, 30 Dec 1780] and the state continued to be the Theatre of hostile military operations until the capture of the Enemy at Yorktown in Oct following. Virginia generally needed her whole military power for her defence & it was fully exerted. Although the records are lost or destroyed it is in proof by witnesses of the highest respectability, that Captain Nathaniel Welch who was one of the best officers in service, was promoted to be a Major of the State line in the month of March 1781. This evidence is too strong & credible to admit of doubt. Part of it is from officers in service when he was promoted & another portion of the mass of evidence is from those who served under Welch in 1781 & 1782 while he was a Major. The loss of his Commission is accounted for by the testimony that accompanies this petition. It was destroyed by an explosion of Cartridges after the war which did him other injury – the scars of which were carried by him to his grave. The report of 1782 shews there was need for a field officer of the state line, at that time. The acts of assembly 1780 & 1781 authorised the Executive to require of such “field officers” precisely the duty which three witnesses prove that Welch performed. The supposition that he was a militia officer is positively negated by the oaths of several witnesses. [See endnote] The rolls at Richmond furnish no evidence to uphold this supposition whilst the records of Culpeper County Court for the year 1781 where such militia appointments would appear, if made, is certified by the clerk of Culpeper to negative this presumption.

It is in evidence that Major Welch complained of injustice done him both as to the length of his service & for which the said land warrant was issued and the grade of his office. He was a major & entitled to land for eight years service in his belief. It is neither law nor justice to make the wrong done him in Febry 1783 the seall[?] for adjusting his [two undeciphered words]. This question was to that extent settled by Governor Floyd in 1832, who allowed him additional land for service over the term of three years & to the close of the war. This decision settles the question and adjudicates the fact that the allowance of 1783 (Febry) was not a satisfaction of the demand. Major Welch has now been dead between thirty and forty years. For many years before his death state warrants were not worth the fees of the Register. In the year 1830 they became available by the state & federal legislation for that period of time. His heirs had then no proof to support the claim for the higher grade of Major; to which their ancestor was raised in 1781. His Commission was lost & the [undeciphered word] office searched in vain for other proof. It was not known that parole proof would supply the place of the lost Commission & [undeciphered word] the claim was not [undeciphered word] – nor was it known until 1843 that such cases & conclusive proof of this character could be found. When it was then presented to the Executive, the Governor took some time to deliberate & asked of the counsel of the petitioner whether any case could be found as a precedent to justify this allowance for an increased grade. His counsel knew of no such case. Two cases have since been found. That of Frederick Woodson [R19214] reported by this boad[?] in 1782 as a Lieutenant only subsequently allowed bounty land as a captain – and that of Abraham Chapline [R13134] who rec’d (as Welch received) land bounty as Lieut in 1783 & more than ten years after he got the additional allowance for Captain. These are cases directly in point & exist on your records. Probably others may be found. Had they been known in 1844, they would it is believed, have then settled the question. That father of this petitioner was a soldier for Virg’a when she struck the first blow in the first battle for Independence – he was fighting in her service when her last gun was fired. He was of the Guard of the prisoners of war (or in other service) when peace came. Upwards of eight years of toil & danger fulfilled his part of the contract with his country and his heirs now ask what the state promised him.

Your petitioner prays that his father be allowed land for the whole war as a Major deducting

what has been
already received.
And he as in
duty bound will
ever pray —
Nath J Welch

State of Virginia }
Culpeper County } Questions to Mr Peter Triplett.

You have stated that the late Major Nathaniel Welch was a Major in the Virginia State line in the War of the revolution & that he was in actual service at the close of the war. Will you say now, why you speak so [undeciphered word] of these facts, relating to his rank & service?

Answer by Mr Triplett.

In the year 1775 I enlisted in the State line of Virginia under Captain John Lee I was in service at Williamsburg Hampton and the tide water country. The command of the two state regiments, was with Colonel George Gibson and Colo. Brent in 1777 when we were marched to Alexandria and inoculated with the small pox As soon as these two regiments were able to march we marched to the north and joined Gen'l. Washington after the battle of Brandywine, & before the battle of German Town. Nathaniel Welch was then a Lieutenant or Ensign in Brents regiment I was in Gibsons regiment. I saw him frequently in service & knew him well. He was a good officer & was sometimes Adjutant . . a very brave man, and one of the most active of the officers always ready for duty, and forever asking what he had to do. Every body knew Welch, for he was a rigid particular man, & was much trusted & relied on. He was made a Captain before we came from the northward, and he was both Captain & Quarter Master. He returned [some words missing at bottom of page] the first & second State regiments of Gibson & Brent to Virginia, and he was the Superior Quarter Master or head Quarter Master for both of those regiments. I was in Gibsons regiment Major Welch was in Brents, and after he got to be head quarter Master for both regiments I saw him constantly in service. Major Welch Managed ammunition, provisions, rations & all that sort of business. And this was his rank offices & business when I left after over five years service in the early part of the year 1781. My time was out & so was the time that a great many others enlisted for, when these men were discharged. I enlisted in the spring of 1781 for the war in the regiment called the Illinois Regiment, and I marched to the West & was under George Rogers Clark, in Roberts [Benjamin Roberts S31343] Company & Crocketts & Slaughters regiments. I remained in service until the close of the war in 1783 and then returned home. Major Welch was then in actual service and after the war was all over, he was engaged in settling up his quarter Masters concerns & delivering up his stock in hand after he had come from over the ridge, where the British prisoners was barracked; and while so engaged he happened to an accident in the blowing up of cartridges that took fire. I did not see the accident, but remember it as I remember other thing that were notorious, but which I did not witness, yet believe from information & notoriety. I knew Major Welch well. We were both from Culpeper. I knew him in the war at the [several words missing at bottom of page] after the war. and I know the facts I have here stated to be true. Given under my hand this Christmas day in 1849.

Peter hisXmark Triplett

note the said Peter Triplett further stated on oath that when the said Welch was promoted to be head quarter master for the two Regiments he got the title of Major and was rank and respected as such. Given under my hand this 31st day of Dec 1849

Wm T Humphreys JP

I respectfully refer the Comm'r of pension to the Life of Gen'l Muhlenberg to prove that he retired to Frederick for his health soon after the Siege of York – that in a few weeks he was recovered & [undeciphered word] to the Command of the Rendezvous at Winchester for its Command. (afterwards he was probably sent to Cumberland C. H & subsequently resumed the Command at Winchester in [undeciphered word] 1782

J. S. Barrows

[The file contains a long document that is mostly undeciphered except for the following.]

The records of the Auditors office have [several undeciphered words] to prove that in the Month of May 1783 Welch drew pay as Quarter Master &c and depreciation as Captain.

1850 June 25 Allowed Brigade quarter master Cert'e iss'd.OTE: According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra Guide to Virginia Military Organization in the American Revolution, Nathaniel Welch was captain of a company in the Second Virginia State Regiment beginning 1 Sep 1779. According to the pension applications of James Brown Rice R8746, William Herndon S9575, Samuel Wood S7959, and William Taylor W6238, Welch had become a major in the Culpeper County Militia by the spring of 1781. Peter Witham S32071 also stated that at the siege of Yorktown Welch was a major in the Culpeper County Militia regiment commanded by Col. Robert Alcock. Virginia did not allow bounty land for service in the militia.

The following transcribed by Will Graves from the Virginia Half Pay Pension Claims posted on Fold3.com. The file contains 46 pages.

[p 7]

Commonwealth of Virginia
Madison County to wit }

Churchill Gibbs of the State of Virginia and County aforesaid, who is at this time in the eighty-sixth year of his age, made oath before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Madison, that he was an officer of the regular service, in the war of the American Revolution, and that he knew well, the late Major Nathaniel Welch of the said County of Madison, both in the war and afterwards. The said Welch was an officer in the second State Regiment commanded at one time by Colonel Woodford and afterwards by Colonel Brent and Colonel Dabney. The said Gibbs entered the first State Regiment on the 22nd day of September 1775 as a private and was promoted afterwards through several other grades, to be a Lieutenant of said Regiment which is the same Regiment that was put into the Continental service by act of Assembly in the fall or winter of 1777 instead of the ninth Virginia regiment captured and destroyed at Germantown [October 4, 1777]. About the same time that the said Gibbs entered the first regiment, the aforesaid Nathaniel Welch entered the second regiment under Woodford, which marched to the Great Bridge and Norfolk in the fall and winter of 1775 – 6. That in the year 1777 the second regiment aforesaid marched to the north, as well as the first, and joined the grand Army under the command of General Washington, at which time the said Welch had risen to the rank of Captain, in that second regiment; and he participated in all the perils and sufferings of that service, and was in the battles with the enemy, until the fall of the year 1780; when both of those Regiments returned to Virginia, at which time the term of enlistment for many of the soldiers expired – A resolution was then passed by the General Assembly authorizing the Governor and Council to dispense with the present service of such of the officers of those Regiments, as might be considered supernumerary – Captain Welch was in that number, and when the enemy invaded this State, shortly afterwards, the Governor of Virginia recommended a reorganization of the officers of those Regiments so as to give them service, in their same or higher rank; in command of militia or regulars or both together. The said Gibbs says that he was (in March 1781) in service at Richmond, under that organization, and in the adjoining country and at Petersburg; at which latter place, he was captured by the enemy.

And he understands and believes, that under the said organization of the second Regiment, that the said Welch was promoted to the rank of Major, and that he rendered service in that capacity at Malburn Hills [Malvern Hills], Richmond, Williamsburg and at the siege of York, until the capture of Cornwallis in October 1781. The said Welch was a good officer, and he said Gibbs speaks confidently of what he has stated and believes.

He knew Major Welch after the close of the war and he complained that justice was not done him – both in his pay and rank. He was always admitted after March 1781 to the title of Major, and he has no doubt he was justly entitled to it, and did service under that commission after the reorganization in March 1781 although the rank he brought with him from the north, on the return of the first and second State regiments in 1780, was that of Captain only.

The pay to the state officers was withheld in all cases in those times, as the said Gibbs believes, except in his own case and that of Doctor Brodie which they received by suit in which Judge Marshall [John Marshall] was there counsel (and what they got was of little real value) and the lands of the state officers was then of so little value as to be a matter of no moment – they were often sold in the market of speculators at nine pence or less the acre – So that rank or pay either was not worth a contention. But he knows that Major Welch was admitted to be a Major and he claimed to be Major as afterwards and from a variety of circumstances to the knowledge of said Gibbs, he has no doubt in his mind that he was a major of the State line and entitled to all the emoluments of that grade – To all which the said Gibbs here subscribes his name

S/ Churchill Gibbs

[Acknowledged January 18, 1844]

[p 30]

Extracted from Governor Jefferson's [Thomas Jefferson's] message to the General Assembly of Virginia,

Richmond, In Council March 1st 1781

“I likewise beg leave to transmit you the advice of Council for reforming the first and second state regiments, the state garrison regiment and regiment of Artillery.”

This is the only record or document we have which relates to the reorganization of the 2 state regiments upon their return from the North. This message it was probably furnished by Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Henning from his private papers: as all the public documents and archives work destroyed by invasions of the enemy in January, March, and May of the year 1781

[p38]

From the Virginia Gazette of September 20th, 1780 printed at Richmond by Dixon & Nicolson

“War office Richmond September 12, 1780

Such of the Gentlemen officers who have borne command in the Regular Army and are now out of employment either as supernumeraries or by resignation & are willing to enter into the Service again, in the same or a higher rank or desired to identify themselves immediately to me by letter expressing their formal rank, date of their Commission, and where they are now to be found. (Signed) George Muter Com.”

I certify that the foregoing is a true in the files of this library which newspaper is described in the caption here of

S/ Edwd. B. Stetts [?], Asst. Libn of Congress

Edwd B Stetts
Asst. Libn
of Congress

the above is an extract a newspaper formally belonging to the Honorable Thomas Jefferson & purchased by Congress from him

S/ E. B. Stetts