

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Forester S10156

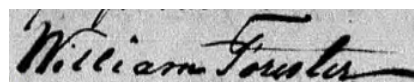
VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 17 Feb 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Northumberland } Scilicet [sic: scilicet]

On this 13th day of June 1836 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Northumberland now Sitting William Forester a resident of Richmond County in the State of Virginia, aged seventy two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That the first Service rendered by him in the war of the revolution was in the year 1779 or 80 in either the months of August or September when it was said the enemy had landed at Indian banks or Glasscocks warehouse in the Rappahannock river under the Command of Capt George Glasscock he states that he did not remain in the service of the U.S. longer than one month on that occasion the enemy having returned down the river, the Company were discharged by said Glasscock Jany 1st 1781 The militia of Richmond County were divided into ten divisions the tenth division in which the declarant was enrolled was under the command of Captain George Harrison & was the first called out for three months. The Company in w^{ch} he was enrolled was first organized & mustered at Richmond Courthouse. The s^d Harrison was the Captain & Joseph Davenport 1st lieutenant – & yr applicant 1st Sergeant Vincent Redman was the Colonel Commandant of the Militia of the County We received orders to march from Richmond Courthouse to Leeds town [Leedstown] on our march we encamped at Richmond Church in the upper part of the County of Richmond from thence to Leeds town. He joined the troops there to wit the Company commanded by Robert Mitchell. We encamped at Leeds town where the Companys remained for upwards of 6 weeks – Leeds town is a small village located between the Rappahannock and Potowmac [sic: Potomac] rivers. the object in placing us at that point was that we might aid in repelling any incursion which might be made by the enemy from either river. He remarched from Leeds town to Richmond Courthouse under the Command of Captain Harrison from thence to Farnham Church & from thence to Indian banks Glasscock's Warehouse. The cause of our returning to the latter point was the information received of the approach of the enemy up the Rappahannock river. we remained for some time precise period not remembered. We marched to Farnham Church from thence & were discharged at the expiration of 3 months the term of our enlistment. Immediately after our discharge he thinks in April 1781 the militia of Richmond County who had not been in service were called out and had orders to march to Ware church near Gloucester C H where they accordingly marched. The declarant followed as a volunteer and re-entered and enlisted at Ware Church the Command of either Capt. Richard Beale or Thomas Yerby who both commanded Companies from Richm'd County. The regiment was commanded by Gen'l Ennis [probably Col. James Innes]; Under the Command of Gen'l Ennis the declarant marched with a part of the troops down to Adington Church where it was said the enemy had been the day before. The immediate place enCampment not exactly remembered but the declarant underwent much exposure to very inclement weather (heavy rain) during the night while on guard: – remained encamped there a few days in expectation of the approach of the enemy. We continued in readiness to meet them. After this Colonel Campbell took Command of the troops & marched us down to a place called Sewells [Seawell's] near Gloucester town where a reference to the Certificate of R. Forester [Robert Forester, pension application S1517] from Tennessee will prove the fact of an engagement with the enemy and other facts – After this I was discharged this being near the end of the war & in the same month of surrender at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781]

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State



Quest. 1st Where & when were you born

Ans. in Richmond County the 11th of December 1764

2. have you any record of your age & if any where is it

Ans'r None

3^d Where were you living were you living when called into Service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where do you now live

Answer. I was living when called into service with my Grandfather Wm Stonum in the County of Richm'd. I have lived since the War in North Farnham parish Richmond County at my present residence

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom

Ans. The answer to the last interrogatory is embodied in my declaration

5th State the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served Such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect & the General Circumstances of your service

Ans Generals Ennis and Campbell I believe were regular officers & were the only regular officers who were with the troops where I served. An answer to the other branch of the last interrogatory is contained in the preceding declaration.

6th did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

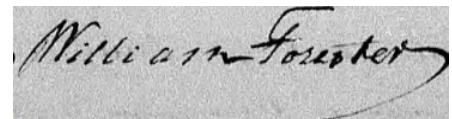
Ans. I was discharged first by Captain Harrison & last at the forement'd. place called Sowell's near Gloucester town but by whom I do not remember. Nor do I know what has become of those certificate of discharge

7th State the names of the persons to whom you are known in yr present neighbourhood & who can testify as to your Character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Ans. The Rev. Benedict Burgess and Dr. Joseph Basye

The reason of the declarant for not conforming to the rule of the Department in making his declaration in the County in which he resides is that it would have been impracticable to have procured the Attendance of Mr Burgess who was the only clergyman sufficiently acquainted with him to give the requested Certificate at the Courthouse of Richmond County which is 30 miles distance from Mr Burgess' place of residence And that Richmond Court had elapsed before he knew or was apprised that any declaration before a Court was necessary

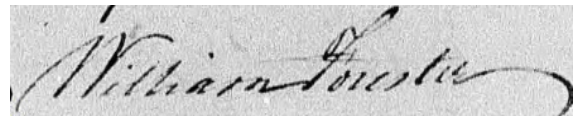
Signed



Richmond County April 27th 1836

Dear Sir ["John Taliferro M.C." (John Taliaferro, Member of Congress)] I received your favour of 23rd March since that have received further proof of my service rendered in obtaining our Independance few youths Indangered their life as I did in vollenteering my service in the defence of my Country substitutes at that time received any Am't. almost they asked I never asked or received one cent you have Inclosed such proof as I hope will Intitle me to the reward due my servises respectfully your friend

My respect to your colleague Jno. B. Forester Sr



State of Tennessee }

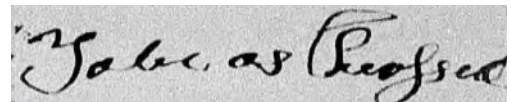
McMinn County } s.s.

On this 26th day of February, 1836, before me Abraham Slover, a Justice of the peace in & for the county & state aforesaid, personally came Robert Forister, a citizen of said county, who being duly sworn according to Law, deposeth to the facts as stated in the following certificate, that is to say – "I

Robert Forister of McMinn County, Tennessee, do certify, that I am personally acquainted with William Forester, of Richmond County in the state of Virginia; that I have been acquainted with him from Infancy, and that we were raised in the same neighborhood, where we resided until after the Revolutionary War; That said William Forester served as a soldier in said War, and by his services, though he was young – assisted in gaining freedom for his country. I cannot state precisely the length of time he served, as I do not now remember. I am inclined to think he entered the service, each time he served, as a volunteer, as I think he was too young to be legally placed upon the muster roll. the first time I saw him in service was at a place called Leedstown a small village on the Rappahannock river, at that time, and I think it was in the year 1780, or the beginning of, 1781, though I do not recollect the precise date. I was not then in service, but happened at Leed's Town on private business, where I staid a few days and was frequently in company with the soldiers. Said William was in a company of volunteers under the command of captain George Harrison, an acquaintance of mine.

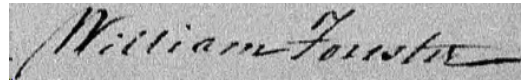
Said William Forester was in the army also, and I think as a volunteer at the taking of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, where I was in company with him. He was in the Army during the greater part of the seige, and I think, perhaps, the whole time. I recollect distinctly of being in company with him in one or two skirmishes with the British troops; – one in particular at the end of a lane at a place called Sorrels where we met a portion of the British troops, and after firing four or five rounds drove them from the field. I do not recollect whether at that time he was in my Captain's company or not, but I remember he was in the same division, & fought by my side in skirmishing with the enemy, and I know he acted bravely. – Said William Forister is a few years younger than I am, but I do not recollect his age. I served a considerable length of time during the revolutionary war, and am now placed on the pension roll, and receive the sum of ninety five dollars per annum for life. Robert hisXmark Forrister

[17 March 1836] I Tobias Purcel of the County of Richmond do hereby certify that William Forester of said County was called for in the early part of the year 1781 in defence of his country in the revolutionary war State of Virginia for three months service One of the tenth division of the Militia of said County The company was Organized at the Court House of said County and commanded George Harrison Captain Joseph Davenport first Lieutenant William Forester first serjant we marched from Richmond Court House to Leeds town on the Rapahannock river we joined the upper troops and was stationed there until further Orders after some time the enemy was expected up the said river and Captain George Harrisons Company was Ordered down the river to Indian banks Glascocks warehouse to guard there before the expiration of the term three months we marched up to farnham Church and at the end thereof was legally discharged we were together the whole campaign and it was the same William Forester that now resides in the County Tobias Pursel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tobias Purcell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[17 March 1836] I William Forester of the County of Richmond and state of Virginia do hereby certify that after three months service in the revolutionary war Proven by Tobias Purcel of s'd. county that the militia of s'd. County who had not been called out was Ordered down to Gloucester County ware Church near the Court House the enemy then at York and Gloucester Town I followed on joined the troops at s'd. ware Church under the Command of General Ennis where the body of our troops were stationed after some time the General mooved down with part of the troops to Addington Church nearer the enemy I was one of that number as were held there in readiness expecting the enemy every moment it was said they were there the day before we formed inside the Wall of the Church as a breast work we were not attacted there wheather the General returned to the troops left at the Church I am not able to say the part of troops there at that place was committed to the command of Coronel Cambel who after some time mooved lowed down to Sowels near the town where the enemy was I was there in in the ranks expecting the enemy out every moment the picket guard fired on us such was the Gallantry of Coronel Cammel I

ever loved him since tho even now in the grave you have a correct statement of services rendered my beloved country

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "William Forster".

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Forester William
Transcription by FA Weyler

VA

S10156
29Aug2013

[p2] Virginia certificate 30729
William Forester of Richmond
Under Captain Glasscock, Col Reaman
4 months private, 2 months sergeant
Issued 30Jun1836 @ \$28.33

[p3]

State of Virginia

County of Northumberland scilicet

On this 13th day of June 1836 personally appeared in open court before the county court of Northumberland now sitting, William Forester, a resident of Richmond County in the State of Virginia, aged seventy two years, Who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That the first service rendered by him in the war of the revolution was in the year 1779 or 80 in about the month of August or September when it was said the enemy had landed at Indian Banks [?] or Glasscock's warehouse on the Rappahannock River under the command of Captain George Glasscock. He states that he ____ out ____ in the service of the U.S. longer than the month on that occasion, the enemy having returned down the river. His company were discharged by said Glasscock. January 1st 1781 the militia of Richmond County were called into his division & the ____ in which the declarant was enrolled was under the command of Captain George Harrison & was the first called out for three months in the company in which he was enrolled was first organized & marched at Richmond court house. The sd Harrison was the Captain & Joseph Davenport 1st Lieutenant. & yr applicant 1st Sergeant. Vincent Reaman was the colonel commandant of the militia of the county. We received orders to march from Richmond Courthouse to Leeds town. On our march we encamped at Farnham Church on the upper part of the county of Richmond. From thence to Leeds town. We joined other troops there to wit the company commanded by Robert Mitchell. We encamped at Leeds town where the companys [sic] remained for upwards of six weeks. Leeds town is a small village located between the Rappahannock and Potomac river. The object in placing us at that point was that we might aid in repelling any incursion which might be made by the enemy from either river. We re-marched from Leeds town to Richmond Courthouse under the command of Captain Harrison from thence to Farnham Church. From thence to Indian banks Glasscock's Warehouse. The cause of his returning to the latter point was the information received of the approach of the enemy up the Rappahannock river. We remained for some time ____ period not remembered. We marched to Farnham Church

[p4]

From thence & were discharged at the expiration of 3 months, the term of our enlistment. Immediately after our discharge he then ____ April 1781 the militia of Richmond County who had not been in service were called out and had orders to march to Ware Church near Gloucester CH where they accordingly marched. The declarant followed as a volunteer and re-entered and enlisted at Ware Church the command of either Richard Beale or Thomas Gilky [?] who both

commanded companies from Richm^d County. The regiment was commanded by Gen^l Ennis. Under the command of Gen^l Ennis the declarant marched with a part of the troops down to Addington [?] Church where upon laid the enemy had been the day before the _____ places of encampment but exactly remembered that the declarant underwent much exposure to very inclement weather (heavy rain) during the night while on guard. Remained encamped there a few days in expectation of the approach of the enemy. We continued in readiness to meet them.

After this Colonel Campbell took command of the troops & marched us down to a place called Sorrell's near Gloucester town where a reference to the certificate of K Forester from Tennessee will prove the fact of an engagement with the enemy and other facts &c.

After this I was discharged this being near the ____ of the war & in the same month of the surrender at York Town.

He hereby relinquished every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the year and day aforesaid.

[county certification and corroboration

Benedict Burgess, clergy

Joseph Basye, neighbor

Matthew B Cralle, clerk]

[p4-5 answers to interrogatories

1-In Richmond County the 11th of December 1764

2-none

3-I was living when called into service with my grandfather Wm Newman [?] in the county o Richmond. I have lived since the war in North Farnham parish Richmond County at my present residence.

4-The answer to the last interrogatory is embodied in my declaration.

5-Generals Ennis and Campbell I think were regular officers & were the only regular officers who were with the troops when I served. An answer to the other branch of the last interrogatory is contained in the preceding declaration.

6-I was discharged first by Captain Harrison & last at the aforesaid place called Sorrell;s near Gloucester town, but by whom I do not remember, nor do I know what has become of my certificate of discharge.

7-The Rev. Benedict Burgess and Dr. Joseph Basye.

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The reason of the declarant for not conforming to the rule of the Department in making the declaration in the county in which he resides is that it would have been impossible to have procured the attendance of Rev. Burgess who was the only clergyman sufficiently acquainted with him to give the ----- at the Courthouse of Richmond County which is 30 miles distance from Rev Burgess's place of residence and that Richmond Court had _____ before he knew it was appointed that my declaration before a court was necessary.

Signed William Forester

[p22]

State of Tennessee

McMinn County S.S.

On this 20th day of February 1836 before me Abraham Slover, a justice of the peace in & for the county & state aforesaid personally came Robert Forester, a citizen of said county who being duly sworn according to law deposes to the facts as stated in the following certificate. That is to say: I Robert Forester of McMinn County Tennessee do certify that I was personally acquainted with William Forester of Richmond County in the state of Virginia. That I have been acquainted with him from infancy and that we were raised in the same neighborhood where we resided until after the Revolutionary war. That said William Forester served as a soldier in said war and by his services, though he was young, assisted in gaining freedom for his country. I cannot state precisely the length of time he served as I do not now remember. I am inclined to think he entered the service each time he served as a volunteer as I think he was too young to be placed upon the muster roll. The first time I saw him in service was at a place called Leeds town, a small village on the Rappahannock river at that time. And I think it was in the year 1780 or the beginning of 1791 though I do not recollect the precise date. I was not then in service but _____ at Leeds town on private business where I staid a few days and was frequently in company with the soldiers. Said William was in a company of volunteers under the command of Captain George Harrison, an acquaintance of mine.

Said William Forester was in the army also and I think as a volunteer at the taking of Lord Cornwallis at York Town where
[p23]

I was in company with him. He was in the army during the greater part of the siege and I think perhaps the whole time. I recollect distinctly of being in company with him in one or two skirmishes with the British troops, one in particular at the end of a lane at a place called Sorrell's where we met a portion of the British troops and after firing four or five rounds drove them from the field. I do not recollect whether at that time he was in my Captain's company or not but I remember he was in the same division & fought by my side in skirmishing with the enemy and I know he acted bravely. Said William Forester is a few years younger than I am, but I do not recollect his age. I served a considerable length of time during the revolutionary war and am now placed on the pension roll and receive the sum of ninety five dollars per annum for life.
Subscribed & sworn to before me the date first above written

A. Slover
Justice of the peace &c

Robert Forester x his mark

[p26]

I William Forester of the County of Richmond and state of Virginia do hereby certify that after three months service in the revolutionary war proven by Tobias Parcel of sd county that militia of sd county who had not been called out was ordered down to Gloucester County ware [sic] Church was the Court House. The enemy then at York and Gloucester Town. I followed on. Joined the troops at sd ware Church under the command of General Ennis where the body of out troops were stationed. After some time the general moved down with part of the troops to Addington Church nearer the enemy. I was one of that number. We were held in readiness expecting the enemy every instant. It was said they were there the day before we formed inside the wall of the church as a breast work. We were not attacked there where after the general returned to the troops left at the church/ I am notable to say the part of troops there at that place was committed to the command of General Campbell who after some time moved guard down to Sorrell's near the town where the enemy was. I was there in the ranks expecting the enemy out every moment. The picket guard fired on us. Such was the gallantry of General Campbell. I was

casket bearer [?] ____ the ____ now in the grave you have a correct statement of service rendered my beloved country.

William Forester

[certification James L Bell, JP, 17Mar1836]

[p27]

I Tobias Parcel of the County of Richmond do hereby certify that William Forester of said county was called for in the early part of the year 1781 in defence [sic] of his country in the revolutionary war, state of Virginia for three month's service. One of the tenth division of the militia of said county. The company was organized at the court house of said county and commanded George Harrison Captain, Joseph Davenport first lieutenant, William Forester first sergeant we marched from Richmond Court house to Leeds town on the Rappahannock river. We joined the upper troops and was stationed there until further orders. After some time the enemy was expected up the said river and Captain George Harrison's company was ordered down the river to Indian Banks Glascock's Warehouse to guard there. Before the expiration of the term three months we marched up to Farnham Church and at the end thereof was legally discharged. We were together the whole campaign and it was the same William Forester that now resides in the county.

Tobias Purcel