

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel King S10248

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/1/13

[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' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Westmoreland

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the year 1835 appeared before Henry Hungerford a Justice of the Peace for the County of Westmoreland in the State of Virginia Nathaniel King Senior aged eighty years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

That he was born in the County of Westmoreland in the State of Virginia about the year 1755, as he has been informed and believes, but that it he has no record of his age, and has remained in said County up to the present time. That he cannot state with entire Confidence the exact time of his enrollment in the militia, but as far as he can recollect a transaction so remote, he states that he entered or was enrolled in Captain William Nelson's Company of the Virginia militia sometime during the year 1778, that by reason of age, extreme bodily infirmity, and loss of memory, unaided by any record evidence of his service he cannot state the dates of the many tours of duty he was called on to perform nor the exact duration of those tours, but that in the year 1778, in the month of March he was ordered out, and was marched by the said Captain Nelson thirty miles down the Potomac River to a place called Homony Hall [sic , probably Nomini Hall], in the lower part of Westmoreland County, as was then in Service about two months, and in the months of June, July, August and September in the same year was almost continually on militia duty amounting to six months service in that year, in the year 1779 was called out in the month of May or June and was employed the whole Summer and fall in guarding a parcel of boats that had been collected at the mouth of Mattox Creek, for the transportation of troops to the opposite shore, as occasion might require and was engaged in the Service fully six months; in the year 17[80] was called out again, but cannot say how long, but th[?] fully four months and in the early part of the year 1781 served another Short tour of duty under Captain Elliott Monroe who had succeeded Captain Nelson in the command of the Company, the said Nelson having been promoted to a majority, which last tour amounted to six weeks or more. That from the fact that the County of Westmoreland is bounded for its entire eastern extent (a distance of thirty miles) by the Potomac River, and its numerous indentations by small rivers and creeks letting into said River, in which the armed vessels of the enemy were nearly all the revolutionary War, in order to guard against incursions from those vessels the whole body of the militia of that County was detained and subject to be called out at a moments notice. That he rendered the military Service stated above, amounting to nineteen months as a Soldier in the War of the revolution. That he has no documentary evidence of his service and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his Service. That

he is prevented from poverty and bodily infirmity from attending the Court. 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. That for his character for veracity, and belief of his services as a Soldier of the revolution, he will refer to Thomas W Berryman and William Starke Jett the oldest Justices of the peace in the County of Westmoreland.

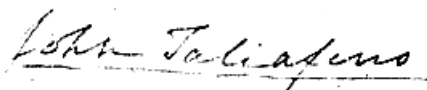
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first aforesaid.

S/ H. Hungerford, JP

[The names of the 2 supporting witnesses who gave the standard supporting affidavit are too faint to discern. There affidavit was acknowledged by the same justice of the peace; they did not sign the affidavit.]

I hereby certify, that soon after the commencement of the war of the Revolution, the Militia in the Counties in Virginia situated in that section called the lower northern neck of which Westmoreland was, & is one, was by an order of the Executive Authority of the State of Virginia, placed on the following footing – The Commanding Officers of the said Militia were authorized to require them to take the field at a moment's warning, each man to take with him three days provisions, & such arms &c as he could provide. And in order to protect the tobacco warehouses & ferry boats at various points & places of which there were several of both in the County of Westmoreland, the Commanding Officers were authorized to establish over them standing guards to continue without limitation of time, at the discretion of the officer. The service to be performed by this portion of the militia was of a nature and not to be adapted to the regular system of drafts & tours of three months, or for any specific time. It was to meet sudden, unlooked for, & almost incessant incursions of the flow at from their ships of war, lying in or hovering around the navigable waters in that region – nothing could have availed against such a state of warfare, but to place the militia of the Country on the above footing. That is, to have placed them at the constant command of their officers, to take the field when called & there to remain as long as required. In such a service, & after such a lapse of time, it must be difficult, nay next to impossible for any common soldier of that period, now to give a statement of the precise periods at which he served, or the exact duration of his various tours. In reference however to the Declaration of Nathaniel King, of the County of Westmoreland, in which he claimed a continued service, at one time, of six months, as a guard over Boats, & probably warehouses, for there were warehouses at the place where he states the boats to have been; the nature of the service & its duration may naturally have been made a more lasting impression on the mind of the old man, than many short tours, which no doubt he has forgotten. One thing is certain, as a guard over the Boats, or in the performance of any other duty in that military District, he was liable to serve as often & as long as he was required – without any reference to the regular tours assigned by law to the militia of the State at large. I make the foregoing statement under the entire conviction of its correctness – I resided during the whole war in the section of Country spoken of. My Father was at the time an officer in the militia service. In that & in divers other ways then & cents, I derived a full knowledge of the facts & circumstances which I now state – and am very respectfully

S/ John Taliaferro



Washington 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1835

J. L. Edwards Esquire

State of Virginia Westmoreland County

The affidavit of William Williams taken before me, Frank Triplett a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid to be used as evidence in support of the application of Nathaniel King of the said County, late a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution, for the benefit of the law of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832 – Affiant being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath state, that he was well acquainted with the said Nathaniel King from the commencement of the war of the Revolution to the present time. That said King was enrolled & mustered as a private in the company of Militia commanded by Captain William Nelson in the County of Westmoreland immediately after the War commenced. That he the said King, served under Captain Nelson till Nelson was promoted, & was succeeded in the command of his company by Captain Elliott Muse, under whom, in whose company said King served to the end of the war, or as long as the Militia were required to serve. That though affiant served in the aforesaid company with the said King, it is impossible for affiant now to state the number & duration of the tours of duty performed by the said King. The militia of the County of Westmoreland was very soon after the war commenced put under standing orders to take the field whenever called on – no stated tours of duty were performed, but as often as the vessels of the enemy appeared the men were kept in the field, till the vessels retired – and in their absence, a constant guard was kept over the Public warehouses & Ferry boats at many points on the Potomac River. That the calls on the Militia to perform those various duties were very frequent & irregular in duration. Affiant understands that Nathaniel King claims to have served in the above manner, at different times, nineteen months – And affiant is well satisfied that he the said King did serve to that amount of time at least. Affiant understands that said King represents in his declaration for a Pension that he the said King was first enrolled in Captain Nelson's company in the year 1778 – As said King is now an aged & infirm man, both in body & memory Affiant is well satisfied that the memory of said King has failed him as to the time of his enrollment in said company – Said King was about 20 years old in the year 1775 when the war commenced & being then a hearty young man he must have been enrolled sometime in the year 1776 – Affiant knows that King was a good soldier & performed well all the duties required of him. Affiant knows said King to be an honest & credible man.

S/ William Williams,<sup>1</sup> X his mark

[attested in Westmoreland County Virginia September 28, 1835]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$57.98 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 17 months and 12 days in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> [William Williams S11831](#)