

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Major S15602

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/21/13

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

State of Missouri County of Monroe: SS

On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1836 personally appeared before the Judge of the Monroe Circuit Court for the County and State aforesaid; it being a Court of Record – William Major a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged eighty-four years the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March last past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration – In order to obtain the benefit of a Pension and the Act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1832 – that this declarant entered the Army of the United States in the year A.D. 1780 or 1781 as a drafted militia soldier No. 5 of the Virginia Militia under the Command of Captain Buckner Stith, Howel Eldridge [Howell Eldridge] first Lift Tenant [Lieutenant], and under those offices [sic] this declarant was marched to the place of rendezvous, then called the Long onery [ordinary] Tavern in Dinwiddie County Virginia from the County of Brunswick at that time the residence of this declarant – And from the Long onery Tavern near Petersburg Virginia this declarant was marched, under command of Captain Buckner Stith, who, was under the under the Command of Colonel Jones, the Colonel of the Col. [sic] of Virginia Brunswick Regiment though [through] the County of Prince George by the way of Southampton Court-house – and from there to the Cabin Point – and from thence to Smithfield and Nancmon [Nansemond] County Virginia at which place the Regiment was placed under the Command of General Lossing [probably a misidentification of General Robert Lawson], and under his command this deponent as one of the Regiment was marched to the town of Suffolk in the now County I do not recollect which had just before the Regiment arrived been burnt by the British, whom we were in the pursuit of – under the command of General Lossing – and from thence we were marched to Portsmouth, from there to the Dismal Swamps, and from there to Cooper's Mills and Blates old field – we were then placed under the command of Colonel Fleming and General Mulenbugh [Peter Muhlenberg] – the nash [?]<sup>1</sup> of the Virginia Brunswick and Dinwiddie Regiment and from thence we were marched to the Pilch [?]<sup>2</sup> Yard by the name of Jerico [Jericho]<sup>I think</sup> at which this declarant was stationed about two weeks, during which time we were reconnoitered the surrounding County of the Dismal Swamps, – we were then marched from thence to a place I have fer gouten [forgotten], the name of -- though for short time after we left (Jericho) this declarant was discharged under the command of Captain Howel Eldridge, who, was under the command of Col. Fling [Fleming?], who was under the command of General

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<sup>1</sup> nash

<sup>2</sup> Pilch

Muhlenberg – from whom this declarant received a written discharge for the time he served as a drafted militia man, which time of service was four months one half of the time as a soldier the other half as a Corporal, but this declarant has long since lost the said discharge – this declarant being called into service as embodied Corps – [several indecipherable words] and was in the field or Garrison for the term of four months as aforesaid and was not engaged in any other civil pursuit during the term as aforesaid – during which time this declarant was not in any engagement but was frequently drawn up in Battle array.

Afterwards in the year 1781 this declarant volunteered after a stay at home for a few months, at the request of Colonel Fred Mackel [probably Frederick Maclin] Colonel of Brunswick County Virginia as a soldier under the command of Lift [Lt.?] Pritchett as one of a guard Company and marched to Dick Lamb's in Brunswick County Virginia and remained as a guard Company at said place as aforesaid over the provisions, arms &c the declarant remained for two months under the command of Lift Pritchett as aforesaid – and was then discharged regularly and received a written discharge which I have long since lost, of the said Lift as [several indecipherable words] or about the close of the Revolutionary War and just before the Battle fought at Yorktown and the capture of Lord Cerwallis [Cornwallis] about the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1781 as near as I now recollect – during which time of service as a volunteer this declarant was not engaged in any other civil pursuit and was in the field or Garrison all the time, which makes six months this declarant was in those two capacities during the revolutionary War – this declarant does not now having no documentary evidence recollect the particular days he was called into service or the particular days on which he received his discharges – this declarant knows of only one other person by the name of William Hampton who as I am informed now (if living) resides in the State of Tennessee – by whom he can prove his services as a soldier in the revolutionary War as aforesaid (except the testimony here with transmitted marked A & B, and if the said Hampton is now living the distance is so great that the declarant by reason of old age and infirmity of body is not able to procure it and entirely unable to pay the expenses required in obtaining the same, the reason why this declarant has not long since made application to the government for relief is alone because he had no knowledge of the benefit of the said act or any other act of Congress for the benefit of the Virginia militia but now standing in great need of the assistance of my Country whose independence and liberty I assisted in achieving – And he the said William Major hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State and that declarant declares he has never received any pay for his services as here stated.  
Subscribed to and sworn to the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Majors [sic], X his mark

Question 1<sup>st</sup> In what County & state were you born?

Ans. In the County of Charles City State of Virginia

Question 2<sup>nd</sup>. In what year were you born?

Ans. I do not recollect

Question 3<sup>rd</sup> have you any record of your age

Ans. None

Question 4<sup>th</sup> Where were you living when called into service

Ans. In Brunswick County Virginia

Question 5<sup>th</sup> how were you called into service

Ans. By a regular draft of the Virginia militia No. 5

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service & if so by whom was it given & what has

become of it?

Ans. I did receive a written discharge in first tour from Captain Howel Eldridge and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Moses Pritchett Lift.

Question 6 where have you lived since the revolution?

Ans. I resided in the State of Virginia Brunswick & Done Witt counties until the last 6 years which last time I have resided in Mo. Monroe County

Question 7<sup>th</sup> State the names of some persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity – and their belief of your services as a Soldier in the Revolution.

Ans. John Johnston, Pleasant Ford and Jacob Ford

[Anderson Woods a clergyman and Gustavus M. Bower gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia Dinwiddie County to wit

This day Thomas Wilkinson<sup>3</sup> aged 77 years personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid & being duly sworn according to law saith on his oath that William Major served with him as a soldier in the War of the Revolution, at Cabin Point, Smithfield & Portsmouth in the State of Virginia. – In the Brunswick (Virginia) Regiment. Given under my hand & seal this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1834.

S/ James H. Boissean, JP

State of Virginia Dinwiddie County to wit

This day Samuel Major<sup>4</sup> aged 74 years personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and being duly sworn according to law saith on his oath that he saw William Major bearing arms as a soldier in the Revolutionary War in the Brunswick Virginia Regiment I the said Samuel Major being then in service in the Dinwiddie Virginia Regiment again at that time about 16 and now drawing a pension for my Revolutionary services. Given under my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 1835

S/ John Goodwyn, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

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<sup>3</sup> Probably the same man as [Thomas Wilkinson \(Wilkerson\) S41347](#) who claimed a pension as a Continental soldier.

<sup>4</sup> FPA W8417