

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Meade Randolph S36252

f57VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/5/12

[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.]

Memorial of Services performed by David Meade Randolph, a Citizen of Virginia, "set forth," and recited in obedience to the second Section of "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States in the revolutionary War;" as passed on the 18th of March 1818: Viz.: From April to August 1778 he served in the Corps of Cavalry from this State raised by Thomas Nelson of the same State in obedience to Laws of Congress and the State, or, otherwise authorized by these several pioneers [?], as per reference to their several records will more particularly appear, until discharged by Congress at Philadelphia sometime in the month of August of the same year by a special vote of thanks to the Corps. The whole time of service amounting to a term of ~~about 4 months~~ from April to October including the time allowed for returning home; four or five weeks more unavoidably required by illness at Baltimore (From April 1779 to June of the same year under the successive [?] orders of General Nelson, Colonel Jo. Parker and Colonel Robert Lawson on the S. of James River) – (From June 1779 until the month of December in the Character of Secretary to Colonel Theodorick Bland, in his command at Charlottesville, Virginia with the rank of Lieutenant, making a term of about six months –[])

(From May to June 1780, about six weeks, as Secretary to General Nelson in the Lower Country)

(From September to December 1780 as Lieutenant of Cavalry under General Lawson)

(From December 1780 to February 1781 under the orders of the Baron de Steuben :) From April to June of the same year under Captain C. Page of a Cavalry Company, attached to the Command of General Le Fayette [Lafayette], receiving the distinguished honor inferred by the Thanks of Fayette, more than once, in his General orders, to that Company & upon its discharge at the end of the Campaign – This claimant moreover expressly states that he never did receive any "pension" of the United States or from any of the States – he therefore offers the premise [?] as his "declaration," required by the law aforesaid setting forth what seems to be fully complying with the 2nd Section of said Law, together with his Oath, that he is still a Citizen of the United States, and that by reason of very reduced circumstances in Life, he stands in need of Assistance from his Country for support.

S/ D. M. Randolph



Henrico County, Virginia

7th of April 1818

[f p. 7: a Note reads: "David Meade Randolph S. F. 36252 A list of General Nelson's Corps of Light Dragoons dated Baltimore, July 29, 1778 has been removed from this case to be forwarded to the War Department. D. G. Nov. 7, 1910 Sent to War Dept. Jan. 16, 1913."]

[f p. 15: a letter dated March 28th 1815 [could be 1818] from Lafayette to the veteran in what appears to be the handwriting of Lafayette. I have not tried to decipher it as it appears not to deal with military matters and the handwriting is challenging.

Signed



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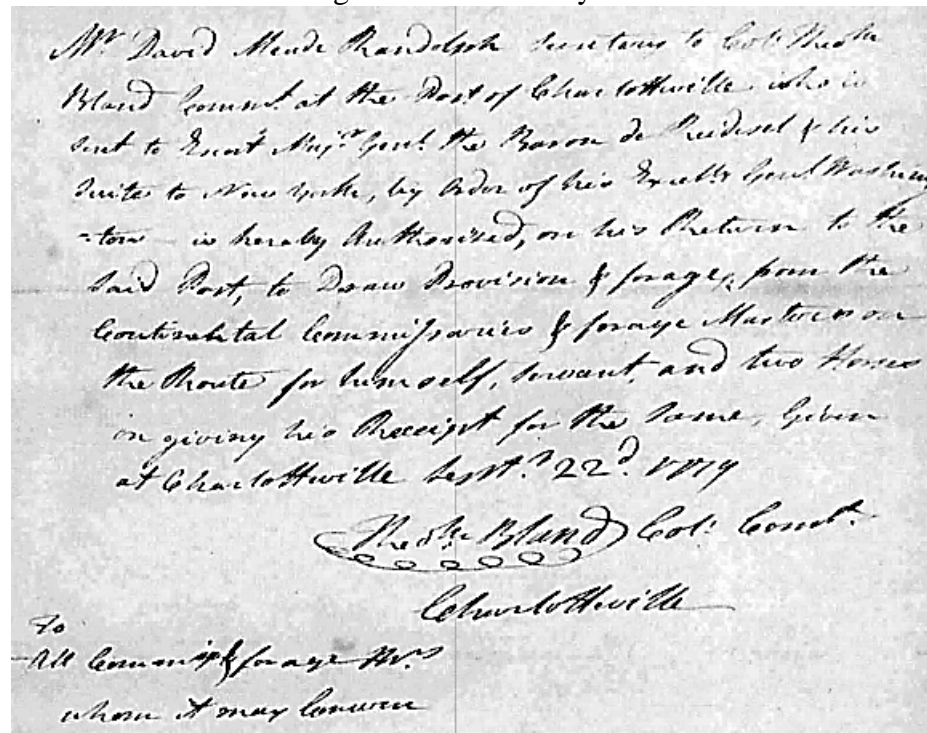
[f p. 17]

Mr. David Meade Randolph Secretary of Colonel Theo. Bland Commnt. at the Post of Charlottesville who is sent to escort Major General the Baron de Reideset [?] & his suite to New York, by order of his Excellency General Washington is hereby authorized, on his return to the said Post, to draw provision & foraging from the Continental Commissaries & far age Masters on the Route for himself, Servant and 2 horses in giving his Receipt for the same. Given at Charlottesville September 22nd, 1779.

Theo. Bland Col. Comt.
Charlottesville

To

All Commissaries & forage Ms whom it May Concern



Mr. David Meade Randolph Secretary to Col. Theo. Bland Commnt. at the Post of Charlottesville, who is sent to Escort Maj^r Genl. the Baron de Reideset & his suite to New York, by order of his Excellency Genl. Washington is hereby Authorized, on his Return to the said Post, to Draw Provision & forage, from the Continental Commissaries & forage Masters on the Route for himself, servant, and two Horses in giving his Receipt for the same, Given at Charlottesville Sept. 22^d. 1779

Theo. Bland Col. Comt.
Charlottesville

To
All Commissaries & forage Ms
whom it may concern

[f p. 20]

Charlottesville September 11th 1779 Secretary

Sir

You are hereby Authorized and appointed by me under orders from his Excellency General Washington, to take upon you the Charge of Escorting Major General the Baron de Riedesel¹ and the Officers and Service belonging to his Family as by a Schedule herewith delivered signed by me together with the Count de Guimar [?] & Lt. Smith with their servants &c.² you are to proceed with your Escort from the post of Charlottesville, the nearest way by the following Route, which every person under your Charge is strictly to observe, and by no means to deviate from where it is practicable to pursue the Route here laid down viz. Orange Court House, Culpeper Court House, Fauquier Court House, Lee'sburgh, Noland's Ferry, Frederick Town Maryland, York Town, Lancaster, Reading, Easton, Middle Brook, Elizabeth Town – where, when you arrive you will immediately acquaint the Officer Commanding at that post, and delivered over your Charge to the Commissary of prisoners or such Officer as shall be appointed to receive them, and as soon after as maybe Transmit to his Excellency the Commander in Chief a report thereof with an account of any material occurrences that shall have happened on your Route necessary for him to be acquainted with, together with a copy of these Instructions, and of the parole which will be delivered here with, by the Tenor and Spirit of which parole you will govern yourself and by that of these Instructions, in your conduct towards your Escort during the march, tempering the strictness necessary to be observed for the good and safety of the United States with every reasonable indulgence which Civility, Humanity and politeness to the Gentlemen under your Charge can dictate with much disdain I am Sir your most Obedient

Sert.

Theo Bland, Col: Commt.
Charlottesville

Instructions, Parole and Route –

I have received the Officers & there Servants mentioned in these Instructions –

R. L. Hooper,

Easton Octo. 15, 1779

D. C. G. Prison

[f p. 30]

[I apologize for the poor quality of the following transcript due entirely to my inability to adequately and accurately decipher the handwriting of the scribe which I found to be very challenging. If anyone has a more complete and accurate transcription of the following document, please consider submitting it to us for inclusion in this database.]

A Statement of the military services of David Meade Randolph of Virginia performed in the War of the Revolution in conformity with resolution of Congress passed 2nd March 1778 Early in April of this year, Thomas Nelson, of York Town, summoned all the young men of the Lower Counties, to meet him at port royal [Port Royal] on the Rappahannock River without

¹ The Baron de Riedesel was the commander of German troops under Burgoyne and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Saratoga.

²

delay. Early in the month of May, a Corps of Cavalry was raised as per original roll of the same, herewith exhibited, and after sufficient training and partially accounted for [?], proceeded to Baltimore, where the Corps was completely equipped from the United States Stores. During a few days stay at Baltimore, the Corps was reviewed by and exercised with the Partizan Corps of the Count Pulaski; and entertained, together with the principal Characters of Baltimore, by Pulaski with a most sumptuous feast, under an elegant & expensive arbor [?] made expressly for the purpose, of green bows, in the [indecipherable word] then growing on [indecipherable name] Hall. Thence marching to Charles Town, were received on their approach by Colonel Henry Lee with his Corps, then [indecipherable word] completed [?], and were escorted by them through the town, some distance on their march to Philadelphia. Arriving at Darby, Nelson apprised Congress of his advance, who received him and his Corps on the same afternoon as they passed in review before the State House on Chestnut Street. This was a day or two before the French Minister Monr. Gesuard [sic, Conrad Alexandre Gerard] was received by Congress – and Nelson's Corps had the honor of joining in the Salute by firing two field pieces before the City Tavern – and some few of Nelson's Corps dined by special invitation with Congress & the Minister. Before the discharge the Corps DMR [David Meade Randolph], from illness was unable to join some of his comrades who went on to the Army at White Plains; but on my going [?] homeward, was detained very ill at Baltimore many weeks, under the care of Doctor Weisenthal, at a Mrs. Gray's boarding House and did not reach home till about the first of October: (this fact is proved by St. George Tucker.) In early spring 1779 whilst at William & Mary College, an invasion of a British Army induced Nelson again to call on his former Troops: my brother and myself, were the first under the orders of Nelson at York; and were sent off instantly with two pieces of artillery to Colonel Josiah Parker across James River to Smithfield. Arriving there [indecipherable word] with our charge, General Lawson succeeded to the Command – my brother and myself soon formed a Troop of Cavalry – about twenty to thirty – and continued our services myself in the first place, under Lawson's orders, four or six men, taking prisoner four or five miles in the Country a Captain Davis, then lately from Norfolk, where he had been (as was then suspected) in some treasonable enterprise. This gentleman was [indecipherable word or words] of the [indecipherable word or words] then with the Enemy. DMR was one week or more with eight men, stationed on the ragged Islands to watch the motions of the Enemy below; and was with a party first entering the Town of Suffolk whilst still smoking: the enemy having retreated to Norfolk. This Invasion being over, DMR proceeded forthwith to Charlottesville, and joined Colonel Bland, commandant of the Garrison, where we secured the Army of General Burgoyne. Colonel Bland attained [?] [for] me the rank of Lieutenant, on many occasions [indecipherable word] with General Philips at Blackuim [?]³ and with Genl, the Baron de Riedesel at Calle, And, in September, DMR was ordered on to the North with de Riedesel:: delivered his Charge to C. W. Hooper: "reported" to General Washington at Head Quarters, West Point, and was then and there ordered back to Virginia (serving a short time with Col. Washington's Cavalry as per R. K. Meacles [?] letter – under a foraging party with General Wayne opposite New York) where garrisoned [?] and received from Colo. Bland at Petersburg a final discharge on or about the 27 December 1779 –

In the early part of 1780, General Nelson [indecipherable interlineation] Governor of Virginia, took me away with him to the lower Country as his Secretary – [indecipherable word],

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as he did, £42,000 V. C. [Virginia currency] for the use of the State: which money was entrusted, and by me, paid into the Treasury [indecipherable word]. Shortly after this it was that I raised a troop of Horse under General Lawson, in the Counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward &c &c as per Affidavit of Col. Phill Holcombe [Philemon Holcombe?] (Colonel Charles Lynch furnishing 500 riflemen) ceasing my command of the same about the 1st day of December, when the whole Army of Lawson's was discharged – being then engaged, and was married on the 9th of same month.

After this period, the same Troop, again took the field under Col. Holcombe and a Mr. Watkins, joined General Green [Nathanael Greene] and had the honor to Charge the Enemy along with Colonel Washington at Guilford!

Arnold arrived in James River on the 1st day of January 1781 – arrived at Richmond about the 5th and then under orders of the Baron de Steuben, I had the mortification [?] to see the Enemy enter Richmond, opposed only by Major Dick, Captain Quirk and W. C. Nicholas, disputing the ground for twelve miles below, with a handful of men – firing repeatedly at [indecipherable word], as was witnessed by the Baron & myself on the opposite side of the River, [indecipherable word or words] by less than 100 men, as [indecipherable word]! As Arnold [Benedict Arnold] retreated to the lower Country about the 9th of January my brother and self, with eight or ten others, under Carter Page, placed ourselves under General Nelson's orders at York, and continued in service till Arnold's departure: a day or two before, Major Buller Claiborne [Buller Claiborne], aid to Steuben, attended by our little Corps, proceeded to Newport News point with a flag of truce to the *Charon* man of War – recognizing as we passed, the ground on which a small skirmish happened the day before, between the British and a small party of militia. – Upon the arrival of Lord Cornwallis from the South, and his advance to Petersburg, being then in Richmond, hearing the fire between his Lordship and a small force under Steuben – Carter Page again called our little troop, and in the [indecipherable word] of the night, arrived near Petersburg and joined Steuben, small retreating force: under whose orders we continued; faced the British Army below Chesterfield Court House: counted Tarlton's [Banastre Tarleton's] Cavalry within musket shot (75 in number) distinctly viewing and estimating the Infantry at 1500 – seeing a party of Yeagers running along within the fields on each side of a Lane: we then wheeled and not till then did Tarleton pursue in full speed sword in hand! Escaping from the pursuit – [indecipherable word] on the main body of our little force Captain Page, myself & William Ruffin, only, returned to witness the conflagration of the Court House and [several indecipherable words] – received the fire of the advance picket, and then joined Steuben 12 miles off with less than 100 men, raised by the authority of Colonel Robert Gamble and others upon the [indecipherable word] of the occasion! – A few days after this, as the Enemy advanced up the River, obliging Comn. W?) Lewis to scuttle his little squadron, a 20 gun Ship and two Schooners – the guns [indecipherable word] firing as the Army marched to Warwick & Manchester burning all before them: Fayette [Lafayette] then at Richmond, wishing to direct [indecipherable words] his recruiting at Richmond ordered our little Corps, supported by 50 Infantry only, to charge the Enemy on the heights of Manchester "be its force what it may"! This service was certainly not performed – by reason that upon arriving at the house on Bull [?] Hill where the picket had been stationed, it had but a few minutes before followed on the retreating Army – whose rear we saw plainly as the day dawned, but whose force it were too [?] desperate attack! Soon after this Fayette at within nine miles below Richmond planned an expedition to Petersburg: our little Troop exhausted: the girths to our saddles were touched for several days and nights but to tighten them [indecipherable word] supported only by what we could discover

among the plundered inhabitants: shooting pigs in the wood – arrived at Warwick at sunset – we were then ordered to meet Fayette at one o'clock next evening at Kingsland ferry: soon after arriving at the ferry, Fayette preceded by two companies of infantry, arrived and crossed over – ordering myself & C. B. Harrison before as [indecipherable word] in full [indecipherable word]: arriving at Baker's Hill opposite Petersburg, a cannonade instantly commenced under Colonel Gimat [?!] Our little Corps was detailed by [indecipherable word] in every direction up and down the River, and without any kind of provisions, continued the whole of the day and part of the next to provide for ourselves! Fayette & his Troops having recrossed James River & returned to Wilton [?], his head Quarters. The British Army [one or more indecipherable words] to Brandon, our Corps still attached to Fayette, continued reconnoitering and reporting [?] It's movements through Hanover: several members were taken prisoner: and, perhaps, Fayette escaped a surprise at Scots Town by an extraordinary effort of our Captain, who being alone, was chased 7 miles by Tarleton's whole Cavalry, alternately pursuing and [indecipherable word] his superior courses: the horse on which our Captain was mounted proving, [indecipherable word], to have been superior in speed and [indecipherable word], to any in the Country. This particular service terminated by the Juncture of Fayette with General Wayne at Rawon Ford on the Rappahannock; but continued thereafter, [indecipherable word] service throughout the Campaign. Previous to this date, Fayette had been destitute of all other Cavalry, except a few inefficient militia. The service of this little Cavalry Corps continued under the orders of Fayette until the Siege of York Town. And, had not military operations then ceased, the Corps would have been called out again, and at all times, as occasions might have required.

S/ D M. Randolph

[f p. 52]

I Philemon Holcombe⁴ of the County of Amelia, and State of Virginia: Do, at the request of Captain David Mead Randolph; hereby certify; that in the autumn of the year 1780, I was a trooper in a company of cavalry under the command of the said D. M. Randolph; that the said company, together with a Corps of Infantry; was raised by General Robert Lawson in Prince Edward [County], and other adjacent counties: That the aforesaid company of cavalry was trained by the said D. M. Randolph and continued under his command; until the whole Corps of General Lawson was discharged at Petersburg, in the month of December 1780. That the said Captain D. M. Randolph did at all times, during his command, merit, and receive, the approbation of his General, and the officers and men under his command.

S/ Philemon Holcombe



This day Colonel Philemon Holcomb personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid and made oath to the correctness of the above affidavit. Given under my hand and seal this 27th of September 1828

S/ Wm Gregory, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing January 1, 1828, for service as a Captain for 5 years in the Virginia voluntary Cavalry under Colonel Bland]

⁴ [Philemon Holcombe S4399](#)