

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Hoffler <sup>1</sup>S38047

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/8/14 supp'd 4/17/15

[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 Norfolk to wit

At a Court held for the said County of Norfolk the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1818,

William Hoffler a resident of the County of Norfolk and a Citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this day made a declaration on oath in open Court That he served in the Revolutionary War against the Common enemy first as a Captain and afterwards as a Major in the Continental line from the year 1778 to the siege of Little York in 1781, when he was discharged there being no further occasion for his services, in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson in General Muhlenberg's [Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade; and it more over appearing by the testimony of Colonel Stephen Wright that the declaration aforesaid is true, the court doth order the same to be certified to the Secretary of War.

And at a court held for the said County of Norfolk the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1818 The above named William Hoffler personally appeared in court and made oath that from his reduced circumstances he is now actually in need of that assistance offered by the General Government to the soldiers and seamen of the Revolutionary War.

And at a Court held for the said County of Norfolk the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 1818

The Court doth certify that William Hoffler who has heretofore made a declaration of his having served in the revolutionary War and of his being in need of a pension is aged, infirm, very indigent and in need of the pension offered to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of my office to be hereto affixed on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 1818 and in the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the Commonwealth

S/ Wm Wilson, C. N. C.

District of Virginia, SS,

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1819, before me, the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court for the said district personally appeared William Hoffler aged 69 years resident in Norfolk County in the said district who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said William Hoffler was appointed to the command of a company on the \_\_ day of \_\_ in the year 1776 in the first Virginia State

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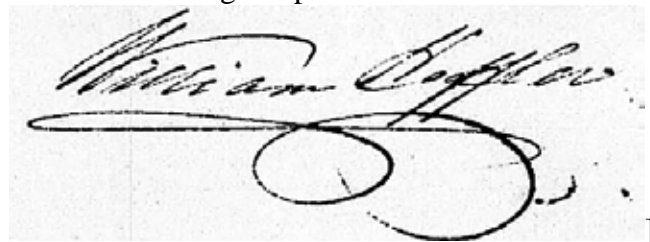
<sup>1</sup> BLWt2162-300

Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson in the line of the State of Virginia aforesaid on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States, during the War, when he was disbanded or discharged from service after the Siege of York [September-October, 1781]; that he was in the battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778], Germantown [October 4, 1777], the siege of York &c and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the affidavits of persons already sent on to the Department.

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid.

[Attested by Richard E Parker, Judge February 16, 1819]

[p 18: Power of attorney dated February 19, 1819 given by William Hoffler of Norfolk County Virginia authorizing his attorney to receive from the Secretary of War "what is due me agreeable to an Act of Congress passed the 18<sup>th</sup> of March."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Hoffler". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style. Below the name, there are several large, sweeping loops and flourishes that extend across the width of the signature.

[p 20]

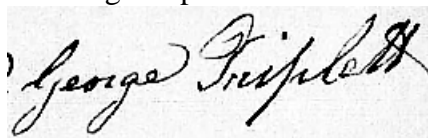
State of Kentucky Bullitt County SS

Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County George Triplett<sup>2</sup> who being duly sworn saith that William Hoffler was a Captain in Colonel Gibson's Regiment of the Virginia line and that it was the first Virginia State Regiment and transferred to the Virginia Continental line of the Army of the Revolution and served as such until the Consolidation of Regiments at which time the said Hoffler retired as a supernumerary officer he knows not at this time the period when said Consolidation took place or was to go into operation but says that it was the first Consolidation at which time Charles Ewell Lieutenant William Broaddus Lieutenant Thomas White said Hoffler and deponent and several other Officers of said Regiments retired as supernumeraries and further he saith not.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1831

S/ Nat. P. Saunders

S/ George Triplett

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George Triplett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style. Below the name, there are several large, sweeping loops and flourishes that extend across the width of the signature.

[p 22]

State of Kentucky Shelby County Sct.

Major Elliott [Rucker]<sup>3</sup> this day personally appeared before me George P. Miller a Justice of the Peace for said County who being first duly sworn saith that William Hoffler was an officer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia State Regiment afterwards transferred to the Virginia Continental line

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<sup>2</sup> [George Triplett W607](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Elliot \(Elliott, Eliot\) Rucker S46408](#)

commanded by Colonel Gibson, and served in the said Regiment until a consolidation took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1781 under arrangements of the preceding year, at which time the said Hoffer became a supernumerary or retiring officer, being then at the time of consolidation a Captain in said Colonel Gibson's Regiment and further this deponent saith not.

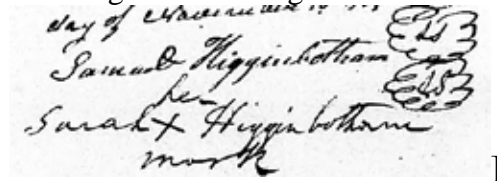
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1831

S/ Geo. P. Miller, JP

S/ Elliot Rucker



[p 11: Power of attorney dated November 20, 1834 given in Norfolk City, Virginia by Samuel Higginbotham and Sarah Higginbotham his wife whereby they authorized there attorney to prosecute the claim for bounty land due Sarah's late father William Hoffer as a Captain of the first Virginia State Regiment in the revolution.



[p 9]

At a Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery continued by adjournment and held for the Borough of Norfolk on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1834,

The Court doth certify that it has been satisfactorily proved in open Court by the oath of William Pierce that Sarah the wife of Samuel Higginbottam of the County of Norfolk and Frances late the wife of Alexander Love of Surry County Virginia are the children and only heirs at law of William Hoffer late of said County, deceased, who is reputed to have been a Captain or Major of the Virginia line of the Army of the Revolution. And the same is ordered to be certified accordingly.

I John Williams, Clerk of the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for the Borough of Norfolk in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that the foregoing order is truly copied from the records of the said Court.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court the first day of December in the year of our Lord 1834 and of the Commonwealth the 59<sup>th</sup>

S/ Jno Williams, CC

[p 12: Copy of the last will and testament of William Hoffer of Norfolk County Virginia appointing Samuel Higginbotham and Alexander Love as the executors of his estate and naming them as the recipients of his entire estate except for a gift of \$45 to his nephew Willis Barnes. The will is dated March 2, 1819 and was probated in Norfolk County Virginia May 16, 1820. In the will he makes reference to his pension of \$20 per month given to him for his services in the revolution.]

[Facts in file: The veteran's daughter Frances, widow of Alexander Love, married the Reverend Isaiah Harris of Surry County Virginia pursuant to a marriage bond dated July 14, 1823 and filed in Surry County Virginia.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing April 21, 1818 for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

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[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Council Chambers February 5<sup>th</sup> 1783

I do certify that Captain William Hoffler is entitled to the proportion of land allowed a Captain of the State line for Military Service from the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1777 to June 1780.

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Meriwether

Warrant for 4000 acres issued to William Hoffler February 5<sup>th</sup> 1783

No. 112

A Copy from the Records of the Virginia Land Office

Test S. H. Parker, Reg. L. Office

I Wright Carney of Norfolk County and State of Virginia do hereby certify that Captain William Hoffler served in the Regular Army in the State line of Virginia during the Revolutionary war until the end of the said war, the said Captain William Hoffler ranked as Captain during the war and his residence was in Norfolk County, State of Virginia. Given under my hand in Norfolk County this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 1829

Witness

Sarah W Carney

S/ Wright Carney

Portsmouth June 12<sup>th</sup> 1849

To the Executive of Virginia

I present to the Executive, the claim of the heirs of Captain William Hoffler for additional Bounty Land. It appears from Smith's report, that he was first Lieutenant 1776 of Marines, Captain Marines September 20 & October 1776 – Captain in first State Regiment 7 January 1777 supernumerary February or April 1782 (see Journal Council September 20 1776 and return of first State Regiment). He took Rank from January 13 1776 (see Journal of Council of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1777). He received 4000 acres of Land 1782. His heirs are entitled to additional Bounty Land.

So much for Smith's report of this case, which seemed to me to be enough to authorize the Executive to make the additional allowance.

By the Certificate directing the Register to issue to William Hoffler the proportion of land to which he was entitled as Captain for a service from the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1777 to June 1780. The certificate of allowance is herein enclosed. You will perceive the [indecipherable word] in the certificate which allows him for a service from 9<sup>th</sup> January 1777 when the Council Journal of 4 April 1777 shows he took rank from the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1776.

The evidence which I here with submit in [indecipherable word] with that derived from the Council Journal of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1777 shows the service from January 13<sup>th</sup> 1776 to the end of the War – the evidence referred to is the certificate of Wingate Carney [sic], a copy of which has been obtained from the clerk of the Court of Appeals – this evidence shows a service to the end of the War.

In [indecipherable word] of this, Higginbotham Administrator of William Hoffler [word written over and illegible] piece suit against the Commonwealth for half pay in Henrico Superior Court and a judgment was obtained against the Commonwealth for \$8587 in 1830, and the case was carried to the Court of Appeals where the Judgment of the court below was affirmed and the

money paid.

This half pay was only due for a service for the War, and has been decided by the highest Court, that the evidence was sufficient to authorize the payment by the Court of this [indecipherable word] of money. I refer to this, if evidence is wanted of the payment of the money the first Auditor can furnish it.

I therefore respectfully ask for the additional allowance of land for the heirs of Hoffler, and request that I may be informed of it.

Yours Respectfully  
S/ James Murdaugh  
Attorney for the heirs

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[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

To the Executive of Virginia

I hereby present to the consideration of the Executive of Virginia the claim of the heirs of Captain William Hoffler deceased to additional Military Bounty Land for his services rendered during the Revolutionary War. By reference to the Report<sup>4</sup> of John H Smith Commissioner of Revolutionary claims, submitted to the Legislature on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1835, Document No. 6, he repeats that "William Hoffler was first Lieutenant 1776 of Marines, Captain Marines September 20 in October 1776, Captain in first State Regiment 7<sup>th</sup> January 1777, supernumerary February or April 1782 (See Council Journal September 20, 1776, and return of first State Regiment). He took rank from January's 13<sup>th</sup>, 1776 (See Council Journal of April 4<sup>th</sup> 1777). He received 4000 acres of land in 1783. His heirs are entitled to additional bounty land."

The evidence in the Office of the Executive is sufficient to show that Captain William Hoffler did not receive the number of acres of land to which he was entitled by law for the services rendered and in behalf and as attorney for Francis Harris and Sarah Higginbotham the daughters and heirs at law of the said Captain William Hoffler deceased I request the Executive to make an order directing a warrant to issued for the additional bounty land.

S/ Very Respectfully  
S/ James Murdaugh  
Portsmouth November 22, 1838

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ] Norfolk County Legislative Petitions

The Honble. Speaker & Members of General Assembly

The Petition of the Officers of the Virginia State Line now residing in the County of Norfolk

We your Petitioners having served with the Officers belonging to the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment in the Army of the United States during the War, with Great Britain. And as State Officers during that time ware deprived of our Rank, according to the dates of our several Commissions, Which of itself was sufficient to have disgusted us with the Service, had not the Glorious cause excited us to have continued. And shall your Gentleman add to this great mortification, by depriving us of those Emoluments that have been granted to the Officers of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment Notwithstanding we ware promised every

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<sup>4</sup> Smith's report is not among the documentation posted online.

Emolument, that they received, That is the five years full pay, or the half pay during Life.

S/ William Hoffler, Capt. 1<sup>st</sup> V. S. Regt.

[too faint to discern], Lieut.

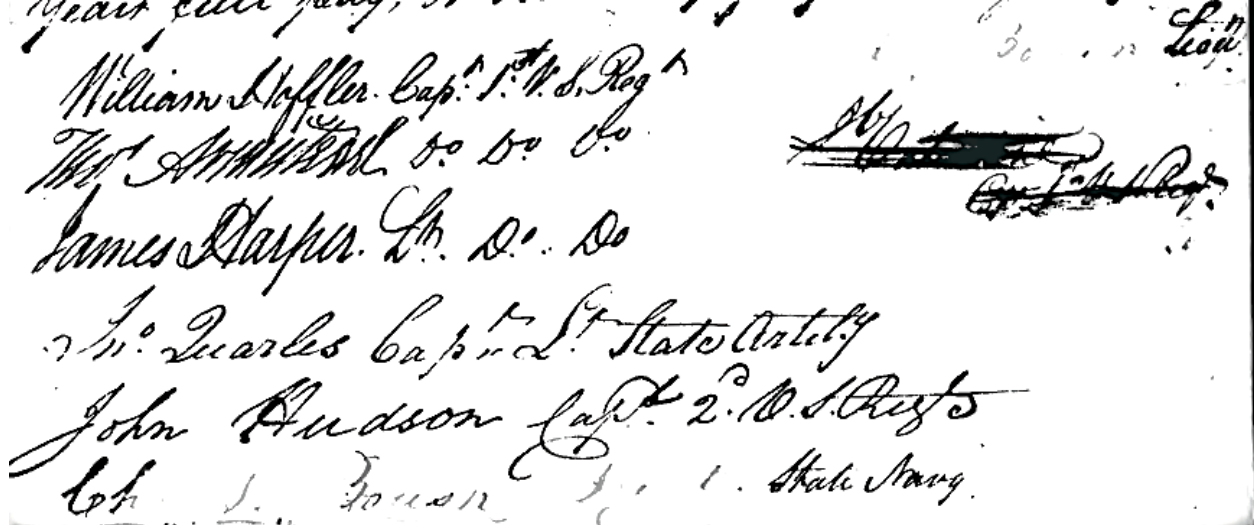
S/ Thos. Armistead Do Do Do [Thomas Armistead]

S/ James Harper Lt. Do Do

S/ Jno. Quarles Capt. Lt. State Artily [John Quarles, Artillery]

S/ John Hudson Capt. 2<sup>nd</sup> V. S. Regt.

S/ Chs S. Boush [too faint to discern, but he was a Lt.] State Navy [Charles S Boush]



[Reverse]

Officers of State line

16<sup>th</sup> of November 1789

Referred to Props [propositions]

(rejected)

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Norfolk (City) Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable the Speaker & Members of the General Assembly

The petition of William Hoffler humbly represent if that your Petitioner early in the late War between Great Britain & America entered into the American Army & became a Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment – that he continued in actual service till the month of January 1780 when from the reduction of the regiments he became supernumerary, retaining however his Commission & being considered as at the command of the public whenever he might be called forth.

In this situation he ever held himself in readiness to engage in actual service when required & was consequently thereby prevented from engaging in any other pursuit, having pledged himself to the public to render military duty for the welfare of America – That your Petitioner although actuated in common with his Brother Officers for his Country, Interest, yet with them expected to enjoy those inducements which were held and by the Laws of Virginia whereby the Officers of the State line were placed on the same footing with those (of equal rank) under the Continental Establishment – that having been heretofore deprived thereof – to it is half pay for life or other reasonable allowance in lieu thereof – & being still impressed with the

Justice of his claim, hoping to that the liberality of Virginia will not permit her Officers to go unrequited, he is induced to prefer his petition humbly requesting that his case may be taken into consideration & that justice may be extended to him by offering him his half pay or other adequate compensation, according to the principles hail 4<sup>th</sup> when your petitioner engaged in the toils & hardships of war & he as in duty bound will ever pray &c

[Reverse]

Hoffler's Petition  
October 13, 1792  
to Claims