

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Suggs S38320

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/26/12: rev'd 7/1/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 5]

Norfolk Borough

At a Hustings Court continued and held the 29th day of April 1818, George Suggs appeared before the Court, and made oath as is prescribed by the act of the Congress of the United States passed the 18th of March 1818, 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 1st of March 1776, and entered into a volunteer company commanded by Thomas Brisey [Thomas Bracey, also spelled Bressie],¹ where he continued until the 1st of August following & in August of the same year, he entered the 1st Virginia Regiment of foot commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry, who shortly after resigned and was commanded by Colonel Read [James Read], and then by Colonel Hendricks [James Hendricks],² and after that by Colonel Richard Parker,³ continued three years part of the time as corporal, first under Captain William Davis, then under Captain William Lewis and discharged under Curtis Kendal, the period of his term of service having expired. He was likewise in the sea service in a letter of Marque, called the *Experiment* commanded by Captain Pennock, commissioned by the Governor of Virginia, he entered that service as Captain of Marines in July 1780, and continued until the capture of the *Experiment* at St. Eustatia [St. Eustatius] which was taken by Admiral Rodney [perhaps Admiral George Rodney] on the 3rd of February 1781; He continued in England until discharged from imprisonment in July 1781, when he returned to New York, where he obtained a parole after the capture of Cornwallis at little York [October 19, 1781]. He went to Philadelphia where he entered the clothing department of the Army of the United States and that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his Country for Support.

A Copy – Teste

Wm Sharp, C.C.

United States of America District of Virginia: to wit

Personally appeared before me, St. George Tucker, District Judge of the United States for the District of Virginia, the within named George Suggs, who solemnly made oath, in due form of law, that all and singular the Allegations and facts stated in the affidavit hereunto annexed,

¹ [Thomas Bressie R12763](#)

² [James Hendricks VAS1490](#)

³ [Richard Parker BLWt525-500](#)

purporting to have been sworn to before the Hustings-court of Norfolk, and certified by William Sharp Esquire Clerk of the said Court, are true to the best of his the deponent's recollection and belief – Given under my hand & seal at the District aforesaid, this 15th day of May 1818, in the 42nd year of the Independence of the United States

S/ S. G. Tucker

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Major William Hoffler⁴ and William Watts⁵ being duly sworn state that they knew George Suggs well during the war of the Revolution engaged as stated in the above certificate in the service of the United States, and Joseph Carter⁶ being likewise duly sworn in addition states he served with George Suggs three years in the United States Army.

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Virginia Sct:

At a Court held in Norfolk County the 15th day of March in the year of our Lord 1819 George Suggs appeared before the Court and made oath, as is prescribed by Act of Congress of the United States, past the 18th day of March 1818, 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 1st of March 1776 and entered into a Volunteer Company commanded by Thomas Brassey [sic], where he continued until the first of August following. In August of the same year, he entered the first Virginia Regiment of foot, commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry, who shortly after resigned, and was commanded by Colonel Read, and then by Colonel Hendricks, and after that by Colonel Richard Parker, continued three years, part of the time as Corporal, first under Captain William Davis, then under Captain William Lewis, and discharged under Curtis Kendal, the period of his term of service having expired. He was likewise in the Sea Service in a Letter of Marque called the *Experiment*, commanded by Captain Pennock, commissioned by the Governor of Virginia. He entered that service as Captain of Marines in July 1780, and continued until the Capture of the *Experiment* at Saint Eustatius which was taken by Admiral Rodney on the 3rd of February 1781. He continued in England until discharged from imprisonment in July 1781, when he returned to New York, where he obtained a parole after the capture of Cornwallis at little York. – He went to Philadelphia where he entered the clothing department of the Army of the United States; and that from his reduced circumstances he needs the assistance of his country for support.

Major William Toffler and William Watts being duly sworn states that they knew George Suggs well, during the War of the Revolution, engaged as stated in the above certificate, in the service of the United States, and Joseph Carter being likewise duly sworn, in addition, states, he served with George Suggs three years in the United States Army. All of which being made satisfactorily to appear to the Court, is ordered to be certified to the Secretary of War.

And Testimony and Faith whereof, I William Wilson clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid, have hereunto set my Hand, and caused the seal of my Office to be affixed, this 24th day of March 1819, in the 43rd year of our Independence.

S/ Wm Wilson

⁴ [William Hoffler S38047](#)

⁵ [William Watts W19587](#)

⁶ [Joseph Carter W6893](#)

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Norfolk County, to wit:

On this fifteenth day of January 1821, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record for the said County of Norfolk, George Suggs aged Sixty Six years, resident in the Borough of Norfolk in the said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, to wit: He enlisted into the Army of the United States on the first day of March 1776, and entered into a company commanded by Thomas Bressie, where he continued until the 1st day of August following: On the first of August in the same year he entered the 1st Regiment of foot commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry who shortly after resigned, and was commanded by Colonel Reid [James Read] and then by Colonel Hendricks, and after that by Colonel Richard Parker, continued three years, part of the time as corporal, first under Captain William Davis, then under Captain William Lewis and discharged under Curtis Kendall; the period of his term of service having expired. He was likewise in the Sea Service in a Letter of Marque called the *Experiment* commanded by Captain Pennock commissioned by Governor Jefferson; he entered the service as Captain of Marines in July 1780 and continued until the capture of the *Experiment* at Saint Eustatia by Admiral Rodney on the 3rd of February 1781. He continued in England until discharged from imprisonment in July 1781, when he returned to New York where he obtained a parole after the capture of Cornwallis at Little York. He then went to Philadelphia, where he entered the clothing department of the Army of the United States, according to his original declaration dated on the ___ day of ___ in consequence of which he has received a pension under the Act of Congress of the 18 day of March 1818, the number of his pension certificate is ___

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, to wit: one house & lot in the Borough of Norfolk which I have conveyed in trust to secure the payment of a sum of money due from me to John Carraway; and that I have no other income whatever except the small emoluments arising from the Office of Ballast Master of the Port of Norfolk, which is totally insufficient for my support, and that in consequence of a rheumatic affection [affliction], and other afflictions, I am unable to pursue any other business. And that I have no family living with me but my wife who is too old and infirm to contribute anything to her support.

(Signed) "Geo. Suggs"

Sworn to and declared in open Court on the 15th day of January 1821

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State of Virginia Borough of Norfolk: SS

On this 20th day of May in the year of our Lord 1823 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the Eastern District of the State of Virginia George Suggs a resident of the said Borough aged Sixty Eight years and seven months who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of the 18th day of March 1818 the 1st day of May 1820 and the 1st

day of March 1823 –

That he enlisted as a Corporal first in a volunteer Company of minute men commanded by Captain Thomas Bressie in the County of Norfolk and State of Virginia, on the first day of March 1776 and continued in said company until the beginning of August in the same year when the said Company was discharged from service. That he soon after Enlisted in Captain William Davis' Company in the first Virginia Regiment, then commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry, as a Corporal, also for the term of three years on the Continental Establishment and continued in the said Regiment until the first day of August 1779, when he was discharged at Paramapa [Paramus?] in the State of ____.

He was present at the Battle of the White Plains [October 28, 1776], with Captain William Davis' Company then in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Reed or Read in the year 1776. That he was present at the capture of the Hessians at Trenton on the 26th day of December in the same year, when Colonel Monroe, then Lieutenant only, led the advance and was wounded. That he was also in the Battle at Princeton on January 3rd 1777 in the same company – when General Mercer, Commanding our Brigade was Killed and Major Fleming, then Commanding the 1st Virginia Regiment was Killed & Lt. Yates [?] ⁷ the Adjutant of our Regiment & this affiant was captured by the enemy and carried by them to Brunswick, from whence he made his escape & rejoined his Regiment at Morristown, that he was also present at the Battle of Brandywine on the 11th day of September 1777 – and on the 4th day of October following at the Battle of Germantown – when Colonel Hendricks then commanding our Regiment was wounded & soon after resigned, He was also present at the siege of Fort Mifflin [September 26 – November 15, 1777] on the Delaware when Major Green Commanded the 1st Regiment and he was also a participant at the Storming of Stony Point on the 16 day July 1779 and was Discharged from Service on the first day of August following, after his return home, he entered again into a Volunteer Company at Portsmouth in Virginia then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Matthews, and continued to serve at various times against the Enemies of the Country until he obtained the appointment of Captain Marines, on board, a Letter of Marque Ship *Experiment* Commanded by Captain William Pennock on board of which Vessel, he went to Sea, & was captured in her at the Island of St. Eustatius on the 3rd day of February 1781 was sent over to England as a prisoner, in the *Greyhoun* [*Greyhound?*] ⁸ Frigate and after being detained there some time, was finally discharged & returned to New York on the 19th day of October 1781 when he obtained a parole of Honor and proceeded over to Philadelphia where he obtained an appointment in the Clothing Department of the United States, & so continued until the peace was declared, and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an 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” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, That since the execution of my

⁷ Lt. Yates

⁸ Greyhoun

first Schedule no changes has been made in my property of any kind, Except that since that period I have been compelled to borrow money from Captain John Carraway to whom my House was mortgaged by a Deed of Trust, for which I have Executed my notes, which are now held By His Executor – I Do Further State on Oath, I am very infirm, being ruptured and subject to Fits – and in such indigent Circumstances as to be unable to support myself and family without the assistance of my Country.

Schedule of property above referred to

One mahogany desk very old, two tables also old, one dozen old Winsor chairs, two beds & bedding, one old looking glass, a small lot old knives & forks, plates dishes & glassware, some old kitchen furniture. One lot of land with a frame house on it, in the Borough of Norfolk in which I at present reside which has been lately valued by three Respectable Freeholders at from \$5-\$600 and which is now conveyed in Trust, to secure a debt due to John Carraway's Estate amounting with interest to nearly the same sum, which Certificate of valuation is hereto annexed, That I have been by trade a Tailor, but am now too old & infirm to be able to pursue my trade at which I have not done anything for ten years past.

I have a wife who is upwards of fifty years of age living with me & no one else, I have also Four daughters living but no sons and my daughters are not in a situation to contribute to my support

District of Virginia

Personally appeared in open Court George Suggs and made oath that all the matters and things therein contained are true.

Teste: S/ Seth Foster, Clerk

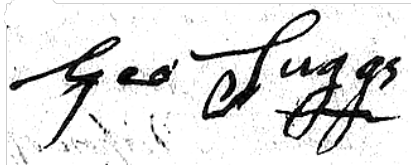
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To the Honorable J C Calhoun [John C Calhoun], Secretary of War of the United States

The Petition of George Suggs an old Revolutionary Soldier of the US now residing in Norfolk in Virginia Most Humbly settith forth That by the Unsolicited Bounty and Liberality of his Country he was placed on the Pension List of the United States by virtue of the Act of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 – and continued to receive his Pension until the year 1820. That without any Act or Deed on his part by Gift, sale or in any other manner to dispose of his property or to diminish it, so as to bring himself within the provisions of said recited Act of Congress – His name was Struck from the Pension List, in the said year 1820, because he was presumed to have Property in his Possession sufficient to Maintain himself & family without the assistance of his Country. Although he was then bowed down with age and infirmity and in very great need of receiving aid he acquiesced under the Decision in the faint hope that he might struggle through his few remaining years without it. Sad Experience has now however continued to assure him that his Hopes were illusory – as his age has increased so that his infirmities and the little property upon which he rested his Hopes has continued to decrease in Value, whilst he not being able to pay up the Interest That has also accumulated upon him to such a Degree as to make his Debts now fully equal to the value of his Estate. His Creditor being unwilling to sacrifice his only property by a Public Sale has continued to indulge him with a Delay which has proved ruinous to him as will appear by the annexed Certificate of four respectable Freeholders of the Borough of Norfolk. His family which is not very large to be sure consist Entirely of females who are incapable of rendering him any pecuniary aid – and he finds himself now in the sixty-ninth year of his age, compelled to solicit either Private or Public Charity for his Support. Under these circumstances he most humbly bags, that he may be restored to the Pension Roll of

his Country – upon whose Gratitude he certainly has some claims & your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

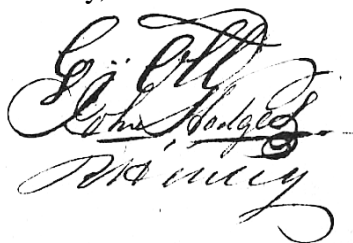
S/ Geo. Suggs



[The clerk of court signed an affidavit in which the value of the house and lot exclusive of the encumbrance thereon was estimated to be \$500.]

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We the undersigned being Freeholders and Residents of the Borough of Norfolk in the Commonwealth of Virginia being called upon by George Suggs Esquire to review and appraise his House and Lot in the Borough of Norfolk which stands mortgaged or conveyed in Trust to secure a Debt due to John Carraway of about \$550, or of opinion that the said House & Lot if now Exposed to public Sale for ready money, would not sell for more than \$500.



[Note: Benjamin Pollard the trustee named in the mortgage mentioned above also opines that the collateral will not sell for an amount enough to pay off the debt.]

[February 1, 1823]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 29, 1818, for service as a corporal in the Virginia Continental line for 3 years.]

Addendum to George Suggs S38320

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 30 June 2021.

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

Norfolk. Augt 6 1784. I do Certify that George Suggs served as a Sold. in the 1st Virg'a Cont'l reg't from 1st Aug't 1776 to Aug't 1779. Given under my hand.

Fran's Minnis Capt. [Francis Minnis BLWt1525-300]

1st Virg'a Reg't

William Davies [BLWt597-500]

Copy/ Edmund B Laceu