

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Prestley Boley S39204

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Feb 2017.

I William Daniel one of the Judges of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit including the County of Bedford do certify that Prestley Boley of the County aforesaid came this day before me and made the following declaration upon Oath in order that he might be enabled to recover the provision lately made by an act of Congress for certain persons who were engaged in the Land and Naval service of the United States during the Revolutionary War – that is to say, that he the said Prestley Boley enlisted as a light dragoon as a common soldier with a Captain [Robert] Yancy of the first Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. [Theodorick] Bland – for and during the War – that afterwards the troops were United and were commanded by Colo [William] Washington. that his service was principally under the Command of Colo. Washington, Capt. James Gunn, that he was in the service of the United States about four years – was discharged in Virginia near Winchester in Virginia, which discharge is now lost or worne out – sometime after the Capture of CornWallis at York [19 Oct 1781] & at the Close of the War. That he is now in reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his country for support – and I do further certify that Benjamin R Boley also came before me and upon Oath stated that he is well acquainted with the above named Prestley Boley and knows that he was in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary for about four years as in his declaration above stated as set forth, and that the said Prestley Boley is in reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his Country for support – And it appearing to my satisfaction that the aforesaid Prestley Boley who states himself to be about fifty five years of age, was engaged in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War for upwards of nine months against the Common Enemy and that he is now in reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his Country for support. I do hereby certify and send the same to the Secretary for the department of War of the United States to avail as it should, under my hand & seal, there being no public seal of office belonging to the Superior Court of Law of the above named County of Bedford this twentieth day of August 1818

Wm. Daniel {seal}

Virginia Bedford County S.S. On this 26th day of November 1821 Personally appeared in open court being court of Record for said county Presley Boley aged 61[?] years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he Served in the revolutionary War as follows in the first regiment commanded by Colonel Bland in Capt. James Penn Troop of horse Virginia line my original declaration dated [blank] the number of the pension Certificate 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 disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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

4 Trunks \$7.	3 pots & 1 oven \$5.00 —	\$12.
1 loom \$2.	1 pine Table 50 cents —	2.50
Knifes & forks 50 cents	plates & dishes 75 cents —	<u>1.25</u>
		\$15.75

That he is by occupation a planter but illy able from infirmities in consequence of Wounds received in the revolutionary War to pursue his business that he has residing with him his Wife Polly 37 years of age two daughters Harriet 16 years of age Martha 14 years of age and two Sons John 12 years of age and Wm 10 years of age none of them can assist him very much in a support

At a Court held for Bedford County the 26th day of November 1821

Presley Boley

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Baley, Presley.]

Liberty, Bedford Co. July 24 1834

Sir: On the behalf of Presely Boley of this county, a soldier of the Revolution, I address you this letter. Mr. Boley enlisted in a corps of horse commanded by Col. William Washington in 1779, and served during the war. He was as appears from the records in the War Office, a corporal of Dragoons in the Virginia line, and was of course under the act of Assembly of Oct 1778 entitled to 400 acres of land. In Oct. 1780, soldiers, who served 3 years or during the war, entitled to 400 acres of land. In Oct. 1780, soldiers who served 3 years or during the war entitled to 300 acres, & £60 in specie & all except general officers, entitled to an additional bounty in land “in the proportion of one third of any bounty heretofore granted them” Some five or six, or more years ago, Mr. Boley received from Mr. William G. Pendleton, then register of the Land office, 200 acres of land. Mr Boley thinks he is entitled to more, and now make application to the government to do him justice – he was under the impression that he was entitled to no more – and until lately did not know his rights. Your Excellency will please direct his claim to be examined into, and justice done.

Lieut. Anderson Thomson [Anderson Thomson (Thompson) S17145] of this county conceives himself entitled to bounty lands. He says that he served three years as Second Lieut. in the 3^d Reg’t. of the Va. line, commencing in 1776 & that he served his time out. It appears however, that in a Document published at Richmond by Authority of the Legislature that he is repoted to the Executive as having resigned, and therefore not entitled to bounty land. Lieut. Thomson says that he enlisted for 3 years – and served the whole period – that he also served 2 years in a regiment stationd a Charlottesville to guard prisoners – in 1779 – under the command of Colo. Bland & [Francis] Taylor & Major Fountain [sic: William Fontaine]. Lieut. Thomson [undeciphered word] that injustice has been done him, in as much as the government at Washington decline allowing him bounty land – because his name has not been returned among those entitled to bounty land. I wish to know, whether the regiment to which he belonged at Charlottesville was not a regular regiment – and whether he it appears from revolutionary records at Richmond that he actually resigned. In short whether he is entitled to bounty land either from the Virginia or the United States.

I am most Respectfully yr. obt servt

John A. Wharton

Report upon the claims of Presley Boley Corp’l Drag. & Lieut. And’n Thompson C. L.
Petition of the Heirs of Presley Boley Corp’l C.L for additional bounty land & of the heirs of Anderson Thompson Lieut C.L. for bounty land.

Presley Boley was Corp’l of Dragoons & serv’d to the 15th Nov’r 1783. (See Andrew Dunscombs Settlements & the “Return of specie due sundry noncommission’d officers & privates of the Virg’a line, being arrears of 4 months pay in 1783.” There is no proof before me of the time when he enlisted. That proof is not now necessary. If he enlisted for the war, (there being satisfactory proof that he served to the end of it,) his heirs are entitled to 400 acres of land – deducting therefrom the 200 acres already received. There may be proof accompanying the former Petition of his enlistment for the war. That Petition & the evidence accompanying it are on file in the Executive Department, and are subject to your Excellencys order.

Lt. Anderson Tompson has been reportedly in the Printed List of officers &c No 8 as “resign’d & not entitled to land.” I have seen no reason to dismiss that opinion. He appears on the “list of resign’d & supernumerary officers” &c as being commissioned in 1779, & having resign’d his commission. If he afterwards serv’d two years in the Regiment of Guardss, his heirs are not, for that service, entitled to bounty land.

No additional remarks, or [undeciphered word] are consider’d necessary, in either of the above cases

Respectly submitted/ John H Smith Comm’r/ August 8th 1834

To Gov’r Tazewell.

NOTES:

A Treasury-Department document states that the widow of Prestley Boley received his final pension payment up to the day of his death, 20 May 1838.

The index of [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) lists “Boley, Presley” and “Boley, Pressly,” but entering those names brings up records of a Capt. Joseph Blackwell. The catalog card for Presley Boley says the file contains a certificate by Maj. J. Belfield [John Belfield BLWt254-400]. The catalog card for Pressly Boley says the file contains an affidavit by Benjamin R. Boley of Lynchburg VA and a certificate by Lt. H. Bowyer [Henry Bowyer W5859].