

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Nicholas S46397 <sup>1</sup>

f164VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/1/10 rev'd 3/2/10 & 1/16/13 & 4/2/15

[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. 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.]

[p 95]

An Act concerning John Nicholas, passed by the Assembly of Virginia February 26th, 1820 [in the library in the State Department p. 108]

Whereas it is represented by the Memorial & accompanying documents of John Nicholas of the County of Buckingham that, during the Revolution, the said John Nicholas was in the military service of the United States, as Captain of Infantry in the Virginia line, on which State establishment, in which service he continued from the 1st of January in the year 1777 to the 5th of June 1780, when he received commission of Lieutenant Colonel of a body of militia raised by this State for the defense of South Carolina, under which commission he continued in the military service of this State till after the Siege of York: & whereas it appears to the General Assembly, that, during the periods aforesaid, the said John Nicholas rendered faithful, essential & honorable services to this State & the United States, & that he has never received the depreciation of pay, to which he was by law entitled for his services from the said first of January 1777 to the fifth of June 1780.

Be it therefore enacted that the auditor of public accounts shall be & he hereby is authorized to settle with the said John Nicholas, his depreciation of pay as a Captain of the infantry, from the said first day of January 1777, to the 5th day of June 1780, & to grant him a warrant therefore on the Treasury, to be paid out of any monies therein not otherwise appropriated. This Act shall be in force from the passing thereof.

An Act concerning John Nicholas passed February 3rd 1825 – p. 98 --

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that the auditor of public accounts shall be, & hereby is authorized & required to settle with John Nicholas of the County of Buckingham, or his representative, his depreciation of pay as a Captain of Infantry in the Virginia line on State establishment during the Revolutionary war, from the 5th day of June 1780 until the 31st day of December 1781; also his commutation of full pay for five years in lieu of half pay for life, as a Captain as aforesaid, together with interest only on the said commutation of full pay for five years, from the sixth day of March 1819; & to issue a warrant on the public Treasury for the amount in favor of said Nicholas, to be paid out of any money therein, not otherwise appropriated -- this act shall commence & be in force from the passing thereof.

[p 101]

Richmond July 10th 1828

Sir—

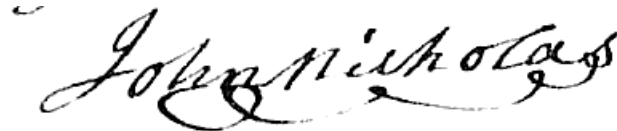
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<sup>1</sup> BLWt1386-300

I have lately seen the notice and the papers to the surviving Officers & Soldiers of the Revolution on the subject of the late act of Congress in their favor; but am not possessed of the evidences & forms requisite in the case. Mine perhaps is a peculiar case. I will state it as briefly as possible. In 1776 I was appointed a Captain in the six additional regiments raised under an act of the Assembly of Virginia on Continental establishment; raised my company as such, marched down to Williamsburg the place of rendezvous, where that & for other companies were transferred by the Governor & council, against their will, from the Continental to the State service. Against this proceeding, the officers remonstrated, & were promised by a resolve of Assembly, that if they would march & joined the Continental Army, they should be restored to that line. This they did, & were in the affairs of Germantown, Edge Hill near White Marsh, Barren Hill Church with Lafayette, Monmouth etc. & in 1778 or nine by act of Assembly, the Regiment I was in was destined to supply the place of the 9th Virginia Regiment taken at Germantown, & served with the Continental Army both to the North & South to the end of the war. Being in easy circumstances myself war a considerable time after the war, I neglected to apply for any of the promised rewards. About 1808 I received my land bounty as a Captain in the Continental Virginia line. Since then I have received depreciation of pay & commutation by act of Assembly, for particular services to the State as well as to the US as an officer in the service of both (as expressed in said Act) throughout the war. I still have original recruiting papers, acts, etc. etc. to sustain all these facts. There are but two others that I know of now living under the same circumstances. Whether we may be considered as coming under the strict letter of the law, I know not; but it does seem hard that we who served faithfully as Continental troops, as we supposed, the whole war, should not be on a footing with those who served only the last year, if that the such strict letter of the law, & if there be any such cases as is highly possible. You will greatly oblige me by giving me information on the subject & furnishing me with evidences & forms required, addressed to New Canton, Buckingham County, Virginia

S/ Respectfully Your obedient Servant

S/ John Nicholas

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Nicholas". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 108]

#### Revolutionary Claims

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "an Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers & soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May 1828 I, John Nicholas of the County of Buckingham, and the State of Virginia, do hereby declare the, that I was appointed a Captain in the Continental Line of the Army of the revolution, in 1776, & continued to serve with the said Continental Army till after the siege of Yorktown in Virginia, when, in consequence of the reduction of the regular Troops by the expiration of enlistments & other causes I was continued as a supernumerary Captain, subject to be called into service at any time thereafter; but being first appointed for the 10th Virginia Continental Regiment, & having raised my men for that service, & being transferred at several different times from one service to another (a considerable part of which service as a Captain in General Washington's body Guards) I was considered generally as a Captain on Continental establishment, & received my land bounty & such other rewards as I have obtained since as such, as well as for special services rendered the particular State of Virginia, as General Greene did from other States, & in

conformity with the cases of Colonels Richard Kidder Meade & Robert Hanson Harrison a part of General Washington's family staff. All which facts will be more fully exhibited, if required, by the original Act itself for raising the six additional Continental regiments in which I was first appointed; my original recruiting papers; various affidavits & other testimonials of all the foregoing circumstances & services rendered, as an officer in the Army of the Revolution, as herein set forth.

Witness my hand this 26 day of September 1828.

S/ John Nicholas

City of Richmond

Before me Joseph Tate, Mayor of said City -- in the State of Virginia, personally appeared this day Peter Foster<sup>2</sup> & Charles Woodson<sup>3</sup> Soldiers of the Revolution -- who did severally make oath that John Nicholas by whom the foregoing Declaration was subscribed, is generally reputed & believed to have been an officer in the Army of the Revolution, in the manner as therein stated. Witness my hand this 27th day of September 1828

S/ Joseph Tate, Mayor  
of the City of Richmond

[p 4]

Washington County District of Columbia: On this 8th day of February 1833 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the said County, John Nicholas a resident of the County of Buckingham Virginia aged seventy-five years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June the 7th 1832.

That he entered the Army of the United States as an Ensign on the 31st of January 1775. Was appointed a Lieutenant of minute men in the same year. Early in 1776 he was appointed a Captain & commissioned the first of January 1777 in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson,<sup>4</sup> Lieutenant Colonel William Brent, & Major John Allison, to which Regiment he was transferred from one of the six additional Continental Regiments, after having raised three Quotas of men under the several above appointments. On the 5th of June 1780 (the term for which his command had enlisted having expired, he was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel in a Body of militia raised by Virginia for the defense of South Carolina & served there & in Georgia under DeKalb, Gates, & Greene, till Arnold's invasion of Virginia 1781 when he was called to Virginia till after the siege of York, when he & many other officers of the same description were still retained in service & commanded militia drafted from time to time to guard the prisoners & has retained his commissions to the present time. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State.

S/ John Nicholas, late  
Cap. Lt. Col. &c Revy Army

Sworn to before me, a Justice of the peace as aforesaid, the day & year above written.

S/ Wm B. Van Landt., JP

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<sup>2</sup> [Peter Foster S46443](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Charles Woodson W6580](#)

<sup>4</sup> [George Gibson BLWt1985-500](#)

Washington February 9th 1833 -- In addition to the within, John Nicholas states that though he held his Commission as Captain in the regular line, & could have retired from the actual service as a supernumerary in June 1780 on the expiration of the enlistment of his men; he preferred excepting the Lieutenant Colonel's Commission given by the Assembly of Virginia & continuing in actual service, which he did as Lieutenant Colonel till after the siege of York, when he & many other officers were still retained in service & commanded drafts of militia called out from time to time to guard the prisoners taken at York till they were exchanged were discharged on the peace or the willingness of Great Britain to the knowledge of our Independence, at any rate over the term which made the whole actual service as Lieutenant Colonel over two years -- still retaining his captains Commission in the regular line on account of his rewards.

S/ John Nicholas

[p 110]

In my former statement & application for additional land bounty, I omitted to state & show my Ensigns Commission in the Continental line of the Revolutionary Army, signed by John Hancock President of Congress the 31st of January 1776 now here with file. Under the Lieutenant's Commission in the minute service & the said Ensign's Commission, I rendered no service but to recruit & add to quotas of man to our forces; the appointment of Captain taking place before I was organized under the two first & under which last I raised another quota as the papers heretofore referred to will show. These I person known were the cause of omitting to say anything about the Ensignsy. William Campbell's heirs, it appears, have just been allowed two years additional land bounty very justly I am sure. He & myself belonged to the same Regiment - - served under all the same circumstances -- became supernumeraries in the same way & about the same time -- obtained our Commissioned by identical he the same kind of testimony -- he in 1820, I in 1825 (C. Acts of assembly 1819 -- 20 -- p. 109 -- Do 1824 -- 5 -- p. 88 or 9) -- many others have received additional land bounty is under similar circumstances, the same laws, & no stronger testimony. The applicant J. N. therefore hopes, he will be made an exception to the general, the just & liberal rule that has been observed towards so many others by honorable & patriotic man.

S/ John Nicholas


November 27th 1833

[p 8]

State of Virginia of Buckingham County

On this 1st day of December 1844 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Mr. Joshua Nicholas, known to me as a person of veracity and high respectability and made oath in due form of law, that he was the brother of the late Colonel John Nicholas who died the 29th April 1836. That he knows his brother the late Colonel John Nicholas was an officer in the war of the revolution and served until the end of the war. That he drew pay from the State of Virginia and likewise a pension from the United States for these services that he left a daughter named Mary 80 Nicholas and that the present application is for the benefit of his heir.

S/ Joshua Nicholas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Nicholas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Joshua Nicholas".

[p 82]

January 28th 1825 City of Richmond

I Charles Ewell<sup>5</sup> doth hereby certify, that I was a Captain in the first Virginia State Regiment of the revolutionary Army commanded by Colonel George Gibson, & that Colonel John Nicholas was also a Captain in the same. In 1780 the two State Regiments commanded by Colonels Gibson & Brent were reduced and commanded by the first -- Baron Steuben who then commanded in Virginia, directed all officers of the Continental & State lines who had not regulars to command, to take command of militia; -- Generals Muhlenberg, Weeden, & others were among the number; many took rank higher than they hailed in the regular lines; myself a Captain only in the regular, ranked as a Major and said Militia. In 1781 I was called by Governor Jefferson to take command as town major in Richmond, and in the same year was appointed Commissioner of prisoners by General Lafayette. After this Siege of York, the two State regiments were reduced and consolidated into one, and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney, they're not being a full Colonel's command left, many officers on that arrangement by the Board of Officers, became supernumeraries for want of commands; among whom Captain John Nicholas was one and subject to be called again in the service at any moment until the end of the war. No necessity arising afterwards, this call was never made, that I ever heard of till the definitive treaty of peace, when there was a final regular & official discharge of all.

The above testimony was given by me for the Committee of the Senate: yesterday the 27th instant, before whom I was then called for that purpose. Given under my hand the date aforesaid.

Signed Chs. Ewell

[The above document is a copy of the original]

[pp 117-129 also in the Legislative Papers of Buckingham County, VA. found in the [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

To the Honorable the Legislature of Virginia --

The Memorial of John Nicholas respectfully sheweth -- that your memorialist was appointed a first Lieutenant early in the American Revolution, in what was called the minute service -- But before these troops were all raised organized and embodied for service, your memorialist was appointed a Captain in what was styled by law the sixth additional Regiments on Continental establishment. Under this appointment, he quit his School and all his prospects in life arising from the acquirement of a finished education, between the ages of seventeen & eighteen & raised and marched into actual service as valuable and respectable a company from among the immediate & intimate companions of his youth as was put in the service during the whole of that patriotic war; as some of the original enlistments, and the Auditor's Certificate of the settlement of the recruiting money, herewith subjoined will he trust, most satisfactorily show.

On marching his Company to Williamsburg, the place of general rendezvous, he found that company and three or four others, raised in the same way, & for the same Continental service transposed by the Executive<sup>6</sup> without any legal authority from that to the State line. -- Against this proceeding the officers of these companies remonstrated; and the Legislature of Virginia pledged itself in some public act, or in some way to intercede with Congress and get them reinstated in the said Continental line.

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<sup>5</sup> [Charles Ewell W9432](#)

<sup>6</sup> Patrick Henry was then Governor of Virginia.

Under this fair & equitable pledge on the part of the Virginia Legislature, & reasonable expectation on the part of these officers, they freely & cheerfully joined the first Virginia State Regiment, under the command of Colonel George Gibson, & marched & joined the general Continental Army in the North, under the command of the illustrious Washington. But to the great disappointment, & sad mortification of the officers of these Companies in particular they found the promise of the State Legislature not complied with; by which they were not only deprived of their rank but subject to be commanded by officers of equal grades, though junior Commissions, of the Continental line; but deprived also of all prospect of rising in the said general line, to which they rightfully belonged, as well as many of their benefits & conditions which were annexed to their original engagement & true understanding of entering into the service, as will be hereafter shown.

A circumstance, however, soon after occurred, which your memorialist freely admits in some measure [indecipherable word] the first of these objections as it related individually and particularly to himself. On the second action he was in, he had the good fortune (though slightly wounded, and through mismanagement and neglect had nearly lost his life) to attract some small share of the notice of the Commander in Chief; who sent him an invitation to join his immediate family & body guard, as a Captain and second in command. This however, though it relieved him from the frequent and unpleasant collisions with officers of the same grade in the general line as it related to the common routine of duty, did not in the least alter the other disadvantages under which he served; having still too act under the same State commission which he had received from the Executive of Virginia.

In this otherwise pleasant situation, your memorialist continued to serve, & fight by the side of his beloved Chief, in all general actions in which he was engaged, and frequently with the distinguished Morgan in partisan enterprises, on which the brave & valuable Major Gibbs the commander of the guards would often volunteer & petition to go -- until the close of the campaign of 1779. Your memorialist being then threatened with a pulmonary complaint from the extreme exposures & hardships to which he had not been used, obtained leave to return to Virginia on the recruiting service for the Winter.

When there he received notice very unexpectedly and entirely unsolicitedly on his part, of his appointment by the Legislature of Virginia as a Lieutenant Colonel in a body of Militia directed by a law of the Spring Session of 1780, to be drafted and sent for the relief of South Carolina; it having been become impracticable to raise troops & replenish the regular armies by voluntary enlistments.

Under this commission (signed by the then Governor of Virginia & herewith submitted) your memorialist retired immediately to the South, under the command of the gallant Edward Stevens as Brigadier and served under the Generals Gates, DeKalb and Greene, until the end of that campaign; when General Stevens & his officers returned to Virginia to replenish their command, or engage in any other service their Country should require.

While your memorialist was in Virginia he thinks very early in the year 1781, Arnold's invasion of occurred. Your memorialist with a gentleman and near relation of his own name went immediately within a few hundred yards of his debarkation at Westover & from thence came in his front to Richmond with information. They found the officers of Government, & he believes the public stores and properties nearly all removed. The Governor himself he was informed had gone just before to Colonel T. M. Randolph's residence at Tuckahoe, for the safety of the female part of his family. Your memorialist reached them the next morning about day light & advised his Excellency Thos. Jefferson to send the Ladies who were then in a very unsafe situation,

immediately to the upper Country, which he did, and then requested your memorialist to accompany him down the South side of James River to enable him to ascertain if possible movements & objects of the enemy, & provide for the public defense & safety accordingly.

After reaching the heights of Manchester and making all the observations & receiving all the information they could, his Excellency requested to be conducted up the River to Britton's ferry opposite Westham, where he observed, he had directed the public and military stores to be passed for safety beyond the lines of Baron Steuben to the upper Country. Having reached this point he directed your memorialist to see to the expeditious passage of these stores across the River and then to cross and repair himself up the North side to Tuckahoe Bridge where he had ordered a body of militia to rendezvous, of which he also directed him to take command.

All this your memorialist did, having found at the bridge aforesaid (after a severe chase Of Simcoe's Corps who had just destroyed the foundry) several companies of Militia & one excellent & well appointed Company of regulars sent there by the Baron Steuben under the command of Captain Frederick Woodson,<sup>7</sup> well known to your memorialist, having been appointed like himself though only then a Lieutenant in the six additional regiments on Continental establishment, and transferred to the said State Regiment, under the command of Colonel Gibson.

This little band your memorialist took command of, under the commission he then held, & the fresh authority then given him by the said Governor: and after encouraging & spiring them up in the best way he was capable, marched immediately to Richmond, drove in the out picket of the enemy from Scuffletown, and took possession of Richmond soon after; it being evacuated with great precipitancy and confusion on the supposition that the greater part of the Militia were moving down from above, as your memorialist was informed.

Your memorialist then pursued the enemy to his shipping; and being joined by about 300 of the Richmond Militia under the command of Major Dick<sup>8</sup> a regular officer, and a corps of Horse composed of some of the first young gentlemen of the State, took his stand on the high grounds of Malvern Hills, and at the forest three miles below & within two or three of the enemy; where he staid, though under frequent threatenings and attempts at dislodgment until they finally embarked. After which they attempted again to re-land at Shirley hundred but were prevented by the resistance of this little force and the brave Major Dick and Captain Woodson, who sheltered and preserve themselves under the walls of the houses which were somewhat injured by the fire from the shipping.

Soon after this, the enemy fell down the River and your memorialist with this little force, pursued down the same by land to Sandy Point, where, by manning a few open boats, a small vessel was taken, by which a correspondence was discovered which had caused some American officers to be captured, in what it appeared had been the effects of a part of the same correspondence before that, & which might have done much greater injury, for all that is known, but for the said discovery.

All which detail, however, your memorialist has had the utmost reluctance to engage in, it being always painful for any one of feeling to have to speak of himself: and the memorialist in all the best services he was capable of performing in these trying times, fell far short of what it was his own wishes to perform, and it was the duty of every good citizen, if in his power to render. But the necessity of doing injustice to himself & family, in what is to follow, and is the main object of such personal detail he hopes & trusts will be some considerable apology, while

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<sup>7</sup> [Frederick Woodson R19214](#)

<sup>8</sup> Probably [Alexander Dick R13751](#)

the testimony of some yet living he confidently expects will support some of the principal facts in the narrative particularly that of Mr. Jefferson who returned to Richmond immediately on the evacuation of it by Arnold, & in the full exercise of his own official authorities as governor & Commander in Chief of the Militia of the State, became better acquainted with a better judge of and higher authority for those acts of the memorialist which fell under his own immediate notice and direction than anyone else could be.

Your memorialist states (on these further and more material circumstances) that by engaging in such service at so early a period of his life, and continuing so long, he was not only less qualified for other useful pursuits in after civil life; but owing to the depreciation of that currently in which he received his pay, and other causes, he so laid the foundation of destroying his little patrimonial means of support as to paralyze all of his best endeavors through the remainder of a long life. Among other injuries & losses, he has to state that in Gates defeat, he lost a horse, shot from under him, which cost him ten thousand pounds of James River Crop tobacco, and all his baggage to a considerable amount save only a suit of his summer clothing which he then had on. The money had been depreciated so low that it would buy nothing. Obligations for tobacco became almost the only circulating medium. To continue in service in the style which the cause of the Country & the rank which your memorialist held required he had to give his note for thirty thousand pounds of James River Crop tobacco for a horse and thirty thousand more to replenish his wardrobe. Tobacco was then estimated at one dollar per hundredweight. Immediately after peace, it rose to eight or ten dollars. Thus at the close of the war, your memorialist found himself indebted seventy thousand weight of tobacco at that enormous price with accumulated interest. This truly & literally laid the foundation of the loss of the whole of his little patrimonial estate, & injured & paralyzed all of his efforts and the labors through life.

These, however, your memorialist admits, were injuries and losses of a kind somewhat common to all, & for which he has no more right to expect remuneration than others who suffered in the same way, and are only mentioned now as one of his reasons for asking the right measure of common justice from his country which he has served with the best of his abilities, in matters which form a much more solid and substantial items of complaint.

By being jostled in his rank, & transposed from the Continental to the State line, your memorialist fell in that nondescript situation which entitled him to but few of the rights & privileges in either. When applying under one denomination, he would be told he belonged to the other -- and so vice versa. Between the two he never got one cent for the depreciation of his pay; nor any commutation or full pay for five years in lieu of half pay for life. In examining the auditor's reports, he finds a Captain John Nicholas received through the hands of S. Selden, £222..8..3 for depreciation or arrearages of pay. But on examining into the files of the Council Chamber it is found that there was another Captain John Nicholas of Dinwiddie, who it seems procured through the aid of Alexander McRae Esquire his bounty in land. From his contiguity to the said Selden and your memorialist's total want of recollection of any such transaction together with the other circumstances of difficulty arising out of the transposition between the two lines; your memorialist concludes, and is most thoroughly convinced himself that it was the other Captain Nicholas and not himself that received that sum: another he never received one cent of depreciation or commutation for all his services during almost the whole of the Revolutionary war. At any rate it does not appear that two Captains of that name, as there were, received any extra allowance of pay.

From the same records and some of the acts of the Virginia Legislature, it appears that



Colonel Richard Hanson Harrison, General Washington's secretary received December 1813 \$5,947.68 for depreciation & subsistence, also a certificate for \$3,025.42 with six percent interest from the first of January 1814.

It also appears that Colonel Edward Stevens, who only served about two years, as a Colonel: in the Continental line was allowed a certificate for \$ \_\_ a balance of full pay, and in 1783 he received a warrant for ten thousand acres of land as Brigadier to the very Brigade in which your memorialist served as a Lieutenant Colonel: to the South and received nothing but his depreciated paper pay.

General Lawson, your memorialist is informed, & believes received several allowances for similar services as well as sundry others.

But above all, and what has been the strong cause and encouragement for your memorialist coming forward and troubling your honorable body at this late period is an act which passed at the last session of 1818 in favor of Colonel William Campbell of Orange County directing the Auditor of Public Accounts to settle with him for his half pay roll commutation.

Colonel Campbell comes forward in his position upon the very grounds of transferred from the Continental to the State line, that is herein set forth, and states in another private letter to an old brother officer (herewith submitted) that Colonel John Nicholas (your memorialist) was the only officer now left in the same situation.

Your memorialist admits, that like Colonel Campbell he received after much difficulty and great trouble as late as about the year 1808, a warrant for a Captain's bounty of four thousand acres of land: -- But this land obtained at so late a period was worth little or nothing (it being actually sold for \$1500) owing to the State having ceded all its best lands long before the Congress intended for that purpose as Campbell truly [?] says.

All officers serving to the end of the war, your memorialist further states, were entitled by a posthumous act of Congress to, and actually did receive, a considerable additional bounty in lands.

Your memorialist for all his latter services as Lieutenant Colonel received not one inch of land or any other compensation of any kind he repeats, but his ordinary monthly pay, in money which had finally depreciated to about one thousand for one.

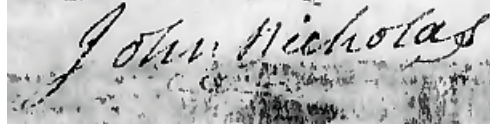
Thus so far from his promotion by the Virginia Assembly being of any real or solid benefit it deprived him of one of his best rights: -- while General Stevens, he has shown received ample and no doubt very just rewards, for the very same kind of promotion and services, in the very same department and Brigade wherein your memorialist was promoted and served.

Your memorialist has no apprehension that he shall be treated differently by a just and generous Country, to which he has rendered services, and devoted the best days of his life, than others (particularly Generals Stevens & Lawson and Colonels Harrison & Campbell) who have done the same in the best causes and to the fullest effect to such Country.

The reasons of delay in the us coming forward arising out of the acts of the Executive of the State, and violating the first conditions on which your memorialist engaged in service, and not owing to any acts or negligence of his own, will he confidently hopes & trust show, that as in the case of Colonel Campbell no lapse or limitation of time all in justice or equity to be considered a sufficient bar to his claim.

Your memorialist therefore now prays for such relief in the premises as truth, Justice & law may direct, and as others similarly situated, they have received from former just & honorable legislatures, and as in duty bound, he will ever pray etc. etc.

S/ John Nicholas



[p 129]

In Council, February 20th 1783

The Board having had under their consideration the arrangement of officers to command the State troops do approve of the same, and advise his Excellency to write to Colonel Dabney acquainting him thereof, & directing that the supernumerary officers retire on half pay.

Copy

teste

S/ Wm Robertson, CC

[p 129 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

At a Court continued & held for Madison County on Friday the 25th of October 1811, Ordered that it be certified to the Executive of this State, that it was proven to the satisfaction of this Court that Colonel William Campbell of Orange County, was a Sergeant in the latter part of the year 1775 in Captain Gregory Smith's Company of the seventh Virginia Regiment, that in the year 1776, he was appointed a Lieutenant in Captain Philip Taliaferro's Company of the six additional Regiments then to be raised; that he raised his quota of man & marched them to Williamsburg or early in the year 1777, where they were regimented & ordered to join the Continental Army to the North, in which service he advanced to the rank of a Captain, which rank in commission he retained to the close of the war.

Copy

teste

S/ Benjamin Cave, C. M. C.

[p 130 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

I certify that William Campbell of Orange County Virginia was a first Lieutenant in the Spring of the year 1777 when the first Virginia State Regiment was formed of troops raised for different purposes, viz.: some of the Companies had been raised as Marines, others I believe as Continental establishment, and a part for the particular service of the State. The said Lieutenant Campbell who had raised his quota of men in King & Queen County was annexed to the first Virginia State Regiment, commanded by Colonel George Gibson, and marched in June of the same year & joined the Army of the United States at headquarters in Pennsylvania and was promoted to the rank of Captain, in whose company I was a Lieutenant; and the said until sometime in the year 1782, when he was deranged as a supernumerary officer in consequence of the expiration of enlistments of the private soldiers. Given under my hand this 27th October 1811 in Madison County.

S/ Churchill Gibbs<sup>9</sup>

[p 131 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

At a monthly Court held for the County of Orange on Monday the 28th of October 1811 William Campbell<sup>10</sup> this day in open court made oath to the truth of the facts stated in the within certificate & that the reasons of his being annexed to the first Virginia

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<sup>9</sup> [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

<sup>10</sup> [William Campbell W4149](#)

Regiment on State establishment as he has been informed and believes, were that five companies of volunteers which had been stationed at the mouth of the Kanawha [River] on their petition to the Executive of Virginia, or the Committee of Safety were ordered to join the American Army at Head Quarters; and five companies this – Taliaferro's, Ewell's, Garnett's, Nicholas' & Crump's which had been raised for the service of the United States were with some companies of Marines, and some companies raised for the State service formed into the first Virginia Regiment on State establishment, & the aforesaid five volunteer Companies substituted in the place of the said five companies raised for the service of the United States -- that the officers of the said five companies on Continental establishment, remonstrated to the next Legislature against the proceedings, upon which a resolution was passed by the Assembly, authorizing Congress to take on Continental establishment the said first Virginia State Regiment, which Regiment he immediately marched & joined the Continental Army at headquarters. All of which are by the Court ordered to be recorded. In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy of the record, I Reynolds Chapman, clerk of the said Court, have hereunto set my hand, this 28th of October 1811

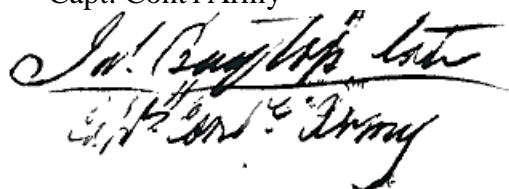
S/ Reynolds Chapman, C.O.C.

[p 132 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

I hereby certify that while the Army encamped on the White Plains in the year 1778, in the month of August and in the State of New York, I was detailed with 13 other officers on a court-martial to sit in the little village of Salem on the trial of Captain Harwood of the Maryland line & when I met at said village of Salem, I found they are detailed on the same Court Captain John Nicholas of the State line of Virginia, for the same service. -- When the Court had gotten through the trial of the said Harwood the Court was dissolved in Captain John Nicholas, Captain Woodson & myself, attempted to gain the Army which we thought then lay at the White Plains, but the Army had moved to West Point. In our route, we were obliged to pass through neutral ground, & lodged at a farmer's house in our return. In the morning the former informed us that our horses were stolen. We then concluded that the farmer had taken them to New York within a few miles to the enemy, & charged him with the deed, but got no other consolation than a declaration of his innocency [sic]. We each of us lost a horse, saddle & bridle: and I remember the horse belonging to Captain Nicholas was a very fine one, and worth \$150 in specie. And further I remember that the said Captain John Nicholas was said to be turned over from the Continental line to the State line and was promised all of the advantages that should be giving to the Continental line that he was first raised for. All this I do not know officially but this was the report at that time. Given under my hand.

Rich'd Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1819

S/ Jas. Baytop,<sup>11</sup> late  
Capt. Cont'l Army



[p 133 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

Edward Baber a respectable & independent Citizen of Buckingham County, this fourth

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<sup>11</sup> [James Baytop S37701](#)

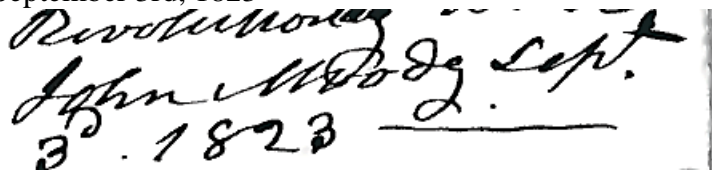
day of October 1820 came before me a justice of the peace for said County and made oath, that he enlisted about the year 1775 under John Nicholas Junior then a Lieutenant in the minute service; and afterwards again under the said Nicholas as a Captain in the Continental service. The said Nicholas raised & marched his full quota of men as a Captain to Williamsburg where we joined the first Virginia State Regiment, under the command of Colonel George Gibson, & marched to the North. This affiant further states that when he left the service on the expiration of his term of enlistment, he left the said Captain Nicholas still in service, as Captain aforesaid, and that he and the said Nicholas R. all of the same Company, that are, to his personal knowledge now living.

Given under my hand as justice of the peace the day and year above written.

S James Meredith

[p 134 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]  
I hereby certify that I was in the battle of Germantown under the command of General Wayne in the Pennsylvania line, when a very youthful looking officer was seen (when our Army was giving way on all hands & getting into confusion) rallying & returning to the charge a company of men. On General Wayne's inquiring who that was behaving in so brave and officer like manner he was told it was a young Captain Nicholas of the Virginia line, and from his size & appearance at that time, I believe it to have been Colonel John Nicholas of Buckingham County, from the time I became acquainted with him soon after the old War. Given under my hand late an officer of the Revolutionary War.

S/ John Moody  
September 3rd, 1823

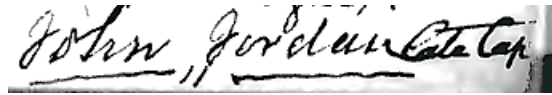
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Revolutionary John Moody Sept. 3. 1823". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 135 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]  
I hereby certify that I knew Captain John Nicholas, since Lieutenant Colonel John Nicholas, in the revolutionary army to the North. At the battle of Edge Hill, when the enemy attempted to turn General Washington's left flank at White Marsh, Colonel Morgan was sent to prevent their attempt. The enemy proved too powerful for him this corps was entirely discomfited & dispersed: at which time I was carried off the field badly wounded, when I met Captain Nicholas & his Lieutenant, Meriwether, with a reinforcement to Morgan, just entering the action; -- who with two regiments of Jersey troops, as I understood turned the fate of the day about sunset, but with the unfortunate and much lamented loss of the brave Major Morris, of Colonel Morgan's rifle Corps. The victory was considered decisive and prevented a general action if not great injury to the general cause. Captain Nicholas was generally said & understood to be one of these several other officers who were transferred against their will, from the Continental to the State line, but were induced to join the general Continental Army under a promise of being restored to all their rights.

S/ John Jordan<sup>12</sup>, late Captain

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<sup>12</sup> [John Jordan S38098](#)



Richmond December 13th 1819

[p 136 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](http://Digital Library of Virginia) ]  
Monticello Nov. 10, '19

Sir,

Your letter and a draft of a Memorial proposed to be presented to the Legislature or duly received. With respect to impressions from my any differences of political opinion whether Major or Minor, alluded to in your letter I have none. I left them all behind me on quitting Washington, where alone the state of things had till then, required some attention to them. Nor was that the lightest part of the load, I was there disburthened of. and could I permit myself to believe that with the change of circumstances a corresponding change had taken place in the minds of those who differed from me, and that I now stand in the peace & goodwill of my fellow citizens generally, it will indeed be a sweetening ingredient in the remaining dregs of life. It is not then from that source that my testimony may be scanty, but from a decaying memory, illy retaining things of recent transaction and scarcely with any distinctiveness those of 40 years back, the period to which your Memorial refers. General impressions of them remain, but details are most obliterated.

Of the transfer of your corps from the general to the State line, and the other facts in the Memorial preceding my entrance on the administration of the State government, June 2, 1779, I of course, have no knowledge: -- but public documents, as well as living witnesses, will probably supply this. In 1780, I remember your appointment to a command in the Militia, sent under General Stevens to the aid of the Carolina; and of which fact, the commission signed by myself is sufficient proof, but I have no particular recollections with respect yourself personally in that service. Of what took place during Arnold's invasion and the subsequent winner, I have more knowledge, because so much passed under my own eye, and I have the benefit of some notes to aid my memory. In a short interval of 57 hours, between our knowing they had entered James River and their actual debarkation at Westover, we could get together but a small body of Militia; my notes say, of 300 men only; chiefly from the City & its immediate vicinities. You were placed in the command of these, and ordered to proceed to the neighborhood of the enemy, not with any view to face them directly with so small a force, but to hang on their skirts and to check their march as much as could be done, to give time for the more distant militia to assemble. The enemy were not to be delayed however, and were in Richmond in 24 hours from there being formed on shore at Westover. The day before their arrival at Richmond, I had sent my family to Tuckahoe, as the Memorial states, at which place I joined them about one o'clock of that night, having attended late at Westham, to have the public stores and papers thrown across the River. You came to us at Tuckahoe the next morning and accompanied me, I think two Brittons' opposite Westham to see about the further safety of the arms and other property. Whether you stayed there to look after them, or went with me to the heights of Manchester, and returned thence two Brittons' I do not recollect. The enemy evacuated Richmond at known on the 5th of January, having remained there but 23 hours. I returned to it in the morning of the eighth day being still encamped at Westover and Berkeley and yourself and corps at the forest. The re-embark at one o'clock on the 10th. The particulars of your movements down the River, to oppose their rear landing at different points, I do not specifically recollect, but as stated in the Memorial they are so much in agreement with my general impressions, that I have no doubt of their

correctness and I know that your conduct from the first advance of the enemy, to his departure, was approved by myself and others, generally. The rendezvous of militia at Tuckahoe bridge, and your having the command of them, I think I also remember, but nothing of their subsequent movements. The Legislature had adjourned to meet at Charlottesville where, at the expiration of my second year, I declined a reelection in the belief that a military man would be more likely to render services adequate to the extreme gypsies of the times. Of the subsequent facts, therefore, stated in the Memorial I have no knowledge.

This Sir, is the sum of the information I am able to give on the subjects of your Memorial, and if it may contribute to the purposes of justice in your case, I will be happy that in bearing testimony to the truth, I shall have rendered you a just service. I returned the Memorial and the commission as requested, and pray you to except my respectful salutations.

S/ Th. Jefferson [Thomas Jefferson]



[p 142 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

Washington, December 4, 1823

Dear Sir,

To [too] many and pressing had been my duties that although it was my intention to have written you ten days since, I have never had a moment which I could apply to that object, before the present.

So long has been the interval since our revolutionary struggle, that it will not be in my power to meet distinctly, all the objects of your inquiry. What I do recollect, I will state with pleasure according to the best of my recollection.

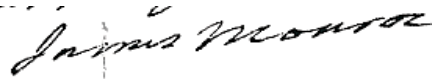
I well remember that many of the regular officers, were in consequence of different arrangements of the regiments, the expiration of terms of service, & other causes, deprived of commands, and suffered, or rather compelled to retire home as supernumeraries. These officers were not discharged from service, nor deprived of the emoluments, according to my recollection but were employed as circumstances permitted, in such commands as could be given them, and particularly of the Militia. I recollect to instances in which general officers of the regular Army had the command of Militia Corps. The first was that of General Muhlenberg, in 1780, when the State was invaded by General Leslie who landed at Norfolk -- the second, was that of General Weedon, who had a command at the siege of York. After the fall of Charlestown, where so many of our regiments were made prisoners many of our officers became supernumerary, who, I have always understood, were provided for in the same manner as if they had remained in service.

I recollect you well, as an officer in the state Regiment, but the precise circumstances attending the Regiment, I do not now remember. Some, I presume, still live and who can furnish all the details that are necessary. Having formed a very favorable opinion of your marriage and patriotism at that interesting epoch, I have always taken an interest in your welfare.

With great respect & esteem,

I am dear Sir, yours,

S/ James Monroe

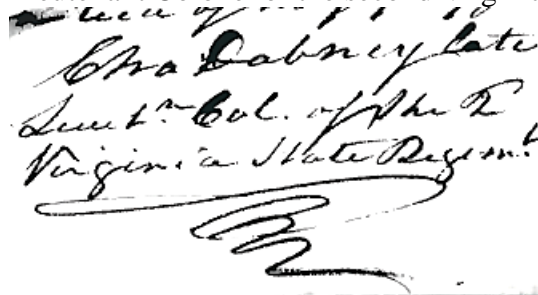


[p 143 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](#) ]

Hanover, May 21st 1823

I do certify that after the men of the second Virginia State Regiment was discharged, that I took the command of a Regiment of Militia, in the early part of the year 1780 and in the summer of said year, received orders from the Executive of Virginia to collect all the men enlisted to serve to the end of the war, of the different State Regiment, and also the Militia who were sentenced to serve six months. These troops I commanded (I mean the regular troops) until the year 1783, when they were discharged by order of the Executive; and several years after, I received the commutation in lieu of half pay for life.

S/ Chas. Dabney,<sup>13</sup> Late  
Lieutenant Colonel of the second Virginia State Regiment



*Chas Dabney late  
Lieut. Col. of the 2  
Virginia State Regiment*

[p 144]

City of Richmond January 28 1825

I Charles Ewell do hereby certify, that I was a Captain in the first Virginia State Regiment of the revolutionary Army commanded by Colonel George Gibson & that Colonel John Nicholas was also a Captain in the same. In 1780 to 2 State Regiment commanded by colonels Gibson & grant, were reduced and commanded by the first. Baron Steuben who then commanded in Virginia, corrected all officers of the Continental and State lines, who had not regulars to command to take command of Militia; Generals Muhlenberg, Woodson & others, were among the number, many took rank higher, than they hailed in the regular line; myself, a Captain only in the regulars, ranked as a Major in the said Militia.

In 1781, I was called by Governor Jefferson, to take command as town Major in Richmond; and in the same year, was appointed Commissioner of prisoners by General Lafayette. After the siege of York, the two State regiments were reduced and consolidated into one, and commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dabney; they're not being a full Colonels command layout. Many officers on that arrangement by the Board of officers, became supernumeraries, for want of commands; among whom Captain John Nicholas was one, and subject to be called again in the service at any moment, until the end of the war. No necessity arising afterwards, this call was never made that I ever heard of, till the definitive treaty of peace, when there was a final, regular and official discharge of all.

The above testimony was given by me before the committee on the Senate on yesterday the 27th instant before whom I was then called for that purpose. Given under my hand, the date aforesaid.

S/ Chas Ewell

[the above document is a copy]

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<sup>13</sup> [Charles Dabney R13624](#)

[pp 147-154]

To the Honorable the Legislature of Virginia:

The petition of John Nicholas respectfully sheweth

That your Petitioner presented a Memorial to your Honorable Bodies in 1819 on the subject of some of his services and claims as an Officer in the armies of the Revolution, which established the independence of the United States. On that Memorial a law passed the house of Delegates, granting the Memorialist his full depreciation of pay as a Lieutenant Colonel throughout the war, also Commutation for the same rank as was allowed to other officers (under same circumstances, and standing in relation to the Commander in Chief, supposed similar to those of the Memorialist) as well as to many others not thus similarly situated.

When that law went up to the Senate it was changed to a mere allowance of depreciation of pay, And that as a Captain only from the last of January 1777, the commencement of the seal or beginning of his active services till the 5th of June 1780, leaving out entirely his depreciation of pay from the said June 1780 either as a Captain or Lieutenant Colonel till the end of the year 1781; the final period of the circulation of our paper currency as well as that of the actual war, when the pay in paper was far more inadequate of the Maintenance and support of the Officers, then within the first allowed periods: and therefore the depreciation much more needed and proper to be made up also cutting off Commutation altogether, in either case.

The reason for this change is to be found in some of the very flattering expressions of acknowledgments of the petitioner's services as set forth in the law itself out of which grew some of the very unexpected and unsolicited promotions of him which strange to tell defeated his claims in the Senate, where those very flattering and generous sentiments of his services originated. Your petitioner's acceptance of the very honorable and voluntary promotion by the Legislature itself to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in a body of men raised by special act of Assembly "for the relief of the Carolinas," when Charleston was invested (for the want of regulars whose terms of enlistment for three years had in very many instances expired) it was thought by the honorable Senate operated as a virtual vacation and relinquishment of your petitioner's rank and standing in the regular line: and the termination of the services of Militia and drafts, after the siege of York as throwing him out of service, and in the Army after that time and as forfeiting to him his full rights of depreciation from the said 5th June 1780 until his half pay or commutation and additional bounty in lands as promised by the original acts for raising the voluntary Armies and as adjudged right in the House of Delegates in the aforecited act of 1819 in favor of your petitioner.

This opinion your petitioner has reason to believe was for want of knowledge of the fact that many other Officers during the latter periods of the war accepted the commands of Militia for want of regulars rather than retire as supernumeraries and remain in idleness to the end of the war which would have entitled them to their rewards; who nevertheless received all those promised rewards as if they had continued in service to the end of the war, or become supernumeraries of course for want of regular Commands; and who unquestionably were not improperly considered at least as worthy of those rewards as such supernumerary class. General Edward Stevens, your petitioner begs leave to repeat as stated in his former Memorial was Colonel Commandant of the 10th Virginia Continental Regiment. He resigned that Commission in about two years and continued nearly two at home. He was then appointed Brigadier by the assembly over the very body of men in which your petitioner was honored with the Lieutenant Colonel's command and has received all his rewards as a Brigadier as has already been and will again be shown by the documents in your petitioner's case. Colonel Campbell of the same the



regular Regiment in which your petitioner first went into service in the original circumstances of whose complaints it will be seen by their cases were precisely the same but who became a supernumerary instead of commanding drafts and such other troops as could be had has received all his rewards. Many others who commanded Militia [indecipherable word or symbol] for the want of regulars during the last periods of the war have also received therefore their full rewards. Commands and services of different kinds were never held incompatible in Military, as they often are in civil affairs. Your petitioner has now obtained from some of the most reputable and highest revolutionary sources remaining conclusive testimony and opinions on those leading points the want of which he is well informed defeated his former application.

The allowance and receipt of a small portion of his just claims, accompanied with an acknowledgment of his services will not your petitioner trusts prejudice his title to the remainder if it were just; but on all the principles of sound reasoning, law and equity will strengthen them he confidently hopes in the site of the enlightened and just Legislature of a Country to whom it has been acknowledged in the very act making such partial allowance, "he has rendered faithful essential and honorable services in the Capacities of Captain and Lieutenant Colonel as set forth.["]

The pavement of lawful and just claims in part was never thought to extinguish a right to the balance, even upon legal grounds. And a settlement made upon mistake, defective testimony or erroneous conclusions which is afterwards amended and placed in a different view is always a cause of further and more full justice in the case. The admission of the claims of others if not on circumstances and grounds stronger than your petitioner's is also an additional and good reason for a reconsideration and further justice in his particular case, which so far from yielding to others in point of hardship and strength of pretensions on the particular ground is marked by one original and striking circumstance of that peculiar kind, with which Campbell's case was distinguished and found a righteous and final adjustment.

The removal of your petitioner as well as his friend Campbell from the Continental to the state line, against their consent (as will be seen by all the documents in each of their cases[]) might have been cause of complaint on the part of the United States but surely ought to have been none on the part of this particular State. And the removal of him from the regular lines to a temporary command to the South and afterwards in this State upon particular emergencies, in which it will be seen by the papers in his case, he performed his best services (if any) ought not surely, because those services terminated with the actual war, for want of Command on the expiration of the terms and services of the drafts after the siege of York to be made a cause to deprive him of his rights. These last appointments must either have been superior in dignity to the first appointment of Captain in the regular line to vacate that and all as in the case of General Stevens acting under similar appointments to the South and at the siege of York, to entitle your petitioner to all the rights of such superior grade; or if any inferior, all not to be considered as superseding the first rank in the regular line and depriving him of any part of his rights therein.

For all these latter services particularly in Virginia, your petitioner further states he never received a single cent of common monthly pay, even in paper currency. Besides that only then circulating medium, being so depreciated to a thousand for one, as will be seen by the scale as to being no object: the several departments of Government were all entirely broken up and dispersed, and the armies had to seek subsistence even in provisions, entirely by impressments without which the glorious circumstances of the siege of York could never have been achieved, as a law of indemnity and its accompanying history in favor of General Nelson, then Governor and Commander of the Militia, passed after the end of the war, will prove. And your petitioner

begs leave here to add, that besides all that deficiency of his latter common monthly pay he has never asked or received a single cent for two valuable horses and all his baggage as shown in his former Memorial and documents, he lost in service.

Your petitioner is advised that for all those just recited claims his only remedy is before your Honorable Bodies on whose Justice he must confidently and respectfully relies.

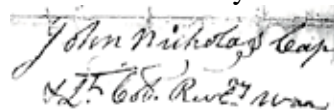
Such recognition and sanction of his claims thus bottomed on the popular approbation of his Country which alone could arise out of the reality of his service would add a high and gratifying value, he acknowledges to the other solid considerations of value attached to their recovery. There are now not more than four or five claims of the officers of the Virginia State line, your petitioner believes it will be found unsatisfied even including those from the representatives of the dead as well as those from the few survivors; and these claims are only for Commutation their depreciation and land claims being generally satisfied.

All the officers of the Continental lines of all the states your petitioner begs leave to add, received full allowances of depreciation commutation and additional land bounties according to the original laws for recruiting the revolutionary armies as well as such of their officers in the State lines. Some of both of those classes were appointed as late as 1781, and of course could have rendered service a part of one year while your petitioner & those others above mentioned entered into service in 1775 & rendered actual services both to the North & South with and in the same degree, that did those in the Continental line till the end of 1781 (over six years) and to the end of the actual war at York (as has been fully shown) who have been refused the same benefits on different grounds as will be shown.

For all which foregoing facts and reasons, your petitioner prays that his case may be reheard, that it may at least be referred to a committee and he afforded an opportunity of producing all the proofs and arguments herein referred to, and that may be enlarged upon particularly those not heretofore exhibited.

And lastly your petitioner prays that such law may pass granting him depreciation of pay from the said 5th of June 1780, till December 1781, and a half pay from the end of the revolutionary war or commutation either as a Captain or Lieutenant Colonel, as your Honorable Bodies may deem most correct and as in duty bound he will ever pray etc. etc.

S/ John Nicholas, Cap. and  
Lieut. Col. Revoly War



[p 88: a finding by the clerk of Buckingham County Virginia that John Nicholas died April 26, 1836 leaving no widow and only one child, namely Mary A. Nicholas and that John F. Lightfoot had been duly appointed administrator of the estate of John Nicholas.]

[p 116]

Dinwiddie County to wit

John Verill [Verell?]<sup>14</sup> of the aforesaid County personally appeared before me J. H. Claiborne a Justice of the Peace of the County aforesaid & made oath that he was in the service of the Country in the War between America and Great Britain in the Spring 1778 when he saw and

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<sup>14</sup> I could not find in either the HeritageQuest or footnote.com indices a veteran by this name in the state of Virginia. This may be the only evidence of this veteran's service.

knew John Nicholas of this County -- (now Colonel) in the capacity of Captain, who was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Gibson. Given under my hand this 24 day of April 1807.

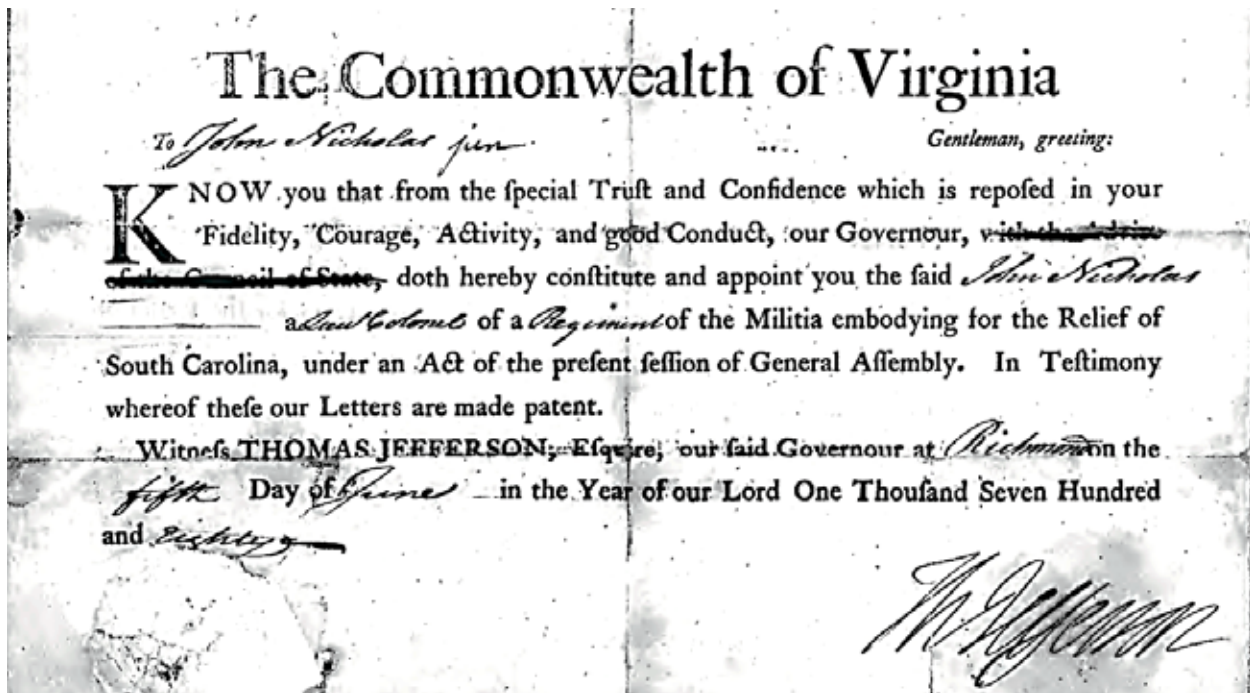
S/ J. H. Claiborne

[p 111: contains what appears to be the obituary of John Nicholas as cut out from some newspaper.

*Another gallant Revolutionary Officer gone!*  
Died, in this City, on Friday last, Col. John Nicholas, of Buckingham, in the 79th year of his age—one of the earliest and most gallant soldiers of the Revolutionary War. His remains were buried in this City with military honors on Saturday evening—all the Volunteer companies and the Public Guard turning out to pay the respect due to his memory—and a very appropriate discourse was pronounced by Bishop Moore in the Monumental Church. Col. Nicholas was a man of a strong and active mind—and has left many near relations and friends to lament his loss. He was perhaps the last surviving field officer in Virginia of the War of the Revolution. The following Biographical sketch was read by Bishop Moore on the occasion of his interment:  
"The individual, whose remains are placed before you, and whose body you will now conduct to the grave, was a soldier of the Revolution—a man, who, before you were born, was fighting the battles of his country—and who assisted in the establishment of our independence as a nation.  
"In 1775, Col. Nicholas was employed in the minute service of his country; was commissioned by the Continental Congress as an Ensign of the regular army in Jan. 1776; and was promoted to a Captain in the same year. He received the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel in June, 1780, and was put in command of the troops embodied by the Legislature of this State, for the relief of South Carolina. Immediately after having obtained the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel of the troops raised in Virginia, he repaired to the South and served under the command of Gen. Stevens, Gen. Gates, Baron de Kalb, and Gen. Green, until the end of the campaign.  
"Col. Nicholas was engaged in several actions with the British, in which he sustained himself with unquestioned bravery, and in one of which battles he was wounded; the scar of which wound he will carry to his grave.  
"Col. Nicholas was one of the few officers of the Revolution who survived. He has now paid the debt of nature, and followed to the unseen world those who went before him.  
"He was a member of one of the leading families of this State; and with his forefathers always professed an attachment to the Episcopal Church.  
"That we may all remember that we are hastening to eternity, and like rational creatures prepare for the hour of our dissolution—May God of his infinite mercy grant, for Jesus Christ sake. Amen."

[p 113 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](http://Digital Library of Virginia)—copy of Nicholas' ensign's commission.]

[p 139 and in the Buckingham County Legislative Papers found at [Digital Library of Virginia](http://Digital Library of Virginia): copy of the Lt. Col. commission of John Nicholas



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$560 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a Capt. & Col. in the Virginia is State line and militia for 2 years.]

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

I do hereby Certify that Ensign John Nicholas (as Commissioned by Congress in 1776) was in the Army with me; in the Revolutionary War, between America & Great Britain: part of the year 1775; 1776 & part of the year 1777 – after which we separated. – Given under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1807.

S/ John Crawford  
who was Lieutenant in the late Continental Army

I do hereby Certify that John Nicholas (who was commissioned by Congress Ensign in the year 1776 was in the Army with me, in the late Revolutionary War, between America and Great Britton, in the year 1780; & that he commanded, at that time, as Captain. – Given under my 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1807

Peter Epps, who was  
Lieutenant in the Continental Army, in the war between America & Great Britain

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

[Note: this file contains originals and copies of the documents contained in the veteran's federal

pension as transcribed above. I have elected not to transcribe them twice.]

I certify that Colonel John Nicholas was a Captain in the regular Service of Virginia Continental Army in October 1776.

S/ John Stokes  
December 1, 1807

I do certify that I became acquainted with Colonel John Nicholas sometime in the fall of 1779 at which time, as well as I can recollect he informed me he was on furlough & intended to recruit men for the Service.

S/ Dan'l Hylton  
Dec. 1, 1807