

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Carter Littlepage S7151

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/14/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

State of Virginia, Hanover County Sct.

On this 28th day of February 1833, personally appeared at his own house, in the County aforesaid, before me, Parke Street a Justice of the peace for the said County, John Carter Littlepage a resident of the said County as aforesaid in the State aforesaid aged eighty 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 Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That this County is the place of his nativity – That having received the first part of his education, he was placed in Secretary Nelson's office in Williamsburg to be prepared to make his way through life – That the circle in which he moved in Williamsburg he having been introduced by Colonel Byrd of Westover, was of the first order; it being Governors Bottourte [Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt] & Dunmore [John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore] and all the genteelist families in the City and neighborhood – That being at the Seat of Government, immediately preceding and at the commencement of the War of the Revolution – chance made it known to him, in the year 1775, that Lord Dunmore in his Council of State, proposed to issue his proclamation, pointing among other things, to the screening [?]¹ of the person of Patrick Henry. That his feelings having been particularly enlisted towards Mr. Henry, he being a relation, and both of them having been born in the same neighborhood, he made a forced ride of near an hundred miles in about twenty-four hours, from Williamsburg to Colonel Symes at New Castle and back again (Colonel Syme being the half-brother of Mr. Henry) to have Mr. Henry informed of the aforesaid fact which chance had made known to him; that Mr. Henry might be on his guard. – And it was this information which caused the escort which accompanied Mr. Henry part of the way to the first Congress.

That a Company of Volunteers who styled themselves minute men met at South Anna Bridge in this County, elected their Officers, to wit, Samuel Meredith, &c Captain Meredith having been an Indian warrior, and were trained to a knowledge of the military service, the company meeting from time to time for the purpose of being trained – That although the said John Carter Littlepage resided at that time in Williamsburg, upwards of sixty miles from South Anna Bridge, and he nevertheless volunteered himself a member of the said company and frequently attended the musters at South Anna Bridge – And that in this Company he marched in the year 1775, being the six months tour mentioned in Captain Thomas Price's affidavit marked

Occuring

A. That as stated by Captain Samuel Tinsley in his affidavit marked B and by Mr. Edmond Gilman in his affidavit marked C, he the said Littlepage did raise a Company of volunteer Cavalry, – and among the service rendered by him and his Company was one under General Muhlenberg [Peter Muhlenberg] in the year 1780, when he took a man by the name of Matthews who said he was a British deserter – but in a very few minutes the man showed considerable alarm and dipped his hand in his pocket and drew out some Tobacco which he attempted to put in his mouth but it was struck from his hand, and with it a very small ball in which was wrapped a letter from General Leslie, then in possession of Norfolk directed to Lord Cornwallis in Charleston, making known to Cornwallis that he Leslie agreeably to the orders of Lord Howe had taken possession of Norfolk where he was ordered to remain, on the defensive until Cornwallis to join him – This information being in our possession enabled our Army to make arrangements, to prevent the junction between Cornwallis & Leslie – And the said Littlepage declares that in going into service under General Muhlenberg he marched from this County (Hanover) through the counties of New Kent, James City, Surry, Isle of Wight, into Nansemond, where he took up said Matthews within about 12 miles of Norfolk the headquarters of Leslie – and the said Littlepage further states that he forged here with an order from General Muhlenberg to him as Captain dated November 21st 1780 and marked D.

That in 1781 when the Marquis Lafayette lay in the upper end of this County on his retreat from the British – that he the said Littlepage was very near being taken by the British Light horse at Mr. Robert Page's of Broad Neck; and that he was chased by the said Light horse as far as Hanover County Court House, and that he went there with all possible speed to the Marquis' Camp at Scotch Town to inform him of the near approach of the British – That General Nelson [Thomas Nelson] was with the Marquis; and that General Nelson immediately recommended the said Littlepage to the Marquis as a proper person to conduct him the safest route to avoid the British, and form a junction with General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] who was marching his Army from the North to join the Marquis. That he attended the Marquis and pointed out the route which he verily believes saved the Army & which he also believes was the Marquis's opinion, which was evinced by the particular attention he paid him in the City of Richmond in 1824.

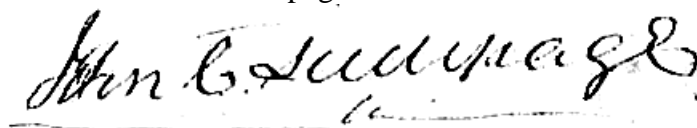
That the Commission which he held as Captain of Cavalry has either been lost or destroyed, which has been the case with a great many of his most valuable papers –

That as to his stating specifically the length of service he has actually performed it is not in his power: but he can state with confidence, that the service which he did render in the War of the Revolution, was of very considerable benefit to the United States –

That he is not able to attend the Court to make his declaration before the Court being prevented somewhat by age, but much more by disease, which has confined him almost constantly to his room, and a great part of the time actually in his bed, for the last six or seven years.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever.

S/ John C Littlepage

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Littlepage". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John C Littlepage".

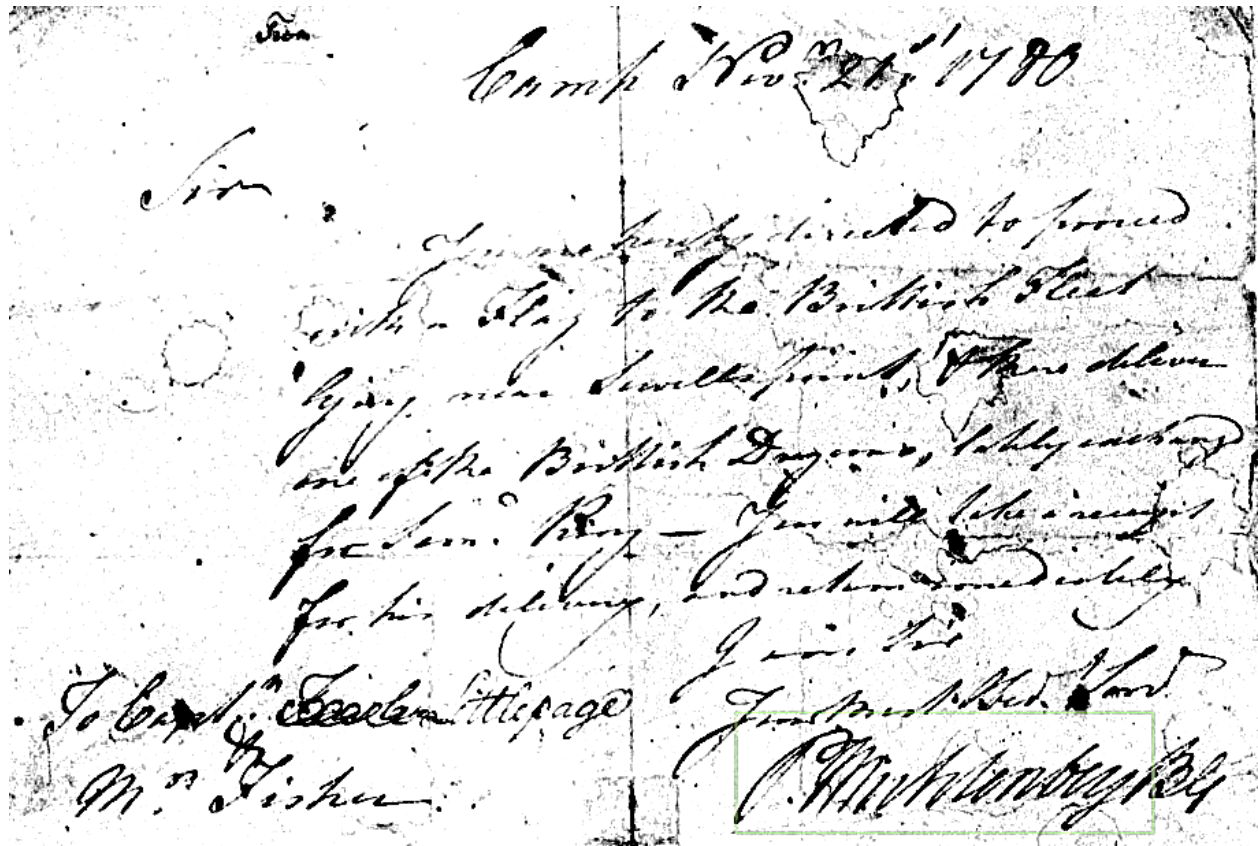
Camp November 21st, 1780

Sir,

You are hereby directed to proceed with a Flag to the British Fleet lying near Sewells Point & there deliver one of the British Dragoons, lately exchanged for Samuel King – You will take a receipt for his delivery, and return immediately.

I am Sir
Your Most Obedt Servt.
P. Muhlenberg

To Captain John C. Littlepage
&
Mr. Fisher



[p 16]

Petersburg, September 14th 1778

Sir,

I Sent to you for the Horses you have for Colonel Bland's Regiment and will be much obliged to you if you will let the Horseman that delivers you this have the Horses for I am greatly in want of them. Captain Lewis and myself is left to settle the [paper damaged and text illegible] of the Regiment and if there is [paper damaged and text illegible] thing deficient let me know and I will be Answerable.

From your [paper damaged, text missing]
Obt. Hbl Servent
S/ John White, Capt. [illegible text]
Light Dragoons

Mr. Carter Littlepage

Petersburg, September 14th 1778
 Sent to you for the Horses you have for the
 Regiment and will be glad to give you if you will
 Let the Hossman that Delivers you this find
 the Horses for I am greatly in want of them. My
 Service and my my self is left to settle the
 Affairs of the Regiment and if there is
 Thing Deficient let me know and I will
 be Answarable
 From your
 Obedt Servant
 John Littlepage
 Capt. Genl
 Light Dragoon

[p 19]

I Samuel Tinsley of the County of Hanover and State of Virginia aged 74 years do hereby
 Certify that John Carter Littlepage of said County and State commanded a volunteer Troop of
 Cavalry during the Revolutionary war and that he was on several expeditions during the said war.
 His commencement and length of service I do not recollect. Given under my hand this the 25
 day of February 1833

S/ Samuel Tinsley

Samuel Tinsley

[p 26]

Hanover County, to wit

This day personally appeared before me Charles P Goodall a Justice of the peace for the
 County aforesaid Edmund Gilman aged nearly seventy-one years; and made oath to the
 following statement, that he has been personally acquainted with John C Littlepage of this
 County from his youth, and understood and believe that the said Littlepage raised a Troop of

volunteer Horse & was commissioned a Captain, and that Robert Page of Broad Neck was one who enlisted under him. And I have always understood and believe that he was very active during the Revolutionary War.

Given under my hand this 22nd February 1833

S/ C. P. Goodall

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Virginia Hanover County Sct.

This day personally appeared before me Patrick H Price a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Price Senior aged seventy-eight years & makes the following statement. I well recollect that John Carter Littlepage of this County was one of the volunteer company under training at South Anna Bridge commanded by Colonel Samuel Meredith in the year 1775.

In the same year, there was a Regiment of volunteers which marched to Williamsburg and York Town from the County of Hanover that Tour was 6 months of which the said John C Littlepage was a volunteer.

In the year 1776 a Regiment of Minutemen were organized and marched the first of April to Hampton commanded by Colonel Samuel Meredith and Major James where we were stationed until sometime after the declaration of Independence, from thence we were ordered to Portsmouth where we remained until the end of the year. I have a faint recollection that John C Littlepage was a volunteer in that Regiment.

The Government can't require a better recommendation of Mr. Littlepage's standing in society than that of his enjoying the confidence of the Citizens of one among the largest Counties in the Commonwealth who elected him a member of the Convention to frame the Constitution under which we live. Given under my hand this 26 February 1833

S/ Tho: Price

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

[p 30]

Virginia Hanover County to wit:

I Edwin Shelton a Justice of the Peace for the said County, do hereby certify & make known, that I did this day attend at the dwelling house of John C Littlepage in the said County who I found confined to his room, and unable to go out, and thereupon the said John C Littlepage being sworn deposed & saith; That he omitted to state in his original declaration accompanying this, the precise period of service & time he served as Captain & held his commission, nor can he now do so with absolute certainty to a day. To the best of his recollection and belief he was commissioned in the year 1779 or 1780 & held his Commission until the end of the war and perform service from time to time. All the various services however that he performed he cannot now set forth. Of one thing he is confident and knows, that he held his commission as aforesaid for a longer period than twenty-four months and perform service as a Captain as above. And if he was able to go out & collect [paper damaged, text missing] could prove it by others. This he cannot do. [Paper damaged, text missing] by age and disease & believes himself justified [paper damaged, text missing] aid of his country for his revolutionary [paper damaged, text missing]

and proved: All of which I am requested to certify the original declaration of the said John C Littlepage. I accordingly do.

Given under my hand & seal as a Justice of the Peace as aforesaid this 26 day of April 1833

S/ Edwin Shelton

and this said John C Littlepage further states on oath that he was engaged and employed as a purchasing agent of Horses for the Army and rendered important services in that way & in confirmation of this he annexes to original letters of Addison Lewis² & John White to revolutionary officers and Bland's Regiment.

Witness my hand & seal this 26 day of April 1833

S/ Edwin Shelton

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$140 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & Captain for 12 months in the Virginia militia.]

² Addison Lewis' letter does appear in this file but the poor quality of the image posted online renders it illegible.