

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William DuVal S8362

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following document is much faded.]

The Declaration of William DuVal a Revolutionary officer

In the Spring of 1775 William DuVal of Henrico & others joined, as Volunteers Colo Patrick Henry, who commanded sundry Independent Volunteers companies and marched with him to take Possession of the Gun Powder which was in the Magazine in Williamsburg When we reached within Fifteen or 16 miles of Williamsburg Colo Henry Received information that Governor Dunmore had Conveyed the Powder on Board the Fowey Sloop of War on Board of which Governor Dunmore retired [8 Jun 1775]

Colo Henry halted there, & sent an Officer and some men to James Corbin[?] the Kings ~~attorney~~ Receiver General, who brought him up to Duncastle. Colo Henry obtained from him Payment for the Gun Powder which was the property of Virginia to the amount three hundred pounds, which sum he paid into the Treasury of Virginia. Then Colo Henry returned with his Troops to Hanover the Troops were about eight or nine days in Service.

Early in June 1775 Captain Thomas Prosser & William DuVal who was a Lieutenant under him in an Independent Company from Henrico with the Soldiers of that said company were ordered to march to William[?] Williamsburg with the Troops from different counties to Williamsburg for [illegible word] of the City of Williamsburg & the lower Country from the Ravages of the British. The Company continued in Service about two months.

The Covention at their July Session of 1775 passed an Ordinance to raise 16 Batallions of Minute Men. Henrico, Hanover, Louisa & New Kent[?] were to raise one Battalion, one third to enlist for three Years, one third for two years & the Remaining third for one year delegates from the Committees of the said Four Counties met at the Rocky Mills[?] in Hanover County and among other Officers appointed Wm DuVal to the Rank of a Captain in the said Battalion. In a few days William DuVal completed his Company Lieutenant Hodges and William Mosby were elected as Wm DuVals Subaltern Officers both are dead.

In the Fall of 1775 By Order of the Committee of Safty the said William DuVal & his Company marched to Hampton in Virginia to defend the Eastern part of Virginia Col Thomas Elliot of King William Commanded The Troops at Hampton The said William DuVal & his Company continued in Actual Service (untill the Spring of 1776) about Five months when they were ordered Home. In Jany 1781 William DuVal & Sundry Volunteers from the upper part of Hanover march to Richmond to assist in driving [Gen. Benedict] Arnold & his Troops from Richmond They marched to the City on the 6th of January Arnold had retreated to Charles City our Troops Encamped at the Malvern Hills in the lower part of Henrico County. the next day detachments were sent [one or two illegible words] Kent County to prevent the Depredations of the Enemy. Arnold with his Army sailed from West [?] near to Fort Nelson near Norfolk on the Portsmouth side of Elizabeth River, on the News of which the Volunteers in about Two Weeks returned to Hanover

I never resigned nor disobeyed orders. I renounce any claim to a Pension except under the act of Congress of June 1832.

[signed] William DuVal

Buckingham County Virginia towit

This day Philip DuVal Gent[?] came before me a Justice of the Peace for the said County, Aged Seventy Five years and made Oath that the said William DuVal is about Eighty years old and that he verily believes that all the Facts which are stated & signed by Wm. DuVal are true & that he was a Captain

during the Revolutionary War in the Minute Service of this State & that he is the Identical Person is now alive that served in the War of the Revolution as Capt aforesaid

Given under my hand & seal this 14th day of June 1832.

Jonathan P. Phelps

I have been intimately acquainted with Major William Duval ever since the spring of the year 1782 when I first served with him in the house of Delegates of Virginia. I have always thought him a man of strict integrity truth and honor. It is general character and I think him entitled to it.

[signed] J Marshall [John Marshall, pension application S5731]
July 23^d 1832

I have been personally acquainted with Major William Duval ever since the early part of the year 1805. his character has been known to me as far back as I can recollect; Major Duval having been long acquainted with the elder members of my family. It gives me much pleasure here to testify that from all that I have known or heard of major Duval his life has exhibited an example of integrity uprightness and benevolence which reflects honor upon the human character.

[signed] P V Daniel

July 26th 1832

Major William DuVal this 27th day of July 1832 appeared before the Court of Hustings of the City of Richmond in the Common Wealth of Virginia and produced his Declaration respecting his Services and as a Captain in the minute service when a Resident of the County of Henrico during the Revolutionary War he being a surviving Officer & claiming his Pension under the act of congress which passed on the 7th day of June 1832 entitled A supplementary to the act for the Relief of certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution which said declaration he wrote in the County of Buckingham on the 14th day of June 1832 & on the same day his Brother Philip DuVal who resides at Present in Campbell County on the last day and year above mentioned made oath to the Truth of certain Facts contained in his said Declaration before Jonathan Phelps Gentleman a Justice of Peace of County of Buckingham which is at the end of the said declaration & also the certificate of John Marshall Chief Justice of the United States under the Signature of Jonathan Phelps Esq'r dated July 23rd 1832 res Capt William DuVal. He the said William DuVal being known by the Title of Major he being the oldest Captain in the said Battalion on Maj'r Charles Dabneys being appointed a Field officer in the said Virginia Regiment he took place in the said Battallion but Major DuVal states he was [not?] called on to serve his Country as a Field Officer. The said William DuVal produced in Court the Affidavit of a respectable old Inhabitant of this City who is often afflicted with the gout taken before John L. Tate Esq'r an Alderman of the said City the 16th day of July 1832 respecting the said William DuVal being a Captain as aforesaid and respecting the Character of his said Brother Philip & also a copy of his the said William DuVal's account with the Common Wealth as a Captain of the Henrico Battalion in 1775 & 1776 signed James E. Heath Auditor of Public Accounts

Question By the Court Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. My Parents informed me that I was born in the County of King William on the 4th of September 1748.

Question 2. Have you any Record of your age, if so where is it?

Answer There was a Record of my age in my Father's Family Bible my Father died at his [illegible word, possibly "Residence"] near Richmond called Mont Comfort He died in February 1784 My Brother Claiborne DuVal qualified as the Executor at Henrico County Court which lies in this City about [illegible word] 1784. he took said Bible & in it the Register to Kentucky about the Year 1791 & he died there many years ago I know not whether it is now in Existence

Question 3. Where were you living when called into Service; where were you living where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and do you know live?

Answer. I lived in Henrico from the 1749 near Richmond & continued to live there untill 1777. We

concei[ved] that a Mill Pond belonging to my Father near my Residence called Marsfield was unwholesome. I moved to a Health[er] place in Hanover that I bought of one Davis near a place known by the Name of Crenshaws Store about 24 miles above Richmond while living there in Jan'y 1781. There was a general call on the Militia to join our Troops. Myself and others as stated marched to Richmond & from there to our main Army at Malvern Hills I think at that time Baron Steuben commanded our Troops about the Year 1781 I bought a Farm called Potter's Field of a Merchant of the name of George Pollis in the lower End of Louisa. In October 1783 I removed to my former seat near Richmond; the Mill Dam had given way, by a heavy Rain & my father believed that the Mill Pond was unhealthy & never repaired the Dam. About Jan'y 1791 I moved to this City and continued to be a Citizen of this Town until about January 1807 & have resided in Buckingham ever since. ever since I moved from this City my business has required my Presence here sometimes twice or thrice a Year.

4th Question How were you called into Service?

Answer I volunteered my Services under Patrick Henry in or about May 1775 & as Lieut. Under Capt. Thomas Prosser to Williamsburg in the Summer of 1775; was ordered by the Committee of Safety to march from my County of Henrico to Hampton in the Fall of 1775 & continued in Actual Service about Five Months, in Jan'y 1781 Volunteered as Common Soldier to join our Army which had encamped at the Malvern Hills: in Service about Two Weeks on the Retreat of Arnold to Portsmouth the volunteers were permitted to return; they marched with so much speed that in Jan'y 1781 we had neither Tents nor Blankets.

Ques 5. State the Names of the Regular officers who were with you. I have stated in my Declaration the Names of the Officers under whom I served in 1775; in 1776 my Company & myself by order of the Committee of Safety was ordered from Hampton to Williamsburg. Colo. Patrick Henry of the 1 Virginia Regiment was the Commander there; George Gibson after Mr Henry's Resignation Commanded the 1 Virg'a Regiment; I think in Jan'y 1776 he was a Maj'r or Captain in the said Regiment

6th Question did you ever receive a Commission; If so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer – I completed my Company as Captain of Minute Men in Henrico 1775 I think I carried a Certificate from the County Committee of Henrico which was [illegible word] to the Committee of Safety, which sat in Williamsburg. whether I received a Commission or not I do not recollect, or what became of it. Several young Gentlemen enlisted with me to wit Joseph Selden, Samuel Selden who were afterwards Subalterns in the Continental Service; Sam Selden lost his Arm at the Siege of Ninety Six under General Green [sic: Siege of Ninety-Six SC, 22 May – 19 June 1781 under Gen. Nathanael Greene]. Colo John Pope enlisted with me as a Sergeant; I do not believe that a single Soldier of my Minute Company is now alive.

Question 7 State the Names of the persons to whom you are known in your present Neighbourhood and can Testify as to your Character for Veracity and their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution

Answer. In my Present Neighbourhood in Buckingham none but my Brother Philip who is about Seventy Five Years old knows any of my active Services who is now living in my Neighbourhood, but as to my moral Character many Neighbours could Testify, that are High & low, Rich & Poor, but [illegible word] only Colo Sam P. Christian, Jonathan Philips & George Christian Esq'rs. could answer the 7th Question but I beg leave to refer to Old Mr Obidiah Gathright of that City, whose Affidavit is annexed, to Chief Justice Marshall, to the Honorable Andrew Stevenson who has long known me, to Peter V. Daniels Esq'r. and to all the Old Inhabitants of the City of Richmond & County of Henrico, among whom I have lived more that Fifty years from 1749 to about Jan'y. 1807, when I went to Buckingham & thereafter made it my Place of Residence to this day.

[signed] William DuVal

City of Richmond to wit

This Day Obadiah Gathright an old inhabitant of this City aged sixty six years made oath before me an alderman of the said city That Major William DuVal and his Brother Philip DuVal were raised and lived he believes many years in the County of Henrico and always respected by those who were acquainted with them. That when he (the Subscriber) was a small boy to wit in 1775 – his father Miles Gathright enlisted as a Volunteer to serve a tour of military duty under the said William DuVal then acting as Captain That he perfectly recollects that the said William DuVal came to the House of his father to warn him of the time of their intended march – and that he has frequently heard the said Miles Gathright (his father) speak of the said William DuVal as his Captain in relating the incidents of the Campaign – he also believes from the well established reputation of Philip DuVal Esq'r that all and every part of his affidavit is strictly true.

[signed 16 July 1832] O. Gathright