

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Porterfield S8965

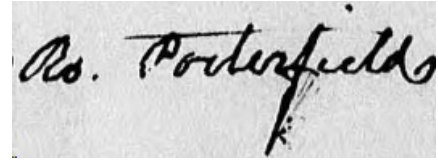
VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 July 2015.

For the purposes of obtaining the benefit of an act, entitled “an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the army of the revolution,” approved on the 15th of May 1828, I Robert Porterfield of the County of Augusta in the State of Virginia, do hereby declare that I was an officer in the continental line of the army of the revolution, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period I was a Captain in the [blank] Regiment of the Virginia line I belonged when I entered the army as a first Lieutenant on the 24th day of September 1776 to the 11th Virginia Regiment on continental establishment, but the Regiments were blended just previous to the close of the war, so that I cannot now state to what Regiment I was attached, as I was acting as aid de camp to Gen'l [William] Woodford when I was taken prisoner at Charleston S Carolina and continued a prisoner to the end of the war.

And I also declare, that I afterwards received certificates (commonly called commutation certificates) for a sum equal to the amount of five years full pay; which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress, of the 22nd of March, 1783 instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780.

Witness my hand, this 16th day of June in the year 1828.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob. Porterfield". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[The following were certified on 21 Dec 1842 as having been compiled from documents in the Executive Department at Richmond.]

Dear Sir [Gen'l. James Wood], The Gentleman who hands you this Mr. James Taylor, has reminded me that I am entitled to an additional quantity of Military lands for my services in the Continental Army; As an evidence of my claim it seem it is necessary that the Certificate of a Field Officer should be obtained of the time I entered into the service & that I continued during the war. My first commission was dated on the 26th of Sept'r. 1776 and as I well recollect you were at Winchester when I was appointed, think if probably you will recollect the fact. Therefore have to request the favour that you will give the necessary certificate.

I am very Truly Dear Sir,/ Your friend & serv't.

Rob Porterfield 23^d March 1805

The facts contained in the above Letter is correct – but cannot recollect at this time whether he had the rank of Captain or Lieutenant at the end of the war however his former Certificate will ascertain it.

9th May 1805

He drew a bounty for the war as Captain James Wood formerly B. Genl./ Continental Army

I do Certify that Robert Porterfield was appointed an officer in the Virginia Continental line in the Winter of 1775 [illegible word], and continued in service till the close of the War at which time he ranked as a Captain. Given under my hand in Kentucky June 27th 1807.

Th. Posey [Thomas Posey] late Lt. Col. in the Virginia line on Continen'l establishment.

Teste Edmd. Taylor P.C.C.

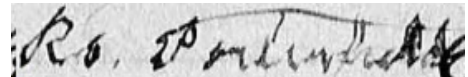
Capt. Robert Porterfield has drawn for his 7 years service Wm. Price

Ten months additional land bounty due – Sam. Coleman

I Robert Porterfield of the County of Augusta and State of Virginia, do declare and make oath, that I served as adjutant from the 1st day of May 1778 to the 1st day of June 1779, and from the 1st day of June 1779 to the surrender of Charleston South Carolina [12 May 1780] as aid de camp in the war of the revolution, that he was taken a prisoner at Charleston, and so continued until the close of the war [see endonte] – that I am advised that the act of the 7th June 1832 gives of entitles me to the pay appertaining

to my staff appointment, which I held in addition to the pay of a Captain of Infantry in the Virginia Line of the army of the Revolution, which I now receive under the act of Congress, passed 13th May 1828, that I do hereby relinquish all claim to any other pension except the one given me in the certificate of that fact under the signature and seal of S. D. Ingham Secretary of War, which certificate bears date the third day of August in the year 1829, and was numbered one hundred and thirty two (132) and that my name was placed on the pension roll of Virginia, that I am the identical person named in the pension certificate above described, that I have lost or mislaid said pension certificate but am enabled to speak of its date and number by reference to a copy of the said certificate, which is embodied into a declaration and Power of Attorney made by me during the year 1812, but which was rejected for some informality by the agent for paying pensions in Richmond Virginia.

I farther declare and make oath, that I am unable to state the time, place or manner of the loss of my original certificate. Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of December 1842.



J L Edwards esq

Staunton 8th April 1843

Commissioner of Pensions

My venerable and excellent Father in Law Gen'l Robt. Porterfield lived but a short time to enjoy his increase of Pension – so much of it as accrued from 4 Sept 1812 to 13th Feby 1843 (the day of his death) I discover goes to his children, he having left no widow – I have introduced before the County Court of Augusta evidence proving the facts required to enable them to draw it, and now enclose you a copy of the order of the Court, which I hope will be found to be sufficient.

Will you do me the favor to send me a copy of the Form of the Power of Attorney to be given by the children all of whom are of full age – with such other instructions as are necessary.

Will it be necessary for the Husband of the two female children to unite with their wives in the Power of Atty?

I hold as Exr. of Gen'l Porterfield his pension certificate, that I presume must be surrendered with the Power of Atty. when the pension is drawn.

Gen'l Porterfield by his will, if that governs, made a different disposition of his pension, but I presume the law will give it to all the children.

There is an old soldier here who is a pensioner, who has not drawn his pension for upwards of a year – will you furnish me with a form and instructions as to his case.

With great respect / Truly yours/

Wm. Kinney

NOTES:

While a prisoner, Robert Porterfield was paroled to bring his brother, Charles Porterfield [BLWt1145-450], who had been wounded at the Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780, to Charleston. Charles Porterfield died on the trip at Santee River on 10 Jan 1781.

A typed summary in the federal file adds that Robert Porterfield was commissioned 24 Sep 1776 as Lieutenant in the 11th Virginia Regiment, served later as Adjutant, then as Captain-Lieutenant (Lieutenant in command of the Colonel's company), before becoming Aide-de-Camp of General Woodford. Woodford commanded the Virginia troops that arrived in Charleston on 8 Apr 1780 as reinforcements.

The file includes a copy of Porterfield's account with the government dated 2 Jan 1783.