

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Application relating to the service of Robert Poythress Va13¹ Polley
Transcribed by John M. Poythress 5/28/11

21 Mar 1844

Resolution of Bounty Land Claim for Revolutionary War service by **Polley Poythress**, claiming to be the heiress of **Captain Robert Poythress**, Revolutionary War Soldier. (Rejected 21 Mar 1844)

This 1844 rejected claim appears to have been carefully orchestrated by counsel for the claimant **Polly Poythress**, the “heiress” of **Captain Robert Poythress**. Depositions of Micajah Webb, Rebeckah Mitchel and **Polly Poythress**, together with the petition of **Polly Poythress** herself are essentially identical even to specific wording. The deponents claim ages in the range of 70 years. Other documents in this claim file are various affidavits attesting to the signatures of deponents and even repetitive affidavits attesting to the signatures of the affidavit givers.

All deponents claim to have been “well acquainted with **Robert Poythress** who was a Captain in the Continental Service” and who enlisted several other soldiers into service. Robert Poythress is stated to have “enlisted in the service in 1776”; and, “after serving some time around Williamsburg, he marched to the South in what was termed the Southern Regiment and continued in said service until the commencement of the year 1781.” Deponent Webb adds that he served with **Captain Poythress** “under General Greene” and was in the same capacity when Poythress “died near Charleston”, not returning to Prince George County, nor does Webb “believe that the said Poythress ever got any compensation for said service.” Another deponent Rebeckah Mitchel, states that Captain Poythress had “one only son that she knows of.”

External evidence suggests that this **Robert Poythress** is Batte # 282. R. B. Batte states “282 **Robert Poythress**; he was a soldier in the Revolution. I was told by a lady of Memphis, now deceased, that **Robert Poythress** died in January 1782 in Charleston, S. C. without issue. No record was cited.”

Deponent Mitchel’s statement that **Captain Poythress** had “one only son that she knows of” contradicts Batte’s “lady of Memphis” who said he died without issue. However, it is likely Robert had some kind of heiress who would be the claimant Polly. Polly could either be the unmarried daughter of **Robert Poythress** or, to fit deponent Mitchel’s story, Polly could be the wife of **Robert Poythress**’ “one only son” (?) and still be the heiress of Robert.

¹ The originals are to be found in 3 sets of microfilm reels in the Library of Virginia: Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants, reels 1-29; Virginia Land Office Military Certificates, reels 1-38; and Revolutionary War Rejected Claims, reels 1-15.

Further external evidence supports the claim that **Robert Poythress** was indeed “recruiting” for the Southern service as claimed. Two advertisements following from the **Virginia Gazette** would suggest that Robert Poythress was indeed “recruiting”, however “unusual” his methods might have been:

1)

Prince George, Nov. 23, 1776

Contrary to my desire and express order, my servant man JAMES BULLOCK enlisted with **mr. Robert Poythress**, an officer, he says, under Captain Scott of the Georgia service; upon which I demanded my servant of the said **Poythress**, without effect. This is therefore to request of captain Scott to have my said servant returned to me without delay or further expense, or I shall certainly prosecute him according to law.

James Anderson

Virginia Gazette

Publisher: Purdie & Dixon

6 Dec 1776, p. 3, col. 1.

2)

Fredricksburg, Jan. 6, 1777

Departed from my troop of light horse, about the 1st of November last, GEORGE WEST, 5 feet high 11 inches high, very slender made, born in Hanover, has dark hair and is 18 years old. JAMES McCALLION, upwards of 6 feet high, born in New Castle, Pennsylvania, has dark hair and blue eyes, stoops in his shoulders, and is 14 years old. The said McCallion, I am informed, has enlisted under one **Robert Poythress**, who was recruiting for the Georgia service under Capt. Scott. I therefore warn the said Scott or Poythress from carrying him out of this colony and will give TWENTY DOLLARS reward to any person who will secure the said deserter and deliver him to general Lewis, or to his Excellency the Governour in Williamsburg, and TEN DOLLARS reward for securing West, on delivering him to either of the above mentioned gentlemen.

RICHARD CALL

Virginia Gazette

Publisher: Purdie

21 Feb, 1777, p. 4, c. 1.

Folio cover:

Capt. Robert Poythress

Cl^m L^d Bounty

Received June 2, 1843

Rejected (seal)

J. M^c.D.

March 21, 1844

Sub-folio cover containing various affidavits:

Rejected Claim L. B. [land bounty]

Poythress, Robert – Captain- Army

Affidavit - Wm. Weake
“ (2) - Micajah Webb
“ (3) - Rebeckah Mitchel
“ (4) - Polly Poythress
Petetion of “

1844

State of Virginia Prince George County to wit: Personally came Rebecka Mitchel formerly Liefsay of the county and state aforementioned before one John A. Phillips an acting Justice of the Commonweath of Virginia and County aforesaid, who being sworn deposes and saith, that she was well acquainted with **Robert Poythress** who was a Captain in the Continental Service in the Revolutionary War, that to her certain knowledge he enlisted a number of Soldiers some for three years & some for during the war in the year Seventeen hundred and seventy six, among those he enlisted were two of my Brothers John and James Liefsay, Benj^a Tackett, John Temple, James W. Colburn, Ruebin Rives and others who marched into service from my Father's and went to Williamsburg for some time, after which they march to the south in what was termed the Southern Regiment, and have just reason to believe said **Capt. Poythress** served during the War as they frequently heard from them by letter that said Poythress was a Citizen of Prince George County in Va., that he had one only son that she ever knew of and that he never returned as she knows of, this deponent states she is Seventy Two years of age. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th Dec., 1834

John A. Phillips, J. C.

State of Virginia

Prince George County

I, Robert Gilliam, Senr. Clerk of the County Court aforesaid in the state of Virginia do hereby certify that _____ before release the above acknowledgement (following two lines illegible).

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office this 19th day of Jan. 1835 and in the 59th year of American Independence.

Rob. Gilliam Co. Clk.

Prince George County Virginia

I, Allen Temple, a presiding justice of the _____ for the county aforesaid hereby certify that Robert Gilliam Senr. is clerk of this county and court aforesaid and that _____ be given to affix his official seal as above. Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of May, 1835.

Allen Temple (seal)

State of Virginia, Petersburg to wit: Personally came Micajah Webb of the Town aforesaid who being duly sworn before me _____ an alderman of the town aforesaid who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with **Capt. Robert Poythress** of County of Prince George & State aforesaid and that the said **Capt. Poythress** was a Captain in the Continental Service that he entered into said service in September seventeen hundred and seventy six, that said Poythress enlisted John Liefsay, James Liefsay, Thomas Harris, Burrell Womack and others, that after said Poythress served some time about Williamsburg, he marched to the south in what was termed the Southern Regiment and continued in said service until the commencement of the year seventeen hundred and eighty one, when he died, near Charleston, this deponent further states that himself was in the southern service himself under Genl. Greene and that he is seventy five years of age, that he never knew of any other person of the name of **Robert Poythress** in said service or in the State of Virginia but the above **Robert Poythress** nor does he believe said Poythress ever got any compensation for said services.

The above deponent (last 5 lines illegible).

State of Virginia

Town of Petersburg to wit

I, David Meade Bernard, Deputy _____ Clerk of the said Hustings Court of the said town do hereby certify that George W. Harrison whose name is subscribed to the within certificate is now and was at the time of his signing the service an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the said town duly appointed and qualified in _____ the same appearing from the records of said court. And I also certify that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of the said Harrison and verily believe his name as subscribed to the said Certificate to be genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and affix
the seal of said court this 9th day of May A. D. 1835.

D. M. Bernard

(seven additional lines following in another handwriting are illegible)

Robert Poythress

Weake's Deposition for Poythress

State of Virginia, Prince George County, to wit:

This day William Weake of the County and State aforesaid personally appeared before me Philip Butterworth (?) and acting Justice of this Commonwealth of Virginia and County aforesaid, who being needed _____, deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with **Captain Robert Poythress** who was a Captain in the Continental service in the Revolutionary War that he went to the south in which was called the Southern Regiment with a company of Regulars, the deponent saith that said Captain Poythress was a citizen of Prince George County and State aforesaid and that he never returned to Prince George County again from said Expedition further states that he is Seventy years of age sworn to and subscribed this 3rd of Dec^r Eighteen hundred and thirty four.

his
William X Weake
mark

P. Butterworth, (J. P.)

(remaining 7 lines at bottom of photocopy are illegible)

State of Virginia

Prince George County to wit:

I, Robert Gilliam, Senior, clerk for tempore of the County Court aforesaid, do hereby certify that Philip Butterworth before whom the foregoing affidavit appears to have been made, is and was at the time of executing of the same a Justice of the Peace, in the County aforesaid duly commissioned and qualified to the said office _____ to the Constitution _____ for the said State and that his signature is genuine as I verily believe.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 11th Day of December
1834 and in the 57th year of the Commonwealth.

Ro. Gilliam Senr Clk for tempore

State of Virginia

Prince George County to wit

I, John A. Phillips, an acting Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid do certify that Robert Gilliam Senr, whose name appears to the within certificate is Clerk Pro Tempore of the County Court of Prince George and State aforesaid given under my hand this 12th day of December, 1834.

John A. Phillips, J. P.

State of Virginia Prince George County

I, Allen Temple, presiding justice of the County Court of said county and state aforesaid do hereby certify that Robert Gilliam whose signature purporting to be his I believe to be genuine and that full faith and credit rightful be had and given to such a testation and that the same is in due form of law given under my hand and seal this 26th day of February, 1835.

Allen Temple J. C. (seal)

(remainder of this photocopied page illegible)

To the Executive of Virginia

The undersigned heir of **Robert Poythress** respectfully begs leave to present this claim for Land Bounty to the Executive of Virginia and in support thereof to deliver the following testament that your petitioner is a citizen of Prince George County and State of Virginia that she is the heiress of **Robert Poythress**

Robert Poythress who is _____ was in
the service of his country in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six in what was
called the southern Regiment that he continued in said service until his death _____

_____ at death in 1781 said Poythress was a citizen of Prince George County
_____. After serving a while around Williamsburg he went to the south and
continued in said service until 1781 and died near Charleston. Your petitioner verily
believes herself entitled to land bounty for the service of said **Robert Poythress** and is
entitled _____ to this more than _____ of others that _____ and
knowledge. She herself _____ on the _____ she therefore
believes that if _____
that if her case may be considered and that such disposition may be _____ thereof and
that Right and Justice may be done this 24th of Apr. 1835.

Polley Poythress

State of Virginia Prince George County to wit,
Personally came **Polley Poythress** of Prince George County & State aforesaid before
Allen Temple an acting Justice of the Peace for the county of Prince George and state
aforesaid who being duly sworn saith that she believes the facts stated by Wm Weake and
others concerning the Revolutionary Service of **Robert Poythress** to be true and that She
(?) knows of no other Heirs of Robert Poythress but herself in this state or any where
else. I do certify that the above has been duly proven before me witness my hand and
seal this 24th day of April 1835.

Allen Temple J. P. (seal)