

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Pryor¹ W12064

Elizabeth Q. Lake² f75VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/3/12

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 7]

State of Massachusetts, City of Boston, to wit

On this 28th day of August in the year 1856 personally appeared before the Honorable Peteg Sprague Judge of the District Court of the United States for the District of Massachusetts the City of Boston and state aforesaid, Elizabeth Q. Lake a resident of said City & State, aged fifty-six years who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the 2nd section of the act of Congress passed on the 3rd of February 1853 granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War: That she is the former widow of John Pryor, who was first a Captain, then a Major, and whose service as such was rendered from an early period of the war) she cannot state the exact date) until its final close in the Virginia Continental line. That she cannot state the number of the Regiment to which he belonged nor the exact time which he served, but she presumes the records and other papers pertaining to his service now on file in the State Department at Richmond and Washington will show these facts, and to them she respectfully refers. She further declares that she was married to the said John Pryor, her former husband, in the City of Richmond on the 2nd day of February in the year 1815 one Parson Lacy, a Methodist Minister, and that her said husband died in the said City of Richmond on or about the ___ day of ___ in the year 1823: and that her maiden name before her said marriage was Elizabeth Quarles Lake [sic, "Elizabeth Quarles Graves", see below]. She further declares that she has no private record of her marriage, to her said husband, nor of his death, nor does she know of any public record either of their marriage or of his death, but presumes there may be some public record to be found in the City of Richmond. She further declares that she subsequently intermarried with one Alva Lake in the city of Richmond aforesaid on the 10th day of May in the year 1825 and that they were married by one Parson Turner a Presbyterian minister. That her last named husband died in the Town of Brandon in the State of Vermont on the 2nd day of April in the year 1856, and that she is now a widow. She further declares that she has never before made an application for a Pension and hereby constitutes and appoints ___ of the ___ of ___ her agent and attorney to prosecute the claim and receive the certificate.

S/ Elizabeth Q Lake

¹ BLWt1750-200 Captain Lieutenant Issued Aug. 10, 1789 to Richard Platt, assignee No Papers

² Former widow

Elizabeth L Lake

[f p. 2]

Died/That this City Major John Pryor, an officer of the Revolution – A gentleman of fine understanding and fine manners – an excellent Companion, and extremely respected, and regretted by his acquaintances.

The foregoing notice of death of Major John Pryor is a true Copy from the "Richmond Inquirer" bearing date of 25th day of March 1823. Given under him my hand this 11th day of October 1856
S/ Robert L Niglesworth
Clerk Inquirer Office

[f p. 3: Mrs. Susan Lowry of Hampton Virginia, 86 years old, on December 6, 1856 gave testimony that she was intimately acquainted with Major John Pryor of the war of the Revolution; that she is the daughter of Thomas Whiting deceased of Gloucester County Virginia; that she knows of her own knowledge having become acquainted with Major Pryor in 1780 that he served as a Captain or Major in the war till it's conclusion; that he acted as aid to Major General Lord Sterling [William Alexander, Lord Stirling]; that he received a large sum of money for his services in the revolution and was granted a considerable quality of land by the state of the Virginia for his services in the revolution; that Major John Pryor married his first wife a sister of the affiant; that after the death of her sister, Major Pryor intermarried with Elizabeth Q. Graves which marriage took place in Richmond soon after the close of the last war [presumably a reference to the war of 1812, which ended in 1815]; that after the death of Major Pryor, his widow Elizabeth married Alva Lake of Richmond; that Mr. and Mrs. Lake boarded at the house of affiant in the city of Richmond for 10 years until they removed with their children to the city of Boston where Lake died according to her understanding; that at his death John Prior did not leave any lineal heirs but he left several nieces and nephews in the Counties of Charles City, James City and the City of Richmond by the name of Hankins [could be "Hawkins"]³.

Susan Lowry
]

[Facts in file: John Pryor served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental Artillery from January 13, 1777 to July 27, 1777, and as Captain-Lieutenant of Artillery from July 27, 1777, to December 31, 1782, during which period he served from July 12, 1779, to December 1780, as Aid-de-Camp to Major General Lord Sterling. Warrant number 1760 for 200 acres of bounty land was issued on August 10, 1789 on account of the services of John Pryor as Captain-Lieutenant in Colonel Harrison's [Charles Harrison's] Regiment of Artillery. The widow, whose

³ Hawkins,

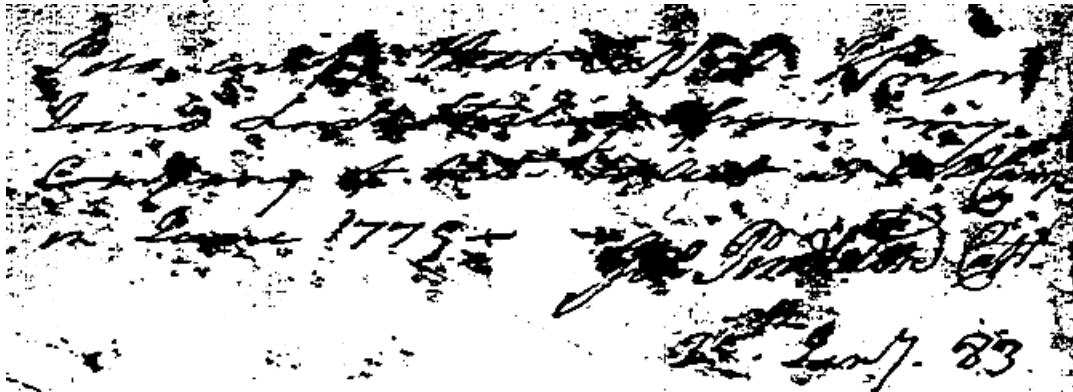
maiden name was Elizabeth Quarles Graves, was a granddaughter of Major James Quarles of King William County Virginia. The widow of John prior married on May 10, 1825 at the home of her brother-in-law Mr. Carter (Christian name not given) in Richmond Virginia to Alvin Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Lake continued to live in Richmond until about 1846 when they removed to Boston Massachusetts. Alvin Lake died April 2, 1856 at the home of his brother (not named) in Brandon Vermont where he had gone on account of ill health. Mr. and Mrs. Lake had 2 children Josephus and Mary. Josephus was living in Boston Massachusetts in 1857.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$556.10 per annum commencing February 3, 1853.]

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

I do certify that Captain J. Pryor
Joined Lord Stirling from my
company of Art.-- [Indecipherable text]
in June 1779

S/ Jas Pendleton Capt [James Pendleton
25th Jany '83



[Note: the image of the following document is compromised by having both its left and right margins cut off, but because it appears to have been an affidavit given by the veteran, I thought it worth including. If anyone has a transcript of the entire document, please let us post it here. The text or letters in brackets are my attempt to guess what the missing parts might be.]

[I] think I am correct in stating the 9th Va [Virginia]
[R]egiment was raised and organized early [in]
[the] year 1776 --no [?] in the month of March of [that]
[y]ear. I was in company with Colo. Tho Th [?]
[w]ho commanded it with several of his off[ic]ers
[w]ho had recruited their Companies in the [Counties]
[of] Goochland, Albemarle &c and were the[n] on
[the]ir way to the Eastern shore where the [?]
[re]st of the Regiment was raised
Richmond S/ J. Pryor[r]

Decr. 23rd 1822

I think I am correct in stating the Ninth Regiment was raised and organized early in the year 1776 - in the Month of March of said year I was in company with Col^o Tho^o Fleete who commanded it, with several of his Officers who had recruited their Companies in the Goodland. Abernethy and were the first way to the Eastern Shore where the rest of the Regiment was raised.

Respectfully
Decr. 23rd 1822

J. Pryor

I do certify that John Pryor was commissioned a Captain Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Artillery on Continental establishment the 13th of January 1777 & remained in the service until the end of the War.

Given under my hand this 29th day of June 1807

S/ Samuel Coleman

Late 1st Lieutenant in 1st Virginia Artillery

Samuel Coleman
Late 1st Lieut. in 1st Regt. Artillery

John Pryor has drawn 4000 acres as a Captain Lieutenant of the Artillery
S/ Wm Price Regr. July 3 1807