

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Ramblin Withers W18351 Martha A. f131SC/VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 6/1/10 rev'd 11/22/12 & 6/21/23

[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 21]

Fauquier County State & District of Virginia

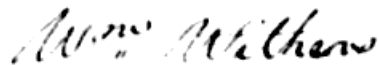
Wm. Withers of said County personally appeared in open court the same being a court of record made so by the laws of Virginia Invested with Jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount & with the powers of find & Imprisonment & holding its session at Warrington for the County of Fauquier Virginia near sixty-nine years old who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18 March 1818 & 1 May 1820. That he the said Wm Withers enlisted in a Battalion of State Troops in the year 1775 in the State of Virginia in a company commanded by Captain William Pickett (Chief Justice Marshall Lieutenant)¹ belonging to a Battalion commanded by Colonel Edward Stephens & served at Norfolk Virginia until its Reduction afterwards in 1776 I Enlisted as a [word written over and indecipherable but ends in the letters "ant"] in Captain Peter Grant's Company in the 16th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel William Grayson & served in that Company & Regiment about twelve months on Continental Establishment & until my discharge at Valley Forge in 1777 in consequence of Being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in a company Raised in Virginia for the defense of the frontiers of Virginia & Pennsylvania in the company of Captain James Winn, who resigned near Fort Pitt & the company some months after drafted into the 13th Regiment commanded by Colonel William Crawford & attached to the same. That I served in that Regiment until discharged at Fort Pitt by General Lachlan McIntosh & then Returned to Virginia & in a few months went to South Carolina & there received the appointment of Lieutenant in Captain Felix Warley's Company of Infantry commanded by Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney & in General Isaac Huger's Brigade of Infantry. That I served in that Company, Regiment & Brigade till the British left Charles Town [Charleston was vacated by the British in December 1782] & discharged by Proclamation of Congress. That during the Revolution in the Battles of Long Bridge² & Norfolk and assisted in the burial of the Brave Foredice [sic, Charles Fordyce] who fell at Long Bridge. That the evidence of my service is the affidavits of William Halett, John Dulin, Wm. Miller, Joshua Singleton, Peter Rust with papers from the Executive of Virginia hereto annexed (& to the full Belief of the She Justice) as he was the Lieutenant with Captain William Pickett in 1775 & 76.

¹ [John Marshall S5731](#), later Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court

² Battle of Great Bridge, December 9, 1775 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/751209-great-bridge.html>

In pursuance of the Act of the first day of May 1820, I William Withers do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That is to say three old Negro slaves as old as myself of little or no value who work for their victuals & clothes, I have no horse, cow, or sheep neither have I a bed to lay my bones on or house to shelter in I have a claim of \$200 to which I conceive myself entitled to though never expect to receive it & I have a part only of a disputed interest in a Judgment and detinue³ in the County Court of Fauquier for a Negro claimed by me as executor of my deceased Father which has been depending for nearly forty years the result of which is extremely doubtful & which if determined in my favor will be very small it being only the twelfth part of a Negro slave & unavailable in my life time that a certificate of the clerk of said court is hereunto annexed showing the history & conditions of that claim. That I have been in easy & independent circumstances that my property has been reduced by some advancement made as I flattered myself I could make for the Education of a son & a small portion to him & three daughters without impairing my means of support all of which have left me I have lately been subjected to an annual charge of \$300 in a suit depending in the County court of Fauquier for the pavement of which sundry articles of my property had been sold my children has left me & all married my son resides in Kentucky, two of my daughters live at a distance from me the other poor & not able to support me my occupation has been that of a farmer. Ever since I left the Tented Fields I have a permanent lameness in one of my legs I have not walked for twenty years without my crutches I have not been on horseback for the last ten I attempted to reside with one of my daughters she was poor & her circumstances not sufficient to support me gratuitously. I have never been on any pension roll whatever & my reasons for not making an earlier application was a Delicacy on the subject & my circumstances were better than they are now & my extreme inability to do any business men riding was necessary to accomplish it. I have had the misfortune to lose my wife & son [?] the only soul remaining in my once happy family & have no house wherewith to lay my head in.

S/ Wm Withers



Sworn to by William Withers in the County Court of Fauquier on the 24th day of July 1826
Test: S/ John A. W. Smith, CC

[p 23]

I Peter Rust⁴ of Loudoun County State of Virginia do swear that Lieutenant William Withers commanded a company of State Troops under the command of Brigadier General McIntosh & Colonel John Gibson of the 13th Virginia Regiment in the Western country in the fall 1778 and a large part of the year 1779, and until he became a supernumerary officer & returned late in the fall of 1779 to Fauquier County in which capacity I believe he the said Weathers remained until

³ this is a legal term meaning an action for the wrongful detention of personal property or goods

⁴ [Peter Rust W4064](#)

the general peace.

Given under my hand this 27th day of June 1821

S/ Peter Rust, Sergeant of the 13th Regiment

[p 24]

I Joshua Singleton of Frederick County to make oath that some time in the spring of the year 1778 I was applied to by the friends of William Withers to carry letters and other documents to Colonel Willi Grayson the commander of the 16th Virginia Regiment then in Pennsylvania soliciting his the said Withers' discharge from the Regiment as he had been appointed a Lieutenant by the Court of Fauquier in a Regiment of State troop then raising for the Defense of the Frontiers with great reluctance the said Grayson consented to the discharge, but observed there would be no person left in the Company fit for the charge thereof the discharge was granted by Lieutenant Colonel James Wood who at that time commanded General Scott's Brigade, Sergeant Withers returned to Virginia where he much aided in raising a Company & marched same to the Western Country where he remained in command for a length of time & until he became a supernumerary officer & thinks he afterwards went to the South & remained as such till the general peace it is my sincere hope that said Withers may be able to receive the gratitude of his country for the services he so faithfully rendered.

S/ Josiah Singleton

Sworn to and subscribed before me a justice of the peace of said County this 25 day of June 1821
S/ Benjamin O'Rear

[p 65]

Virginia Fauquier County to wit:

William Miller aged about seventy three years personally appeared before me William Horner one of the Justices assigned for the peace of said County & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that he the deponent was well acquainted with William Withers the present applicant in the service of the state of Virginia in Captain William Pickett's Company in General Edward Stephens' Brigade at the Battle of Long Bridge & Norfolk Virginia in the year 1775 & until the spring of 1776 & until the said applicant was duly discharged at Fredericksburg, with the Brigade by order of the committee of safety then sitting in Williamsburg & this deponent further saith not. -- Given under my hand in Fauquier County this 22nd day of July 1826 & in the year of the Commonwealth the 51

S/ Wm Horner

[p 65]

District of Virginia Fauquier County to wit

Wm Hughlett⁵ aged sixty nine years personally appeared before me Whiting Digges a justice of the peace for the aforesaid County & made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God that in the year 1775 & part of 1776 he the said Deponent was well acquainted with William Withers the present applicant & that the said applicant was at that time a soldier in Captain William Pickett's Company and in Colonel Edward Stephens Battalion of Virginia State Troops & at Battles of Norfolk & Long Bridge in Virginia & That he served Faithfully in said company till discharged by order of the committee of safety then sitting in Williamsburgh he the said applicant then & in the year 1781 he saw the aforesaid applicant in the State of South Carolina in

⁵ [William Hughlett S38055](#)

the habit of an officer with his uniform appaulett [sic, epaulette] & sword by his side then & under the command of Major General Greene & this Deponent believes the said applicant served in that capacity until the proclamation of peace & this Deponent further saith not.

Given under my hand in Fauquier County this 21st day of July 1826 & in the year of the Commonwealth the 51st.

S/ Whiting Digges

[p 66]

Virginia Fauquier County to wit:

John Dulin⁶ aged about seventy three years personally appeared before me William Horner one of the Justices assigned for the peace of said County and made oath on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God That he the deponent was well acquainted with William Withers the present applicant in the service of the State of Virginia and in Captain William Pickett's Company & in General Edward Stephens Brigade at the Battles of Long Bridge and Norfolk in Virginia in the year 1775 & till spring 1776 & until he the said applicant was discharged at Fredericksburg with the brigade by order of the committee of safety then sitting in Williamsburgh, deponent further sayeth not -- yet given under my hand in Fauquier County this 22nd day of July 1826 & in the year of the Commonwealth the 51

S/ Wm Horner

[p 76]

To the Honorable The Senate & house of Representatives of the U. States of America in full and free Assembly Met

The petition of William Withers Humbly Sheweth that in the year of 1775 your petitioner was a Soldier at Long Bridge & Norfolk in Virginia in opposition to the hospital measures of our Deserted [?] Governor (John Murray Earl of Dunmore) and present in the Battle at Long Bridge where the first British Blood stained the Virginia Land the Brave Fordyce who fell a victim to our Conquering armies. After obtaining an honorable Discharge & the Battalion fully discharged your said Petitioner enlisted as first Sergeant in Captain Peter Grant's Company of the 16th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel William Grayson & served in said Company & Regiment until the Captain & all the subaltern officers resigned at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania & until your said petitioner obtained an honorable Discharge from said Regiment in consequence of his promotion to the rank of a Lieutenant in a Regiment then raising in Virginia & Pennsylvania for the Defense of their frontiers. Your Petitioner raised his full quota of men & marched the same to Winchester where he received charge of twelve wagons loaded with arms soldiers clothing etc. for the Western Army which he duly delivered at Pittsburgh. Joined the Army of General L. McIntosh at Pittsburgh. Descended the River & aided in building the first Fort in that hostile [?]⁷ State of Ohio. After the expiration of two Campaigns in that Country a consolidation took place in the Western Army & your said Petitioner became a supernumerary officer & returned to Virginia as Lieutenant on half pay. This in active life became irksome [?] to him. The War at that time became very distressing in the So. States as General Nathanael Green [Nathanael Greene] & his Army passed through Virginia for the defense of the South your petitioner joined his Army as a Cadet. With his Lieutenant's Commission in his pocket your said

⁶ This is PROBABLY [John Dulin S39468](#)

⁷ *Inutile*

Petitioner made his first application known to the Brave Brigadier General Isaac Huger and gave to him a recommendation to the Governor of that State (John Matthews) for an appointment in the first Regiment of Continental Troops in the State of South Carolina which he was instantly honored with as an Ensign in Colonel C C Pinckney's Regiment. Your said petitioner was directed to proceed to Orangeburg & Camden to enlist men for the war. The Bounty for Enlistment was Negroes, taken from the Tories, with this duty your petitioner in part performed. Until Summoned to the head quarters of General N. Greene a few miles South of Bacon Bridge, after performing & assisting in that campaign & the Army in winter quarters, another arrangement took place in the South Carolina line by which your said petitioner became a Lieutenant in the said Regiment in the South Carolina Infantry Commanded by Colonel Charles C. Pinckney a few months before the peace in consequence of distressing news which I had received from my Father's family in Virginia your said petitioner applied to General Greene for a furlough to return to Virginia for the space of sixty days. His Excellency directed his just aid to furnish the Same which was in the Following words to wit
"Lieutenant William R. Withers has permission of Major General Nathanael Greene to Return to Virginia & There to Remain Until Called for to his Command in South Carolina.

Given under my hand This__ day of November 1782

S/ John Pierce, Jr.

Aide camp to Maj. Genl. Greene"

The Lieut. Commission in South Carolina I never Received, Tho Ranked & Was Mustered as a Lieut., Still held in my pocket my Lieut. [sic, lieutenant's commission] in Va. which was never made known to in a Southern Gentleman, General Huger, Colonel Pinckney and Governor Mathews Excepted.

S/ Wm R. Withers,
of 1776

This is the last time you shall be troubled on this Subject by

S/ Wm Rumblin Withers

Wm. Rumblin Withers

[p 35]

Colo. Kemper will Inform you upon the Honour of a Gentlemen, That three of the Negroes Given to my Son is now here, & Sold for the payment of my debt by Execution. (Namely, Bush [other document on p 123, states his name as Buck], Juda & Dangerfield a Child) whose is names Are particularly Mention[ed] in the deed to my Son; Reference to Major Digges Certificate & Oath in confidence please let Col. Kemper see the letter giving you This false information as I may be appraised of my Enemies here: & should I not succeed in my Claim on the Government I shall die poor, but glory in the deed which Set my beloved Country free from British Tyranny.

Your friend
S/ Wm Withers
2 Novr. 1826

Wm. Withers
2 Novr. 1826

[p 79: In a letter dated September 6, 1826, the veteran refers by name to 5 slaves he conveyed to his son (not named, but on p 123, he is named as Samuel Ashby Withers) in April 1826. He names the slaves as Bush, Isaac, Joe, Judy & Dangerfield. He describes Isaac as 'almost an Ediot' and Joe as 'small Boy.' p 101: In another document, there is a statement that Dangerfield was the child of Judy.]

[p 8: Marriage bond issued to William Withers & Joseph Blackwell on March 28, 1786 to secure the marriage of Withers to Patty Ashby; same was issued in Fauquier County Virginia.]

[Facts in file: Veteran married April 4, 1786 in Fauquier County, Virginia, Martha (Patty) Ashby; she was born and reared in Fauquier County, date of her birth not given, nor are the names of her parents stated. One Marshall Ashby is referred to in 1826 as her "next friend." William Withers (the veteran) died August 24, 1834 in Culpeper County, Tennessee, and his widow, Martha A. Withers, died September 15, 1838 in Gibson County Tennessee; at this time she was aged 68 years, 7 months and 10 days, then on a visit to her daughter, Martha Yancey, the wife of Charles L. Yancey. The following children survived their mother and were allowed the pension due her: Samuel Ashby Withers of Kentucky, Eliza T. Griffin, wife of John N. Griffin of Culpeper County, Virginia; and the above named Martha A. Yancey. Francis L. Connor was referred to in 1820 as a son-in-law of the veteran; the name of the wife of Francis L. Connor is not shown. Matthew Keen or Kean Withers was in 1819 aged sixty years and living in Culpeper County, Virginia, his relationship to the family is not stated. The birth date and parents of the veteran are not contained in the file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing December 6th, 1826 for 2 years service in the Virginia line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

[Note: This file contains a large number of letters and other documents by and relating to this veteran. Anyone interested in this veteran is strongly urged to examine the file as I have only transcribed the documents that relate to his military service or what genealogical information I found in the file.]

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

Addendum to William Ramblin Withers W18351

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 20 June 2023.

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

Warrenton Fauquier County 14 June 1826

To his Excellency The Governor of Virginia

Sir on the 18 day of February 1823 I Received from the Register of the Land office in Richmond a Military Land Warrant for $2666\frac{2}{3}$ acres Land the quantity allow'd to a Lieut in the [undeciphered] on Continental Establishment, who had served in the Revolution to the close of the war. I am now very kneedy old & infirm & little means of support. I am advis'd by my friends to apply to the Gen'l Government for [undeciphered] six years [undeciphered] of my life has been Devoted to the service of my Country, I have [undeciphered] to request assistance of your Excellency & that you will please to forward to me at this place a Certificate from the Record of the Executive proving the Rank & time which I serv'd in the war of the Revolution to Enable me to satisfie the war Department The Correctness of my application for Pention. On the 15 January 1819 I had the honour of a Certificate from the war Department proving my Rank & Service which is lost or Mislaid [undeciphered] That I cannot avail myself of that proof Should your honour see cause to favour me by sending the Desired papers it will be a means of preventing much trouble & [undeciphered] Lafayette who was personally known to [the rest undeciphered]

To his Excellency the Governor and Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Petition of Wm Withers an old and very infirm soldier of the Revolution, humbly sheweth, that in the year of — he was a soldier in Capt. Wm Picketts Company of minute men and at the battle of long bridge where the brave Foredice fell your petitioner continued with the army and went on to Norfolk in opposition to the measures of Lord Dunmore (the deserted Governor of Virginia) and remained with the army until the Battalion was discharged by order of the committee of Safety then sitting in WmsBurg which was in the May following after the Battle of long bridge your Petitioner then returned to Fauquier County soon after which he joined Col Wm. Graysons Regmt. in Capt. Peter Grants Company as a Sergant this Capt. and all the officers of said Company resigned and the charge of the same remained on your said petitioner until he was able to obtain an honourable discharge from the said Regmt in consequence of his promotion to the Lieutenancy of a Company of state troops Then raising for the defence of the frontiers of Virginia and the state of Pennsylvania. your Petitioner obtained his discharge from Lieut. Co James Wood who at that time commanded General Charles Scotts Brigade and returned to Virginia in order to avail himself of his new appointment; when he received money & instruction to raise men and report himself at Winchester all of which he did & remained in Winchester a Brigade of Waggon Loaded for the western army which your said Petitioner delivered to the quarter Master at Pittsburg, your said petitioner continued his march thro' a part of the state of Ohio until he joined the head quarters of Gen'l. McIntosh, when your said petitioner and his company served the Campaign of 1778 & a part of 1779 and until an arrangement took place in the army & he became a Supernumerary and his Company drafted into the 13th Virginia Regmt which was stationed in Ohio your petitioner returned home lame and pennyless and remained an infirm Supernumerary Officer until the general peace was made, your petitioner was told and always did beleive that at the close of the war he and his company, was to receive a land bounty according to their rank but to his surprise in the year 1786 he applied to the Auditor in Richmond (John Pendleton) for a settlement of his accounts, your petitioners pay roll was produced and the ballance settled amounting to about \$25 which your said petitioner received a certificate for, your petitioner applied for a land warrant which was refused him as being told that the state troops were never promised any land for their services, your petitioner has repeatedly applied thro' his representative for the same but to no effect, nor has he ever been

able to throw the proper light on his claim till the politeness of Mr [James E.] Heath who has stated to him the proper line to pursue, your petitioner has been at much trouble and expence to make the proof which he now has the honour to submit to your Honb'le body, as the great loss of time and the conflagration of the war Office in Washington city with the death and other casualties of the Officers has laid it out of his power to make further, Gen'l. Marshall and Mr. Geo. Pickett Sen'r of Richmond, will certify a part of the above as they were sometime in service with the petitioner and are well acquainted with his private character in full confidence of receiving that justice from your hand which the law allows I am

Wm. Withers of
Culpeper County Virg'a.

A Copy, the originals returned to Mr. Withers June 27th 1826.

Since writing the above, I have amongst some old military papers found a receipt for \$106 paid to Ensign Jeremiah Morgan [VAS751] of the 13th Va. Regmt. for the purpose which the receipt specifies which I consider as auxiliary to the above. Inclosed NO. 4 W. W.

Pittsburgh, March 14, '79

Then received of Lieut Withers one hundred and six dollars for to pay part of his company at Fort McIntosh. received p'r [undeciphered] Jer'h. Morgan

William Withers, Sergeant of Colo. Grayson's Regiment is hereby discharged from the services of the United States, he the said Withers having been promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant in a company now raising in Virginia for the defence of the frontiers. Given under my hand this * day of September 1778.

*The day of the month not remembered. W.W.

James Wood, Lieut. Colo
Commandant Gen'l. Scott's Brigade

No. 1.

Culpeper County, to wit:

This day William Withers appeared before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, and made oath that the above is the substance of his discharge, and he believes is in the identical words of the original, which has been for many years lost or misplaced so that the same is not now to be had. Given under my hand and seal this twenty-first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty one. Rich'd. J. Tutt

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Virginia albemarle County to wit

I nehemiah Hundley [R5385] of the County aforesaid & formerly a soldier in Lieut. Wm. Withers Company of the Revolutionary war do hereby make Oath that in the winter of 1779 whilst at Pittsburgh in the State of Pensylvany & by the Express Orders of Gen'l. Laughlen McIntosh who Command the troop of the western army an arrangement in the Virginia Regt. took place by which the said Liut Withers became a Supernumerary Officer & his Company placed in the 13 Virginia Regt. where my self & the Others of said Compy Remained & served the full Length of the Stipilated Time of Our Enlistment which in all Exceeded Two years. Said Lieut. Withers was the Only officer is said Company the Capt. Resigned & the Ensign Broke & sent home in Disgrace Lt. Withers Returned to Virginia & I believe remaind a supernumerary officer untill the Gen'l peace. Sworn to before me a Justice of the peace in & for the aforesaid County this 19th day of Jany One Thousand Eight hundred & Twenty Nine Jno R Jones

H. of Rep's 14th of April 1830

Sir, Since I saw you this morning I have made the most diligent examination after your papers, but I can neither find, nor hear of any in addition to those which I showed to you this morning. Nor is there any

evidence on the Public file to establish your rank as Lieut. in the Army. The Land bounty granted to you by Virginia appears to be for three years service as Lieut & not for the war. Your original commutation, your U. States Land bounty, & the allowance under the act of 1828, are all made to you as an Ensign, not in the Virginia, but in the South Carolina line. If you can show that you were Lieut. to the end of the war in either the Virginia, or South Carolina line of the army, the redress you seek can be readily obtained. Without distinct evidence to prove this nothing can be done for you. The certificate of the Govr. of Virginia, that your land was granted for your service to the end of the war as Lieut. cannot be found. But if it could, it would avail nothing – because the records in the war office say, that this land was allowed to you for three years service. Upon the most careful examination my advice to you is, to let the case alone, your own fixed impression of the justice of the case, and your own representations in relation to it, are of no avail. It is on the evidence adduced which the Committee must act – and as I am assured by the Committee, that the evidence in your case is not such as to justify a favorable report, and as no means exist here to add to that evidence, I should do you an unkindness to flatter you with the hope of a result favorable to you. I am Sir very respectfully & faithfully your fellow citizen.

John Taliaferro

Mr. John S. Barbour recollects the Certificate of our Gov'r. which states the $2666\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land was granted to you as a Lieut. for the war. He thinks that certificate is now in the war office. But it avails nothing, because the records in that same office show that the said land was in consideration of three years service. The public record is of more force & validity than the certificate of any one. At all events it is so regarded.

1831 Mar 3. Rejected