

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Nicholas Ruxton Moore W26275
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Sarah Moore MD

To the Honorable,

The Senate, and House of Representatives,/ of the United States.

The Petition of the undersigned Sarah Moore, of the City of Baltimore, aged 72 years, most Respectfully represents: That she is the widow of the late Nicholas Ruxton Moore, who was a Lieutenant, and Captain of Cavalry in the Maryland troops composing a part of the Army of the United States, in the War of the Revolution; and was in the actual service during a period of several years: that she was married to him, the said Nicholas Ruxton Moore on the 25th day of December in the year seventeen hundred and ninety three: That her said Husband died on the 11th day of October 1816; And that she has not married again, since his death, but still remains his widow.

Your Petitioner begs leave to refer you to the accompanying documents, as fully proving the above recited facts; Her Husband entered the service at a very early period of the war of the Revolution and continued therein until near the close thereof; "He was an Officer of great merit, and personal bravery"; And his Widow, your Petitioner, now in her old age, and in very needy circumstances, Most Respectfully prays to be placed on the Pension Roll, under the provisions of the Act of Congress passed July [illegible; 7] 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and Pensions to certain widows"; a liberal construction of which Act, she believes would fully embrace her case. And, as in duty bound, she will ever pray.

Baltimore Novem'r 1839

Sarah Moore

Land Office, Annapolis/ July, 18th 1838

I hereby Certify, that by a Return or Roll of an Artillery Company of Baltimore Town, of the revolution, remaining in this office, That the name of Nicholas ~~Ruxton~~ Moore, appears upon said roll to have been appointed 1st Lieutenant, in Captain Nath'l Smiths [Nathaniel Smith] Company, on the 26th day of January, 1776, and in the Margin of remarks on said roll, there is the following Entry – "The above is a true list of the men under my Command, taken Baltimore 3rd April 1777./ Nath'l Smith"

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r Land Off. U. S. Md.

Land Office, Annapolis, 18th July, 1838

I hereby Certify, that by a record, containing abstracts of Continental accounts of the revolution, remaining in this Office, That upon a list in said record headed as follows, "A List of Accounts paid by the State of Maryland to Militia in service of the United Stated," That the name of Capt'n Nicholas R. Moore, appears upon said list, to have received £464.7.6 (Specie) on the 9th day of October, 1781.

George G. Brewer/ Reg'r Land Off. U. S. Md.

State of Maryland

City of Annapolis S.S.

I do hereby certify from the proceedings of the Governor and Council of Maryland on Record at my office, that on the 26th day of July 1780 a commission was issued to Nicholas Ruxton Moore appointed a Captain of the Volunteer Troop of Light Horse raised in Baltimore Town according to Act of Assembly passed June Session 1780.

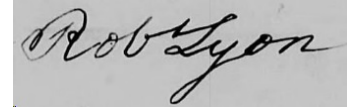
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and affixed my seal of office on this fifteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine

Cornelius McLean/ Secretary of State of Md

Baltimore September 19 1838

I do hereby certify that I was acquainted with Nicholas Ruxton Moore in the War of the Revolution and that to the best of my recollection, he was in the actual Service at least three years – and I am certain he served as a Captain of Cavalry at least two years of that period in said war.

[Robert Lyon]



Baltimore County. Nov 30th 1838

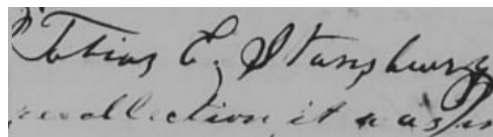
I hereby certify to the best of my recollection in the year of 1776 David Plunket [David Plunkett] of Baltimore was commissioned a captian and Nicholas R. Moore was commissioned a lieutenant with orders to raise a company of cavalry for the service of the United States – whether their commissions were issued by the authority of Congress or the state of Maryland, I am uncertain but this I know – they were considered as belonging to the regular army. George Smith of Baltimore a son of John Smith enlisted in this company. George Smith was brother of my first wife and also a brother Job Smith who was for several years the associate judge of the criminal court of Baltimore County. The said George Smith died of a fever some days previous to the company's setting out to join the army under Genl. Washington, and was burried with military honors by the company.

After the British obtained possession of Philadelphia [26 Sep 1777] Captain David Plunket was taken prisoner by a party of British and carried prisoner into the British army at Philadelphia. The command of the company then devolved on Captain Nicholas R. Moore the whole being under the command of Genl. [Kazimierz] Pulaski. At the battle of Germantown on the 1st of October 1777 [sic: 4 Oct 1777] early in the morning Pulaski ordered Capt Moore to select out of his company 12 men and follow him which he did. On Chesnut hill [sic: Chestnut Hill] or near the old York road but I rather think on Chesnut hill there was a small British encampment of about 100 men. On gaining the top of the eminence they found these men all drawn up in a line with their peices leveled – on perceiving which Capt Moore wheeled his lead and shouted, come on my brave lads and charge; which so terrified the British that they left their peices and all made their escape with the exception of one man, who jumped behind a tree and leveled his peice at Capt Moore who was then making a dash at him. Capt Moore hailed him and told that if surrendered he should have quarter, but if he fired he should be put to death; upon this he instantly clubbed his musket and surrendered. The only injury sustained was, one of Moore's men was wounded and a bullet passed through both ears of Pulaski's horse who by tossing his head sprinkled Pulaski very freely with the blood. Pulaski order the encampment to be burnt. In Moore's little band there was a man belonging to a regiment of New England cavalry. His colonel's name was I think Moire or Moiris. In the encampment stood a small cart and geers. This New England soldier requested permission to put his horse in the cart in order to secure some of the officers baggage previous to the encampments being burnt. To this request Capt Moore consented on condition that he should bring the prisoner, the wounded man, and the musket safe into camp: fire was then set to the encampment and the tents and all therein were consumed. This booty the soldier claimed as his own and afterwards sold shirts and other articles of clothing for his own benefit in the camp. The musket was of large size of English tower make. This gun Capt Moore presented to me, the stock and lock of which is still in my possession. The barrel of the gun I inscribed[?], new stocked and locked and handsomely mounted, and was used by me for several years as my favorite fowling peice; with the intention of presenting it to Capt Moore's son when became of age. I lent the gun to Daniel Wells who by some means lost it. Capt Plunket afterwards made his escape from the British in the garb of a quaker girl and, I think not long afterwards resigned his commission [13 March 1779; F. B. Heitman *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution*] and entered into the mercantile business with David Stewart of Baltimore in whose employ I sailed for several years. How long after the battle of Germantown Capt Moore remained in the service I am uncertain, but this I recollect perfectly that at the time that the British General Phillips was harrassing Genl. Lafayette in Virginia [William Phillips, May 1781] Capt Moore Marched to his aid with a company of cavalry, many of these

were volunteers from the city of Baltimore and gentlemen of the first standing. General of these I recollect, among others were Mr Cook a lawyer, Mr Thomas Russel Mr Starling and Mr Christopher Hughes father of Mr Hughes the present Charge De Affaires at the court of Sweden, and many others I could name but I think unnecessary. I was at the seige of Yorktown in Virginia where Gen Cornwallis was captured [19 Oct 1781] and entered the town after its surrender but whether Capt. Moore was there or not I am uncertain. Capt Moores incle [uncle?] Nicholas R. Gay left him a handsome estate in the city of Baltimore which was sold and sacrificed for the defense of his country.

Col. Moore commanded a regiment of cavalry in the late war at the battle of N. Point [North Point MD, 12 Sep 1814] where the British Genl. Ross was killed and under whom my eldest son Tobias seved as a captain of a company of cavalry.

Tobias E. Stansbury [S14604]

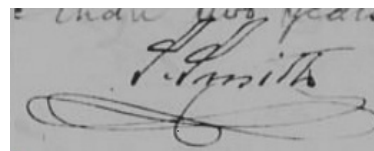
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tobias E. Stansbury". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

P.S. To the best of my recollection, it was in the year 1781 that Capt Moore joined Genl. Layfayette with his company

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "T. E. Stansbury". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

Baltimore Dec 31 1838

I do hereby certify that I was personally and intimately acquainted with the late Col Nicholas Ruxton Moore, who to my certain knowledge was a Captain of Cavalry, in the service of the United States, in the war of the Revolution. He was an officer of great merit, and personal bravery. At one time, in Virginia, he was compleatly surrounded, but refused to surrender, and with his company dashed through the British force, and escaped unhurt. I believe he was at least three years in the actual service of the United States in the War of the Revolution; And I am certain he was more than two years in the said service [Samuel Smith W9303]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Smith". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

NOTE:

As he often did, the Commissioner of Pensions, James L. Edwards, (mis) interpreted the law as requiring continuous service for a minimum period. He therefore rejected Sarah Moore's claim to a pension, because her husband apparently served the time in interrupted periods. Congress overruled the Pension Commissioner on 16 July 1842.

The file includes a certificate of the marriage of Nicholas R. Moore and Sarah Kelso on 25 Dec 1793 in the First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore.