

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Purvis W3039

Jane

f50VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/11/12

[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.]

Bath County Kentucky Sct.

William Purvis a Citizen of the State of Kentucky states that he was a private soldier in the Continental Service and continued in the revolutionary Army for 3 years. That he was enlisted in Culpeper County, at the Court House Virginia on or about the 10th day of August 1776 for three years in the Continental Army by Ensign Purvis as a private in Captain Richard Taylor's Company of the 1st Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker – That he was in the Battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] & Brandywine [September 11, 1777] (and saw other service as per Instance [sic] at Stony Point [July 16, 1779][]). That after serving out his time of three years he was honorably discharged by Colonel Parker to the best of his recollection but it might have been some other Officer – This discharge was given at Smith Clovis in the State of New York as he supposes but has been lost or burnt in the chest of this affiant which got Burnt by Accident that he got a land Warrant at Richmond Virginia for his Continental services which he supposes may afford some proof of the truth of his statement. That he has no evidence of his services other than what is here given unless he can prove the evidence of Captain Richard Taylor which he fears he will be unable to do – That he is now in indigent circumstances and from Age & infirmity & Rheumatic afflictions unable to gain a support by labor that his sons are married and left him except two small ones unable to work and his Wife has been a cripple for many years (say 14 years) and consequence of his reduced and indigent Circumstances he asked for the pension allowed him by law as a Revolutionary Soldier – That he is not able to ride any distance to search for Officers whom he served under or men who he served with –

Nathaniel Foster Esquire States that he has known the above William Purvis for about 20 years and believes him to be as honest a man as any in Kentucky.

That said Purvis is an old infirm man His wife a cripple for the last 14 years and his sons who are large enough to work are married and have left him that in the opinion of this Affiant he is in indigent Circumstances and unable from Bodily infirmity to obtain a living by personal labor & needs a pension to ensure a decent support –

State of Kentucky Bath Circuit: Sct. Ordered that it be certified to the Secretary at War that the preceding Examination of William Purvis and Nathaniel Foster Esquire was taken on oath in open court and that it does appear to the satisfaction of this Court by said Examination that the said applicant William Purvis was during the revolutionary War and enlisted soldier and that he served such as in said Examination is stated and that he said William Purvis is in such needy and Indigent Circumstances as to require the aid of his country provided by the Act of Congress in such cases provided –

The foregoing statement sworn to in open court and form of law.

In Testimony Whereof I hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office this 17th

day of June 1818 & in the 27th year of the Commonwealth
Att Thomas Triplett, Clerk

Kentucky Bath Circuit Court September Term 1820

William Purvis a Revolutionary pensioner produced in Open Court a Schedule of his Estate and made oath to the same agreeably to law in such cases made and provided; Whereupon the same was examined and the court being satisfied there with ordered it to be recorded in the words and figures following to wit:

"State of Kentucky Bath County: SS: On this 18th of September 1820 Personally appeared in Open Court the Bath Circuit Court the same being a Court of Record, William Purvis aged sixty-three years resident in Fleming County, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, in the first Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker and in Captain Richard Taylor's Company to date of the Original declaration bears date on the 17th of June 1818 and No. Of Pension Certificate 9111, And I 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 – 197 acres of third-rate land the title of which is disputed and suit brought the improvements on the land is worth \$800 & which it probably will be paid for if evicted

1 Horse Worth	25.00
6 head of Cattle Worth	52.00
21 Head of Hogs Worth	40.00

My Occupation a farmer and I am unable to procure a living in that way, my wife is fifty years of age and is crippled; I have also three children living with me, one daughter named Lusay about 17 years old, one son about 12 years old and one about 9 years old" And it is further ordered by the Court that a true copy of the same be certified to the War Department.

[f p. 32: On March 1, 1823 in Fleming County Kentucky, the veteran filed another application under the 1818 and 1820 acts to which he attached an amended schedule showing that his property consisted at that time of the following:

1 Grey mare	\$25.00
7 Head sheep	7
1 Cow & Calf	7.50
1 Steer	7.50
[total value]	\$46.50

This document indicates that the veteran signed with his mark. He states that he has lost the land listed in his 1820 schedule. That his wife Jane aged 55 years or thereabouts was crippled in the left hip joint by fall from a horse in 1801; that the children are listed in his 1820 schedule have all left him except one son 15 named Matthew Purvis who is 'weakly' and unable to contribute much to the support of the family.]

[f p. 42: On August 11, 1826 in Fleming County Kentucky, the veteran filed yet another application for a pension. In this document he states his age as about 68. His schedule of property is substantially identical to the one he filed with his application in 1823. In this document he states his wife Jane is aged about 56 years being crippled about 24 years ago from a fall from a horse; that a son Matthew about 16 years old lives with them and is afflicted with "an inward complaint"]

[f p. 12: On September 29, 1843 in Fleming County Kentucky, Jane Purvis, 70, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Purvis, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in Culpeper County Virginia July 19, 1792; that her husband died December 4th, 1835; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 17: certificate of the clerk of Culpeper County Virginia indicating that records in his office show that William Purvis and Jane Lewis Corbin Burke were married July 19, 1792.]

[f p. 20: On September 6, 1854 in Bath County Kentucky, Thomas Purvis Senior, administrator of the estate of Mrs. Jane Purvis widow of William Purvis executed a power of attorney by which he in power to his attorney to seek the balance of the pension due his mother up to the date of her death on February 22, 1851 stating that his mother was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum when she should have received \$96 per annum.

Thomas Purvis]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing June 17, 1818, for service as a private for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848.]

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

This is to Certify that William Purvis Soldier in the 1st Virginia Regiment has faithfully served the full term of his Enlistment in the Army of the United States of America which commenced on the 1st day of July 1776 & ended on the 1st day of August 1779 – being 3 years service. Given under my hand this 1st day of August A.D. 1779

S/ P. Muhlenberg, B G

[A copy]