

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Whitaker¹ W3905 Elizabeth Whitaker f32VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/6/11 supp'd 5/8/15

[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' 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.]

State of Virginia City of Richmond: SS

On this 26 day of November 1845, personally appeared in open Court before Judge R. I. Nicholas, a Judge of the Superior Court of Law for the County of Henrico and State of Virginia Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker a resident of said City aged sixty-eight or nine the 2nd day of August 1845, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7th, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay and Pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of William Whitaker (who was an officer in the revolutionary war), and was too young to have any personal knowledge of the revolutionary services of her husband William Whitaker, but understood from him and others that he was a Lieutenant in Colonel Charles Harrison's Regiment of Artillery and served to the end of the war – She cannot say how long he was in service but is sure he must have been at least two years. He received his military land bounty warrant from the State of Virginia and sold it, as I understood, after our marriage. I know I made no relinquishment of my dower right and have often tried to ascertain who held the land that I might assert my right. My husband was a member of the Cincinnati Society and at the time of his death in October 1807 was a pensioner of that society at \$150 per annum. The pension was continued to me as his widow at the same rate, until my son the late Anthony S. Whitaker came of age, when it was reduced to \$100 and has remained at that rate ever since. I was married to William Whitaker in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the house of Mr. John Travis, by the Reverend John Bracken who was a professor of William and Mary College. She was married before she was fifteen years old. The marriage took place on the last day of June and she was fifteen on the second day of August following. She cannot say positively whether it was in the year 1791 or 1792. She knows, she was not fifteen years old as that was the reason her Guardian and brother-in-law Robert H. Waller objected to the match, and said if she was married it must not be in his house, and this caused the ceremony to take place at Mr. John Travis' – She went into Court on Monday and chose Mr. Whitaker as her Guardian and was married the following Saturday – Mr. Waller was the clerk of the Court and would receive no fee for issuing the marriage license. Mr. Samuel Shields now clerk of York County was a deputy in the Clerk's Office and would no doubt recollect the year. She has no doubt the marriage bond was filed and would show the year. She knows she is now 68 or 69 years old – She is not certain which – if the latter, the marriage must have taken place in 1791 yet it may have been in 1792. She has no family record of the marriage

¹ BLWt2442-200 –Lieut. Issued Dec. 14, 1795 to Peter B. Cram, assignee, no papers

and the births of her children, who are now all dead, she had one, but it has been lost a long time since, it was a small Bible – but got lost in moving about from place to place – she is well known by a great many persons in Richmond who know her identity as the widow of William Whitaker. He died in 1807 and she has remained his widow ever since – She has never applied for a pension from the United States, because she never knew that she was entitled to one – no one ever mentioned the subject to me. She has made repeated efforts to recover her interest in the military land of her husband but never heard it suggested that she was entitled to a pension from the Government. She was well acquainted with Judge Marshall, Mr. Call and Doctor McClury who were intimate with her husband and – Colonel Carrington [probably Edward Carrington] was one of his best friends. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Camm – her father the Reverend John Camm² was president of William and Mary College at the commencement of the Revolution. She was not married prior to her husband's last service but was married previous to the first day of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated.

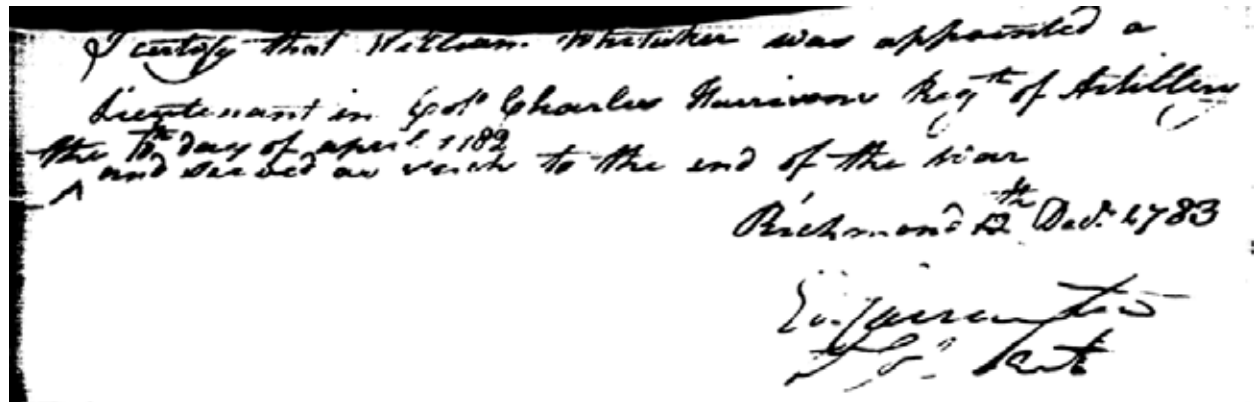
S/ Eliz Whitaker



[p 8: copy of the marriage bond dated June 26 1792 issued to William Whitaker and Wilson Allen to secure the marriage of William Whitaker to Elizabeth Camm (Spinster) in the County of James City.]

[From the Virginia State Library website:

http://1val.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/5PI8IHEH3J851XA9EA1UXF8EYKY5VXS7YC4XEY3AU8JRHVGLR-21990?func=full-set-set&set_number=003513&set_entry=000001&format=999



I certify that William Whitaker was appointed a Lieutenant in Genl Charles Harrison Reg^{ts} of Artillery the 10th day of April 1782 and served on such to the end of the war
Richmond Va Dec: 1783
J. S. Kent

[fn p. 11: copy]

I do certify that Mr. William Whitaker is entitled to the portion of land allowed a Lieutenant of the Continental line who has served to the end of the war

² There is an excellent short biography of the Rev. John Camm posted at http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Camm_John_bap_1717-1779

S/ Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Meriwether

A Warrant for 2666 2/3 acres issued to Mr. William Whitaker 18th of December 1783 No. 1221]

I certify that William Whitaker was appointed a Lieutenant in Colonel Charles Harrison's Regiment of Artillery the 10th day of April 1782 and served as such to the end of the war.

Richmond 12th of December 1783

S/ E. Carrington

Lt. Co. Art.

[p 13]

Richmond Virginia November 17, 1845

I was well acquainted with Lieutenant Whitaker he served in the same company of artillery belonging to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Harrison with me the two last campaigns under General N. Green [Nathanael Greene] in the South he joined his Corps about the last of July 1781 and remained in service to the end of the war he went to the South with the Pennsylvania line commanded by General Wayne and fought a duel with a Captain Blu??? of that line on ?? he left a widow he died young in this place many years ago.

S/ Francis Brooke³

I can add that Lieutenant Whitaker was a member of this State's Society of the Cincinnati of which I was the [indecipherable]

S/ Francis Brooke



[p 12]

Treasury Department

Richmond Virginia November 26 1845

I do hereby certify that Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker is a pensioner on the fund of the Cincinnati Society, placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia, by an act of the Legislature passed the 15th of February 1814. That to my knowledge she has received said pension at this office, from the State Treasurer, regularly in January and July in each year, since 1828. I am also personally well acquainted with Mrs. Whitaker, and know her to be a lady of great respectability and a member of high standing in the Episcopal Church, of which she has long been a communicant.

S/ F. M. Lawson, Treas^r. Comit

[p 22: On November 26, in 1845 in Richmond Virginia, Mrs. Lucy H Taylor widow of the late Thomas Taylor of said city gave testimony that she is well acquainted with Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker the widow of William Whitaker, a revolutionary war officer who died in 1807; that said William Whitaker was the nephew of Anthony Singleton who was the father of this affiant; that she has heard William Whitaker's mother, Rachel Whitaker, the sister of affiant's father state that her son ran away from home to join the Army.]

³ [Francis Brooke S8093](#)

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$400 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836 for her husband service as a Lieutenant in the Artillery of the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Henrico County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of Elizabeth Whitaker of the County of Henrico respectfully sheweth –

That your petitioner is the widow of William Whitaker, who was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War in the Continental Army & served as such during the whole war; that he was a member of the Cincinnati Society, which was established by the officers of the Army of the Revolution shortly after the termination of the War.

Your petitioner further states that her said husband received from the funds of the said society an annuity or pension of one hundred fifty dollars ~~per annum~~ payable half yearly; that after the death of her husband she was permitted to recover, as his widow, for some time, the same pension allowed him, during his life: that she had two children, one son and a daughter, – that when her son came of age, in consequence of the believe that he was able to aid in her support her pension was reduced to one hundred dollars a year & has continued at that amount ever since. She further states that her son & daughter are now both dead, leaving no property and that she has no means, or property of any kind for her support but the said annuity of one hundred dollars; – that she is now in the 69th year of her age & unable to maintain herself, and that the said annuity is in adequate to her comfortable support & maintenance your petitioner has been informed that Mrs. Mary Nestell⁴ & herself are the only persons now chargeable as pensioners upon the Cincinnati fund & that the Legislature at its last session from a sense of equity & justice inquiries the pension of Mrs. Nestell which was also one hundred dollars to the sum of one hundred fifty dollars. She therefore prays that your Honorable body will do equal justice to her & cause her annuity to be increased to the same sum, that being the amount received formerly by her husband & subsequently by herself until it was improperly reduced as aforesaid & that the same may be made payable as heretofore out of the funds of the Cincinnati Society. And as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c &c

November 26, 1845

S/ Elizabeth Whitaker



[Reverse]

Petition of Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker for an increase of pension out of the funds of the Cincinnati Society
McRae
December 618 45
Referred to Cts J [??]

⁴ [Peter Nestell VAS1890](#)