

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Porter W5159

Elizabeth

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/6/12

[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.]

Virginia

At a Court held for Norfolk County the 24th day of May 1838

Elizabeth Porter in order to obtain the benefit of the 3rd section of the act of Congress of the 4th July 1836 made the following declaration in open Court, which is in these words

"State of Virginia. On this 24th day of May 1838 personally appeared before the Court of Norfolk County, Elizabeth Porter, a resident of the Town of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk in the State of Virginia, age 74 years on the 14 day of February last, who being first duly sworn in open Court, 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 4 1836: That she is the widow of William Porter who was a Lieutenant in the 12th Virginia Regiment, that the said William Porter resided in the Town of Portsmouth in the County and State aforesaid when he entered the service. She further declares that she was married to the said William Porter on the 31st [could be 21st] day of October 1782, and that her husband the aforesaid William Porter died on the 20th day of June 1807 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before the Court of Norfolk County.

S/ Elizabeth Porter¹

[Arthur Emmerson Senior gave testimony that he was well acquainted with the veteran and his wife from 1789 in the town of Portsmouth; that they lived together as man and wife and had several children; that Elizabeth was the daughter of Isaac Luke; that William Porter died in 1807; and that the Elizabeth Porter has remained a widow ever since.]

[f p. 5: copy of the last will and testament of William Porter in which he names his wife Elizabeth and Iraq's that his wife is to receive the use of all of his property during her lifetime and at her death to be equally divided between his children. He does not give the names of his children.]

[f p. 7: copy of a marriage bond issued to William Porter and Paul Deal Luke on October 20, 1782 in Norfolk County Virginia conditioned on the marriage of William Porter to Miss Elizabeth Luke. A letter dated October 29, 1782 from Isaac Luke acknowledges his consent to the marriage of his daughter to William Porter.]

¹ The document is a transcript from the files of the court. Consequently the signature is not that of the applicant herself but rather an indication that she signed the original in the clerk's office.

[f p. 34: Copy of a certificate as follows:

Richmond July 25 1797

I certify that William Porter entered into the American Army in Captain Ballard's Company in the fall 1775 after that he was appointed and Officer in the 12th Virginia Regiment and continued until the end of the War, which was over 7 years that he continued in service & at that time he was one of the oldest Lieutenants.

S/ James Morton, Lieutenant 4th

Virginia Regiment

Mr. William Porter was a Lieutenant in the 12th Virginia Regiment under my Command, and continued in service until the end of the war.

S/ James Wood late Brigadier General

[See originals of the above below from the files in Virginia]

[Facts in file: There is reference in the file documents to a son of the veteran and his widow named Joseph. In addition there is reference to a grandson named Fletcher G Porter of Portsmouth Virginia living in 1846.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line as a Lieutenant.]

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

Richmond July 25th 1797

I certify that William Porter entered into the American Army in Capt. Ballard's Company in the fall 1775 after that he was appointed an Officer in the 12th Virginia Regiment and continued until the end of the War which was over seven years that he continued in service & at that time he was one of the oldest Lieutenants

~~Capt. Ballard~~ James Morton Lieut. 4th Virginia Regiment

Mr. William Porter was a Lieutenant in the 12th Virginia Regiment under my Command, and continued in service until the end of the War.

James Wood late B. Genl.

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Addendum to William Porter W5159

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 15 Jan 2021.

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

To The Executive of Virginia

Your Petitioner Elizabeth Porter widow and relict of Lieut William Porter deceased, begs leave to state that her husband William Porter entered in the American Army during the Revolutionary War as she believes in Capt Ballard's Company, in the year 1775, and served as she believes to the end of the War. She believes that her husband in his life time did not receive all the land due him from the government for his services, and that an additional quantity is still due for his services. That the said William Porter died in the year 1807 after having made and published his last will and testament a copy of which herewith sent marked (A) is prayed to be considered as a part of this her petition, by reference to which, you will find that she is the sole legatee and devisee of the said William Porter dec'd Your petitioner states, that there is abundant evidence on file in the Executive Department, which will shew the service of her husband, she refers particularly to the certificate of James Morton Lieut 4th Virginia Regiment, on file in the case of the said William Porter for his claim for military bounty Land; If the Executive shall believe under the will of the said William Porter she is not entitled to receive the land, she then prays that the executive will order a warrant to issue to the children of the said William Porter dec'd who are his heirs, if she is not entitled under the Will aforesaid. Your petitioner states that she married the said Wm Porter in the year 1782
[sent 9 May 1838] signed/ Elizabeth Porter

NOTE: The will of William Porter of Portsmouth dated 3 June 1807 and proved on 21 Sep 1807 makes the following provisions: to his "loving wife Elizabeth Porter all my negroes, stocks and household goods and all my estate both real and personal during her natural life, and after her death to be equally divided between my children." Also, "Provided that the laws of this State will permit I immancipate a follows all the slaves that may be born of the slaves that I now possess that is to say all the males born after the date of this my last will & testament to be freed from bondage at the age of thirty years. All the females born after the date of this my last Will and Testament to be freed from bondage at the age of twenty five years."