

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Larrance (Lawrence)¹ W5310 Baheathaland Larrance f68VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/2/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[p 7]

Bounty Lands

For Revolutionary Services – Individual Application

State of Georgia

County of Gwinnett: SS

I, John Laurence aged nearly sixty-nine years, do, upon oath testify and declare that about or in the year 1778 I enlisted or entered the service as a private for the term of "during the war," in the 14th Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Davis [William Davies] and afterwards served in the first Regiment under the command of Colonel Russell and that I continued in the service until I was made a prisoner by the British & carried to England from whence I made my escape & was unable to affect my return to this Country until after the war – that at the time of my being made prisoner I was a private in the first Regiment of the Virginia Line commanded by Colonel Russell.

Sworn to & subscribed before made this 23rd of February 1829

S/ John Mills, JP

S/ John Lawrence



I further declare, that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States; nor have I ever assigned or transferred my claim in any manner whatsoever:

Therefore, know all men by these presents that I, John Laurence aforesaid do hereby constitute and appoint Joseph Watson of Washington City to be my true and lawful attorney, for me and in my name to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the United States, a warrant for the quantity of Land due to me as aforesaid; and my said attorney is hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more substitutes or attorneys under him, for the special purposes above expressed.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal this 23rd day of February A.D. 1829

S/ John Lawrence

¹ BLWt1493-100 and BLWt13414-160-55

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Georgia Gwinnett County: For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of "an act for relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828, I, John Lawrence of the said County & State aforesaid, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued in its service until its termination (that is) I was taken prisoner by the enemy in the spring (I think) of 1781 & was afterwards carried to England, where I remained a prisoner until I ate my escape & was unable to affect my return to rejoin my Regiment till after the close of the war: – that at the time of my being taken prisoner as aforesaid I was a private in Captain Nathaniel Terry's Company² in the first Regiment of the Virginia line, and I also declare according to the best of my recollection that I afterwards received a certificate for the reward of \$80, to which I was entitled by a Resolve of Congress passed the 15th of May 1778. And I further declare that I was not on the 15th day of March 1828, on the Pension List of the United States. And I do further declare that in consequence of my being taken prisoner as aforesaid I was unable to return & be present when the Army was disbanded and consequently did not received my discharge.

S/ John Laurance

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Lawrence". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested July 21, 1828]

[p 34]

Georgia Gwinnett County: Before me James McLure a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared this day William Bryant³ of the County of DeKalb in the said State & made oath that he was personally acquainted with the said John Lawrence by whom the foregoing declaration is subscribed in the Army of the Revolution & knows that he served for or about the time of three years in the Virginia Line (in the 14th Regiment of that Line, at the time when I knew him) that I was in the same Regiment & was discharged at the end of the three years for which I enlisted, that I have understood that said John Lawrence reenlisted for the War & that it is generally reputed & believed that he was a soldier in the Army of the Revolution, in manner as in his declaration stated & I have no doubt myself of the truth of his declaration.

Witness my hand this 21st day of July 1828

S/ William Bryant

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Bryant". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 14: On May 1, 1843 in Gwinnett County Georgia, Baheathaland Lawrence, 72, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Lawrence a private soldier of the revolution and a pensioner for his service therein; that she married him September

² Nathaniel Terry was captured at the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780 at which time he was a Captain in the Virginia Continental line.

³ [William Bryant W5915](#)

3rd, 1788; that he died January 29, 1841 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 17: Of memorandum of marriage kept in the Pittsylvania office for 1787 lists "John Larrance and Behesland Smith" as being married by Thomas Dugless, Minister of the Gospel.]

[p 10: On April 4, 1855 in Gwinnett County Georgia, Baheathaland Lawrence, 84, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of John Lawrence; that her husband was a revolutionary war soldier volunteered in 1778 for term of 7 years; that she married him in Pittsylvania County Virginia September 3rd, 1788; that her name prior to her marriage was Baheathaland Smith; that her husband died January 29, 1841. She signed her application with her mark.]

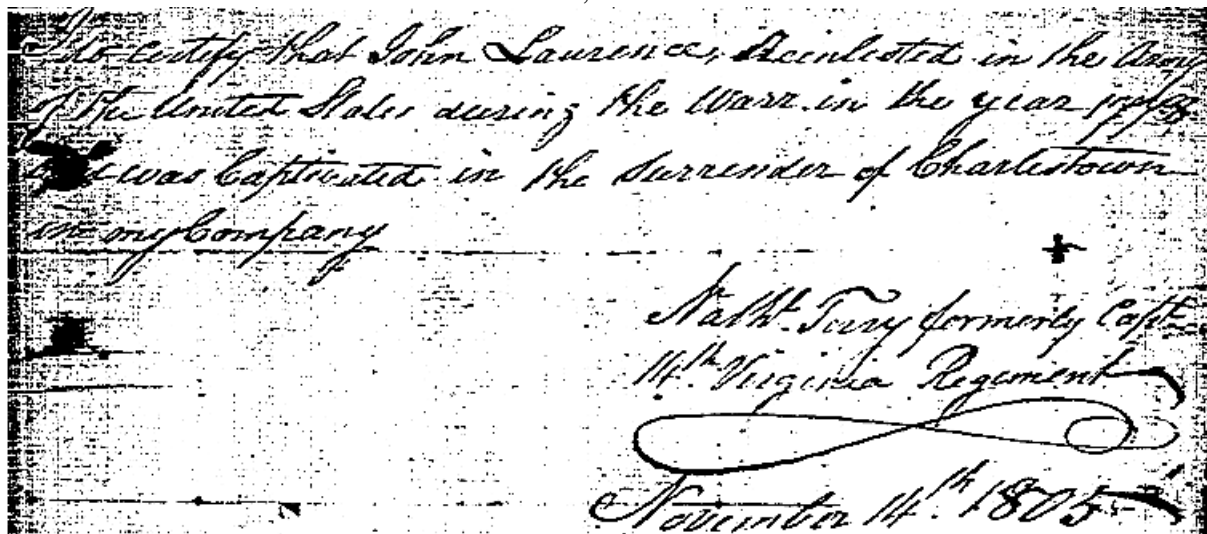
[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

I do certify that John Laurence Reenlisted in the Army of the United States during the Warr in the year 1778 & he was Captured in the Surrender of Charleston in my Company

S/ Nathl. Terry, formerly Captain

14th Virginia Regiment

November 14th, 1805



The certificate is a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads: "I do certify that John Laurence, Reenlisted in the Army of the United States during the Warr in the year 1778 & he was Captured in the Surrender of Charleston in my Company". Below this, there is a signature "Nathl. Terry formerly Capt." followed by "14th Virginia Regiment" and the date "November 14th 1805". There is a small cross symbol above the signature.

Charlotte [County VA]

This day came William Taylor before me one of the Commonwealth's Justices for the County aforesaid & made oath that the person now present is the same John Laurance who was taken by the British at the Surrender of Charleston during the revolutionary war that he this witness was also taken at the same time & place & committed to a prison Ship on board of which the above John Laurance was also confined also after being confined there for some time there came some British officers and did with forced & without the consent of said John Laurence take him from said prison ship & carried him off.

Given under my hand this 20th February 1806

S/ Grey Bashearer [?]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

This file contains the documents given by the veteran in connection with his application for a pension under the 1828 act along with Bryant's supporting affidavit. Image quality is poor.