

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Phillips (Philips) W5538 Elizabeth Phillips f43VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/19/12 supp'd 4/17/15

[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. 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.]

[p 7]

Charles City County State of Virginia to wit

On this 21st day of May in the year 1818 before us the subscribers justices of the peace and Judges of the County Court of the County aforesaid, personally appeared William Phillips aged sixty years, resident in the County aforesaid, who being by us first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late 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" – That he the said William Phillips enlisted in the year 1776 at Williamsburg in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain John Dudley of the 6th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment – that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until about November 1779 that he then enlisted into a Regiment commanded by Colonel Dabney on State establishment for and during the war, that on his second enlistment for the war he did not obtain a discharge being told that it was unnecessary; that he served from the time of his second enlistment until the end of the war and was discharged in Richmond in the State of Virginia –

That he was in the battle at Guilford courthouse [March 15, 1781], and at the siege of Little York – and that he is now in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support. And that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, his discharge having been lost except the accompanying affidavit –
Sworn to and declared before us the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Bradley
S/ Ben Harrison
S/ Edward Folkes
S/ Alexander Walker

State of Virginia Charles City County to wit


On this 19th day of April 1821 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for said County William Phillips aged sixty-two years, a resident of the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows. That in the year 1776 he enlisted in the Company commanded by Captain John Dudley in the Regiment under the command of Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] of the Virginia line on Continental establishment for the term of three years. That after the expiration of said term in the year 1779 he enlisted for during the war under Major John Hardyman in the County of Charles City and was in the Artillery Company commanded by Captain Christopher Roane. That after the battle of Guilford he was put in the Regiment

commanded by Colonel Meriwether and was afterwards transferred to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Dabney of the Virginia line on Continental establishment, and obtained his discharge at Richmond in the State of Virginia in the year 1785 he being detained in service until Major Hardyman furnished the evidence of the term for which he enlisted. That he was in the battle of Guilford and at the Siege of York. 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 viz.: 1 Trunk & dutch oven, 1 spider and 1 water pail 5 chairs. That is a farmer by occupation but from imbecility is unable to work more than two hours in the day. That his wife aged 51 years and who has been confined to her bed for two years, and three daughters aged 25, 23 and 19 years the two first laboring for themselves and a little son 12 years old and very sickly composes his family.

S William Phillips, X his mark

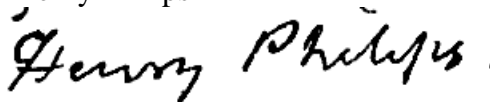
[p 17]

The affidavit of Henry Phillips taken before me a Justice of the Peace for the County of Charles City, State of Virginia – This affiant being first duly sworn according to law states that he well knows William Phillips who, as he is informed, is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress – that early in the revolutionary war he well remembers that said William Phillips enlisted into the service under Captain John Dudley for three years – he recollects that said William Phillips' mother was very uneasy^[?] at it and applied in person to Captain Dudley for the purpose of getting him released from the service, but ineffectually – That said William Phillips thereupon repaired to Williamsburg in Virginia which was a place of rendezvous for the Continental troops – That he was then marched to the eastern shore but under whose command this affiant does not know – That two years after his enlistment this affiant went down to Williamsburg and found him and others there – said William Phillips was then about to go to Westover in the County of Charles City in the hay boats – whereupon this affiant proposed to Captain William Roane who commanded the hay boats to accept this affiant as a substitute for the said William on said service, until the return of the boats to Williamsburg – so as to afford to said William Phillips an opportunity of seeing his mother whom he had not then seen for some time – That the exchange was made and on the boat's returning to Williamsburg the said William Phillips was there and resumed his station. That this affiant saw no more of said William until he saw him and other soldiers on their way to the siege of York – This affiant was not at the said siege himself but verily believes that said William Phillips was there as he saw him on his way down. That this affiant did not thereafter see him until the peace and always understood that said William Phillips was constantly in the service on Continental establishment. This affiant cannot be presumed to know more of the particulars of his said William's service – said William Phillips is the brother of this affiant and therefore it is that this affiant remembers the occurrences above

1 

related. That he has every reason to believe that the said William Phillips was constantly in service as above stated – from the fact that if at any time he had been out of service, he would have come to the County of Charles City where this affiant would have seen him, in which County he the said William was born, where his mother lived and died, and where said William has lived ever since the Peace, almost on interruptedly.

S/ Henry Philips

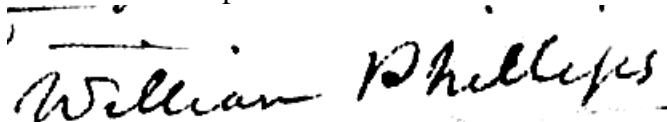


[Attested February 12, 1822 by Pleasant F Webb, JP]

[p 39]

The Memorial of William Phillips humbly sheweth that sometime in the year 1776 he enlisted under the command of Captain John Dudley in the city of Williamsburg, in the United States service; and continued there under his command until the year 1777, when he was assigned to the company of Captain Qualls [Quarles?] under Colonel Guess, whence part of that Regiment was marched to North Hampton for the purpose of defending the Seaboard, and after the enemy's fleet embarked that they returned in 1778 to Williamsburg, whence soon after they were sent under the command of Will. Roane in the Hay boats for the purpose of foraging, and in the interim that General Morgan had marched off part of the Regiment and commanded Colonel Porterfield to bring on the rear composed of the sick and that part to which he was attached but that the orders were countermanded and that the park to which he belonged was transported to the South side of James River and was placed under Captain Spiller with whom he continued till the Regiment was filled and then he was removed into the flying Artillery in the company of Captain Christopher Roane under the command of General Greene and thence marched to the South and was engaged in the battle of Guilford thence on the discomfiture of our troops they were forced to retreat back to Virginia and were there reinforced by General Wayne and in time drove the enemy and pursued them to Little York and continued there during the siege till the surrender of Lord Cornwallis whence after that event so glorious to the American arms he was marched to Portsmouth under the command of Colonel Dabney and was stationed there until peace; all of which she is ready to affirm upon oath –

S/ William Phillips



[Attested February 12, 1822 by Pleasant F Webb, JP]

[p 41]

State of Virginia Charles City County to wit

This day personally appeared before us justices of the peace for the County aforesaid in the State aforesaid said William Phillips, who being duly sworn on the holy evangelists of Almighty God makes oath to the following facts in addition to and in explanation of his declaration heretofore forwarded to the war Department for the purpose of procuring a pension under the act of Congress to provide for persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States during the revolutionary War. That he was enlisted by Captain John Dudley in the year 1776 in the County of Charles City and thereupon entered a company commanded by

Captain Quarles. After he had been stationed in Williamsburg in Virginia for some time, Colonel Gest arrived there with about forty Indians and took with him a part of the troops then in Williamsburg on an expedition to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. That Captain Quarles' company, to which this affiant was attached was carried on that service and continued on that station for nearly two years. That he returned to Williamsburg with the company aforesaid in the year 1778. That thereupon Colonel Morgan took command of the troops with the exception of such as were sick in the hospital or on [indecipherable word]² and marched them to the North. That this affiant was employed in the Hay boats and did not go. When General Arnold [Benedict Arnold] ascended James River this affiant was called to the South side of James River about Mackey's Mills and towards Portsmouth. That he then served in Captain Spiller's Company and that General Muhlenberg had command of the troops. That in the year 1779 he enlisted for the war under Major John Hardyman in the County aforesaid. That on the return of Colonel Morgan from the North, which this affiant believes occurred in 1779 or 80, the troops were marched up to Petersburg. That at that place Baron Steuben (the men being prorated for that purpose) selected from among the troops such men as would be best suited for the flying Artillery. That this affiant was selected as one, and that Major Singleton commanded the corps of artillery and Christopher Roane was the Captain of the company to which this affiant belonged. That thereafter he was marched to the South under General Greene's command. That he was there in the battle at Guilford and received a bayonet wound in the thigh – That he thereupon retreated to Richmond Virginia where Colonel Meriwether was in command under whom he served until General Wayne's arrival in Virginia with a reinforcement – on which he reentered the Artillery under Captain Fredrick Woodson in whose company he marched to Little York and there remained during the siege. That after that event, he was marched to Portsmouth, Virginia, where he remained until the time of his discharge. That he served faithfully during the whole war from the time of his enlistment and always believed himself to be on the Continental establishment – That the statement in the Virginia declaration as to the time of his discharge is incorrect, and should have been 1783 instead of 1785. This inaccuracy he ascribes to the person who drew up for him his declaration. That every other statement contained in his declaration his correct. That he is old and poor and is therefore introduced to solicit the bounty of his country.

Sworn to before us this 2nd day of April in the year 1822.

S/ Hamlin Willcox, JP

S/ Wm E. Hill, JP

[p 14: On April 19, 1843 in Charles City County Virginia, Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, 77, applied for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Phillips, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband received 200 acres of land from Virginia for his services; that her husband died October 25, 1826 and that she has remained his widow; that she married him in November 1784 in Charles City County Virginia. She signed her application with her mark.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the

concluded

November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 24th day of July 1783, in the name of William Phillips , as a Soldier of Infantry for £64.4.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
2nd day of September 1843.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 21, 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, 1843.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)]

To the General Assembly of Virginia. The petition of William Philips humbly represents; that in the year 1775 he being then of the tender age of eighteen years, fired by a desire to take part in behalf of his country in the then approaching contest he enlisted under Capt. John Dudley as a private soldier, – That he continued in the service for the whole war – that during this long period he saw arduous and unceasing service—was on fatigue duty – on foraging parties – in numerous skirmishes – was at the battle of Guilford Court house [March 15, 1781] where he was wounded in the thigh by a bayonet in defending a piece of cannon, he at that time belonging to the Artillery. That he was afterwards at the siege of Little York and had the proud satisfaction of seeing the British Army pass under the yoke – and the ensigns of tyranny trampled in the dust – But nothing now remains to him but poverty and wretchedness – unfitted by his long service for the ordinary and thrifty occupations of life, it is not wonderful that poverty should be his lot. His wife and five children are all his wealth—the first an invalid for the last ten years – the last born to no other inheritance than wretchedness and poverty. He regrets not the past. His youth is passed but it was devoted to his country. He will not charge that country with ingratitude – but he asks its representatives if they will suffer the soldier of the war of liberty, to die, and not furnish him three alls [?] of ground for his grave or a sheet to enshroud his lifeless corpse.

Your petitioner supplicates for charity – and prays that your honorable body will allow him a small pension and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

[Reverse]

William Phillips Petition

Asking a pension

December 17th 1825

Referred to Claims

John Tyler

1825

December 22 – Reasonable

23 Reported

1826

January 20 Bill drawn

War Department Pension Office January 6, 1826

Sir,

In answer to Mr. Douthal's letter to you respecting the case of William Phillips, I have to state that Mr. Phillips' name was inscribed on the pension list, roll of the Virginia Agency, February 1st 1819, and dropped therefrom, December 12th 1821, on account of his service. It appears from the Rolls now in this Department, that Mr. Phillips' served in the State Line, and not on the Continental establishment. His name is on the State Roll, as well as those of the Officers under whose immediate command he served – viz., Captains Quarles, Roane & Woodson – and none of these names are on the Continental Roll of the Virginia Line. It may be proper to remark that Mr. Phillips' name was placed on the pension list before this Department had been put in possession of the Virginia Rolls of revolutionary Soldiers. Mr. Dowthals letter is here with returned.

Honorable A. Stevenson
House of Representatives

I have the honor to be
very respectfully
your obedient servant
S/ J. L. Edwards [Commissioner of pensions]