

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of John Fleming W7284

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Hanover} On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 1858 personally appeared before me Elizabeth Flemming who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the identical widow of John Flemming deceased, who was engaged in the service of the Revolutionary War, that she is a resident of the County of Hanover in the State of Virginia and has been for nineteen years & Balance of her life in Louisa Co where she was born That she is now about 88 years of age, if her said husband was living he would now be ninety five or six years of age, that he died in the [page damaged]ty of Louisa in said State on the [blank] day of [blank] 1828 aged 67 or 68 years. That she was married in the County of Louisa in said state by one Parson Waller a Minister of the Gospel on the [blank] day of seventeen hundred and [blank] That her maiden name was Elizabeth Harris before her said marriage, that she has no private Record of her said marriage nor Death of her said husband

That she has never married since her said husbands Death & still continues his widow

That she has never Rec'd any land or Pension in [illegible word] of his said Services, That he went into said Service from the County of Louisa in said State and that she well Recollects hearing him say that Mr Joseph Spicer [pension application S14554], Mr James Seay [pension application W8038], \_\_ Arnold [Lindsey Arnold or William Arnold: see below] & others went from the said County of Louisa & that he Served three Tours of service in said War

That when she was perhaps twelve y[ears; two illegible words] from serving in said War) those in the County of Louisa and recollects the fact that a good many men came in sight of her fathers house near the main Road in said County on thir way to Richmond either Drafted or enlisted for the Revolutionary Service & that her said husband told her after they were married that he was one of the party refered to, That she has often heard him speak of being in said Service and at Williamsburg and Various Camps

That she was married to the said John Flemming some 2 or 3 years after his return from said Service

That she had some old Papers before she broke up housekeeping that belonged to her said husband but in moving about & being with her children They have been mislaid or destroyed, That she now lives with her Daughter Maria E Flemming upon the Farm recently owned by her deceased Son William Flemming that her said Son William was her fourth child & would be now 62 or 63 years of age, & was in the 1812 War from Louisa County Va, that she had 3 Daughters older than the said William, consequently her oldest child would be now if living, 68 years or thereabouts; That she was the mother of nine children by her said husband, (five sons & 4 daughters)

That her said husband never Rec'd. any land or Pension or applied for any during his life time to her knowledge or belief. That in 1818 he possessed some property & was not entitled under the act of said date & that he did not Survive the act of 1828 to Receive its benefit (long enough) having died about 1829 That she applies for the Benefit of the act of Congress passed the [blank] July 1838 & any subsequent act pertaining to her case and appoints J. S. Gallaher as her atty of Washington City D.C to prosecute her claim aforesaid. Given under her hand & seal this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Jany 1858.

Elizabeth herXmark Flemming

[On 20 May 1858 Elizabeth Fleming amended her declaration by stating that she was married in 1786.]

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 1858 personally appeared before me Wm R Winn a notary public duly authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments within and for the County and state aforesaid Elizabeth Fleming aged about 88 years a resident of Hanover who being duly sworn according to law

declares that she is the widow of John Fleming of the Revolutionary war. That she was born and raised in Louisa County and that she now resides with her daughter in Hanover County. That she made a declaration in the month of January for a Revolutionary pension, and that she now desires to make a further statement in the way of questions and answers – as follows:

Question – Did you know Lindsey Arnold [pension application W3750] who was in the Revolutionary war? If so give a history of him as far as you may know.

Answer. I knew Lindsey Arnold intimately, he was born & raised in the adjoining County of Caroline, and was the son of Benjamin Arnold. I have heard my husband John Fleming & Lindsey Arnold often speak of their being in the Revolutionary War together: they were horseman. I don't know that they were in the same Company. Lindsey Arnold married Elizabeth Davis of Louisa County, in which County he lived with his wife, after he returned from the war and a near neighbor to me. I was at the wedding of Lindsey Arnold. I think he was married in the year 1785, the year before I was married. He left his wife many years ago, cant state the precise time, and went to North Carolina as I have understood, and lived there. I was called upon some years ago to give and affidavit for Elizabeth Arnold to get her pension which I then gave –

Question – Did you know Wm Arnold [see endnote] who was in the Revolutionary war? If so, give a history of him so far as you may know.

Answer. – I knew Wm Arnold intimately he was the brother of Lindsey Arnold he was also with my husband in the revolutionary war. After he returned from the war he lived near me in Louisa County, where he married his wife Judy Scuddy. He removed many years ago with his family to Georgia, where I have understood he died.

Question Did you know William Gunnel [William Gunnell, pension application W1172] who was in the Revolutionary war? If so, give a history of him so far as you may know.

Answer – I knew Wm Gunnel well, he was the Brother of John Gunnel who was in the Revolutionary war also. Wm Gunnel lived near me in Louisa for many years. I think he also removed to Georgia. Young John Gunnel who was the son of Old John Gunnel married my daughter Lucy. Both old and young John Gunnel died in Louisa County.

Question. Did you know William Fleming who was in the Revolutionary war? If yes, give a history of him so far as you may know.

Answer. – William Fleming was in the Revolutionary War. he was the father of my deceased husband John Fleming; he was a resident of Louisa County and was frozen to death many years ago one Christmas eve on his way from Charles Thompson store in Hanover County to his home in Louisa. My son William Fleming who was in Capt Morris Company in the War of 1812 and died in the year 1856 was named after his grandfather William Fleming referred to above – Given under my hand the day & year above written  
Elizabeth herXmark Fleming

[Witnessed by John Ellett and Benjamin Luck.]

[The following two items are from copies of documents filed in the Executive Department in Richmond VA and certified on 19 May 1858]

These are to certify that the bearer hereof John Fleming Soldier in the first Virginia regiment having faithfully served the United States from the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1781 and being enlisted for the War is hereby discharged from the American Army.

Given at the War office 23<sup>d</sup> Aug't. 1783.

By order of the Secretary of War

Jos: Carlton Sec'y B. Lincoln [Gen. Benjamin Lincoln].

Registered in the books of reg't. Rob't. Breckenridge Lt & Adj't. 1<sup>st</sup> Virg'a. reg't.

Teste/ J. Proctor.

Copy

I assign over my right to the within discharge unto Christopher Donnett      John Fleming

The above broken line indicates the shape of the outline of the original paper; and the assignment by John Fleming is so much faded that it can with difficulty be read at all. It is all believed to be correct, the only doubt is, in regard to the name Donne. It is believed to be either Donne or Downe. The signature of John Fleming in the above copy is as near a facsimile as would be made by an inexperienced draughtsman.

War Office 23<sup>d</sup> Aug't. 1783.

The within Certificate shall not avail the bearer as a discharge, until the ratification of a definitive treaty of peace; previous to which time and until proclamation thereof shall be made he is to be considered as being on furlough.

B. Lincoln

Copy

John Fleming has rec'd. two months pay in specie for Feby. & March 1783.

On this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February 1858 personally appeared before me Elizabeth Spicer a resident of the County of Hanover State of Virginia who made oath that she is now about 83 years of age that she lived in the County of Louisa for twenty two years, that she has lived in the County of Hanover within 10 miles of the identical home of the late John Flemming and his widow Mrs Elizabeth Flemming, who now lives in Hanover County Virginia, That he died in the County of Louisa about 29 years since in the year 1828 or 29.

That Mrs Elizabeth Flemming was married to the said John Flemming in the County of Louisa State of Va, that she was the daughter of Micajah Harris who lived & died in said Co

That the said Mrs Elizabeth Flemming lived in Louisa all her life time untill she moved to Hanover County Va where she now lives with her Daughter Maria E Flemming and upon the Farm recently owned by her son William Flemming dec'd. that she recollects the marriage of the said Mrs Flemming to John Flemming, which happened in a mile of her home in Louisa County Virginia, but she does not recollect the date, but sometime after he returned from the War    Say two or three years; that she is a Sister of John Flemming the identical person who was in the Revolutionary War, that he was the oldest Brother & Child of her father and would be fully ninety five years old if living, She arrives at the Conclusion from the fact that she is 83, that her sisters Susan, Nancy, Mary & William were older than she was, and that there was one or two years diference in most of her mothers childrens birth; that she well remembers the Revolutionary War. that her Brother was in Service to her knowledge, that she recollects the army passing near her fathers house on their way to Richmond or some destination and that her Brother John's joining the army, and going away with them, and taking leave of the family &c She also well remembers the British coming in the County of Louisa and Braking open corn houses and of their taking a little relation (the son of their neighbor) John Goulson) & keeping him a few days, that she well remembers her said Brother John Fleming's return from the War & that he served more than one tour, in all she thinks two years or more; and well recollects his bringing back a Tin Canteen he said he used to carry water in, and a cartridge box and of his repeating orders & showing them how he done in service & that he brought 2 balls perhaps as large as Her fist & that she and her sisters used to roll them in the yard & that they remained in the family for twenty years, that he brought with him some paper money, but it soon became of little value, That she recollects hearing him say that that he was at some engagement where the soldiers dug ditches & finally that the British Surrendered, she thinks it was at York [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], that she has heard him speak of people being in service from Louisa Co. She thinks John Gunnell was one & that Joseph Spicer was another, but she thinks her Brother was out longer than Spicer She recollects his saying Mr Spicer went from Louisa County Va. She also thinks she heard her Brother speak of a Mr Bullock from the same County, that her Brother lived near Dabney's Mills, That he was the only John Flemming she ever heard of living in Louisa County, that her fathers name was William, that he was born in England & came to America a boy having been brought by his

father to this country; that she was married in Louisa Co Va and was about 22 years of age when she was married to her husband now dec'd Benj'a Spicer that Col Callis [William Overton Callis, pension application W6645] who is reported as having received his pay lived in Louisa County some 5 miles from said Brother

Attest/ [signed] Allen Spicer

Elizabeth herXmark Spicer

[Certification by the Justice of the Peace states that Elizabeth Spicer was a member of the Baptist Church.]

State of Virginia        } Towit

County of Hanover     }

On this 14<sup>th</sup> September 1858 personally appeared before me William R Minn a Notary Public within & for the County & State aforesaid Elizabeth Spicer aged about 84 years who being duly sworn according to law. Say that she was born & raised in the adjoining county of Louisa. That she is the daughter of William Fleming and a Sister of John Fleming. That both her father & Brother were in the Revolutionary War. That her Brother John Fleming was all through the War I cant tell exactly but think he was as much as six years in the War. That Zachariah Johnson & John Gunnell and many others went out of the neighborhood in the Revolutionary War. That her Brother John was the oldest son, and his description was as follows; Black Hair. Blue Eyes. Fair Complexion – and ordinary size. That he married Elizabeth Harris daughter of Micajah Harris. That the said John Fleming and his wife lived together as man and wife and as such I have visited them many a time. The marriage of the parties in question has never been disputed, as I have ever heard of. I don't think that my brother John was much over 16 years of age when he went in the Revolutionary War. his father was in service & came home & John went for him after a little while John came home and soon had to go in his own place. I do not remember to have heard Brother John say anything about getting Bounty Land. I am quite certain that my father William Fleming & his immediate family were the only persons by the name of Fleming when I was a girl in the county of Louisa and for many years thereafter and, and that no John Fleming except that of her Brother lived in Louisa during the Revolutionary War and for years thereafter. That her Brother John had nine Children, Towit Lucy who married John Gunnell, Matilda who married Thomas Davis, Nancy who married Charles Glenn, William, Maria E who married her cousin Garland Fleming, John, Robert, Lewis, & Thompson. That John one of the children died when he was a man. That her brother John Fleming died in Louisa County on the same tract of Land which he purchased before his death

Test/ [signed] Albert Spicer

Elizabeth herXmark Spicer

NOTES:

A size roll taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists the following: John Fleming/ age 23/ height 5' 3"/ black hair/ blue eyes/ fair complexion/ sailor/ born and residing in Louisa County where he enlisted as a substitute on 17 Apr 1781 for 18 months. Sized on 14 May 1781. An extract of this size roll showing the entry for John Fleming is included with the pension file.

The file also includes certified extracts of documents listing a John Fleming in the State Navy of Virginia. The first is from the Navy Board Journals July 1776 to March 1779, page 309 with the following order dated Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1777 and naming John Fleming and others to receive supplies: "Ordered that the keeper of the public store deliver to Captain Philip Chamberlayne for the use of the people on board of the Hero Galley the following articles... one Jacket or as much Cloth as will make one, two pair of stockings seven & half yards coarse Linen one pair of shoes and as much coarse cloth as will make a pair of Trousers." In the same book on p. 353 a John Fleming is named in another order dated Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 1778: "Ordered that the keeper of the public store deliver to Lieutenant Stratten, for the use of the people on board the Hero Galley the following articles... two shirts each and a pair of shoes each." There is also "A return of Spirit for the Ship Tempest Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 79" naming a John Fleming. The document is captioned as follows: "Papers concerning the State Navy Vol 1. Executive

The file includes a copy of the following addressed to "Jno. Nelson Clk":  
"Sir/ John Fleming and my Daughter Elizabeth harris have agreed to Join themselves together in the holy Estate of Matrimony which I have given my consent to. You will please to grant them a license for the same  
Micajah Harris/ Apl 11<sup>th</sup> 1786  
Test/ John Kimbrough Samuel Harris"

Also in the file is a copy of a bond signed on 10 Apr 1786 by John Fleming and Solomon Edwards for the marriage of Fleming to Elizabeth harris.

On 13 Jan 1858 Maria E. Fleming, about 57, stated that she was about 29 when her father died, and that she remembered Joseph Spicer speaking of her father's service.

On 3 Feb 1858 Nancy Luck, widow, at age 87 the oldest sister of John Fleming, made an affidavit similar to that of Elizabeth Spicer. Nancy Luck also stated that John Fleming was the oldest child of her parents, and that after he joined the army their father the next morning went to the camp and stayed all night to see him. Nancy Luck stated that she was married in Louisa County by "Mr Duglass a Minister of the Gospel," probably Rev. William Douglas. *The Douglas Register* as transcribed by William McFarlane Jones lists the following marriage: "Leek [sic], Jo: & Nancy Fleming, both of Louisa 1789, Mar 9 p. 25." She also stated that she was living with her oldest daughter, about 67.

James and Sally Seay (pension application W8038) each certified the service and marriage of John Fleming. On 5 Feb 1858 one John O. Harris, 59, stated that he then lived in Hanover County but had lived for 39 years until 1 Jan 1858 in Louisa County in the neighborhood where John Fleming had lived, and that he had help make his coffin and bury him.

The file includes the following:

"I believe the following to contain a correct list and the ages or the names given in the order in which they were born, beginning with the older, and so down to the youngest. John K Martin

Children of William Fleming, who was the father of John Fleming as follows:

John Fleming dead

Susan Fleming, died young

William Fleming, who was the father of Hulda Seay see her affidavit

Mary Fleming dead married Luck, both dead [Richard Luck, according to the Douglas Register]

Nancy Fleming, married Luck both dead

Anthony Fleming dead.

Elizabeth Fleming married Spicer. widow living husband dead

Sarah Fleming married Collins widow dead husband living. [sic]

Robert Fleming living.

Children of John Flemming, who was the son, of the above William Fleming, as follows.

Lucy Fleming married John Gunnell

Matilda Fleming married Thomas Davis

Nancy Fleming married Charles Glenn

\*William Fleming

Mariah E Fleming married Garland Fleming

John Fleming

Robert Fleming

Lewis Fleming

Thompson Fleming

\*William Fleming got 160 acres Warrant No 10.895 is dead leaving no children. left about \$15,000 worth of property in Hanover County to be distributed among the heirs. The names can be ascertained by reference to Hanover CH. Friend[?] Still in chancery. Wm R Minn, and — Commissioners to sell."

Another document refers to Carr Fleming, son of Anthony Fleming and nephew of John Fleming. That letter states that Anthony Fleming married 29 Dec 1795 and died 9 Feb 1849 leaving a widow named Frances Fleming.

In the file are copies of the following deeds:

- 14 Nov 1775; 226 acres on Rocky Creek in Louisa County sold by William Harris to William Fleming.
- 5 Nov 1789: 50 acres sold by John and Elizabeth Fleming and Ann Fleming.
- 15 Jul 1794: 102.5+ acres in lower part of Louisa County sold by John and Elizabeth Fleming and Ann Fleming.
- 4 Jan 1796: 60.5 acres formerly belonging to William Fleming, deceased father of John Fleming; bordering the land of Ann Fleming, widow of William Fleming and mother of John Fleming, and also bordering Rocky Creek on the west and land of William Harris on the north and northeast. Sold by John and Elizabeth Fleming.
- 18 Nov 1822: 18.75 acres sold by Joseph F. and Rachel B. Dabney and William and Jemima B. Dabney to John Fleming.
- 12 May 1834: 11 acres from William Dabney to William Whitten.

The file contains copies of documents relating to other soldiers, certified by the Executive Department in Richmond VA and transcribed as follows:

Document relating to William Fleming:

I certify that William Fleming was in in Col Charles Harrison's Regiment of Contine["torn off & lost"] Artillery, during the war, in Dec[torn] 1776 and has continued in the Regiment till this 22<sup>d</sup> August 1783.  
Samuel Coleman Jr/ 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't. Cont'l. Art'y

Two documents relating to William Arnold:

This is to certify that Wm. Arnold did some time in the year 1776 inlist as a Soldier in the Cont'l. Army for two years which time he served. Given under my hand this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1783  
(Copy B Stark) Geo. Stubblefield [George Stubblefield] Capt.

I do Certify that Will. Arnold Inlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't. L[ight]. Dragoons July 20<sup>th</sup> 1781 for three years & from the Muster Roll he has faithfully served untill the end of the war, as Wittness my hand  
Will. Barrett [William Barrett] Capt. Bailors [sic: George Baylor's] Dragoons  
(Copy B Stark) May 14<sup>th</sup> 1784

Document relating to Lindsey Arnold:

I do certify that Lindsey Arnold Enlisted for the war in 1<sup>st</sup> Reg't. L. Dragoons & that has faithfully serv'd to the end of the war.  
as witness my hand. Wm. Barret Capt./ Baylor's Dragoons/ April 15<sup>th</sup> '84.

Three documents relating to John Franklin:

It appears from the size Roll of 2<sup>d</sup> Troop that Jno. Franklin enlisted for the war Ap'l. '81 in 3 Reg't L D & Con'd untill the Meeting May '83. Wm Barret for'y. Capt./ Baylor's Dragoons/ Apl 28 '85

For value rec'd I do assign to Edw'd. Valentine the full ball. of my pay and bounty of land that is due me for service as a soldier for the war. Witness my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of Dec'r. 85  
Test Jacob Lock Mat hisXmark Newlin Jn'o. hisXmark Franklin

For value rec'd. I do assign my right of the pay & land that is due Jn'o. Franklin to Wm. Reynolds

Mar 31 '85

Edw'd Valentine

Test D. Valentine

Three documents relating to John Gunnell:

I do certify that Jn'o. Gunnel of 3 Troop enlisted for the war May 20<sup>th</sup> '80 in Baylor's Dragoons & is intitled to the Bounty Land. Wm. Barret, f'ly Capt./ Baylor's Dragoons/ Dec'r 16 '84

I do certify that William Gunnel enlisted for the war July 1781 & served faithfully until 10<sup>th</sup> May 1783 William Barret f'ly Capt./ Baylor's Dragoons/ Aug't 30 1784

Sir Please to give Lindsay Arnold my land Warrent and this shall be your Receipt for so doing and it shall be good against Me and all orders in My name

Given under My hand this 14 Day of October 1784

Witness William Arnold Samuel hisXmark harris

William hisXmark Guniel

to Conel [Thomas] Meriwether, Land office