

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Broadus W8396 Martha R. Broadus VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Apr 2015.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). The online image is poor.]

Dear Sir Frid'y Novem'r. 29th 1783

I have sold Mr. Jacob Kuhn my Land Warrant & promised him it should be up here by the first post. I must therefore Beg the favour of you to get it out in the in the two warrants mentioned in the Bottom of my Acct & enclose them to him – it is a matter of the greatest Consequence that they should be Transmitted to him by the above opportunity – you will Excuse me for being so plain as to Tell you I must not be Denied the favour if in your power to grant it. I have the Hon'r. to be

Col. French Strother

D'r Sir Y'r Most Ob H'ble Serv't



[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Culpeper County. A petition similar to the following was submitted late in 1822 and rejected.]

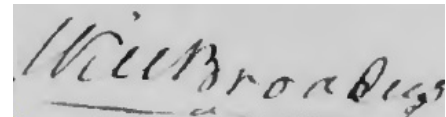
To the Honorable the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Your petitioner William Broadus begs leave to represent That early in the year 1776 when in the 15th year of his age he entered into the service of the commonwealth as a private soldier in a Company of Marines and commenced his services immediately thereafter on board a Row Galley that at the close of that year the said company was transfered into the land service and two Regiments directed to be raised which were denominated the 1st & 2nd State Regiments. The two said Regiments being very soon compleated and the officers finding there was (at that time) no occasion for their services in Virginia as the attention of the enemy was entirely directed to the north proposed with the consent of the Executive to make a tender of their services to the Commander in Chief of the United States Army which was accordingly done & accepted – and after taking the Small Pox [inoculation] in the town of Alexandria they joined the main Continental Army in the State of Pennsylvania some time in the latter end of the summer of 1777 in consequence of this change of service several of the officers (unwilling to quit the State) resigned their commissions upon which your petitioner was appointed a Lieutenant in the first State Regiment commanded by Colo. George Gibson they continued with the Continental Army untill the month of December 1779 when they were ordered back to Virginia and stationed in the City of Williamsburg that some time in the summer of 1780 upon finding the two Regiments had been considerably reduced in their number of rank and file it was deemed expedient to consolodate them upon which it fell to the lot of your petitioner with several others (of whom William Campbell [pension application W4149] was one) to retire from service as supernumeraries with orders to hold themselves in Readiness to return when called for Some time after his retirement your petitioner received orders to attend at the City of Richmond by a certain day prepared to enter into service again but before the day arrived for him to attend he received a countermanding order as the said service (upon reconsideration) been deemed inexpedient*

* See the letter of the late F Strother Esqr. then & for many years a Representative in the Legislature After this your petitioner was never again celled upon, but remained a supernumary till the end of the War and as he supposed according to universal usage upon half pay and when he rendered is account at the close of the war he included that claim but it was expunged from his account and he only received a certificate for a small amount for the depreciation of his former pay and a warrant for a [two undeciphered words] of Land in the western country Upon enquiry into the value of the land and the

certificate your petitioner found that they were selling daily the land at 9 d [9 pence] pr. acre and the Certificate at two and six pence in the pound Your petitioner being needy and to follow the example of many other of his cradintors[?] and [three undeciphered words] about these prices – thus was he left with only this poor pittance to shew for nearly five years constant and arduous service through many dangers and many difficulties Your petitioner will not trouble or Honorable body with a recapitulation of the different laws which were formerly passed upon the subject of Revolutionary claims nor with the different courses which have been pursued to obtain remuneration for services rendered in your revolutionary war As your Honorable body will no doubt prefer a referance to the archives of the Commonwealth for such information but he will beg leave to remark that William Campbell and himself served together in the same regiment and the same length of time and that Campbell has received the five years commutation while your petitioner has not received one Cent

Your petitioner has recently witnessed with much satisfaction a revival of the old revolutionary spirit and has himself felt the pleasing effects of the gratitude of a people made free by its influence He is however [several illegible words] a large family which according to the course of nature he must expect soon to leave in that condition as the small appointment he has lately received from the general government will not without considerable economy support his family from day to day. Your petitioner will not trouble your honorable body further than to ask leave to introduce a short piece from Wirts life of Henry [William Wirt *Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry*, 1817] as a case in point and trust the success of his application to the justice of your Honorable body. “How effecting is that spectacle which we have seen of a public officer who having worn out the prime and vigour of his life in the service of his country instead of being able to retire in old age to the repose and peace which he has so justly deserved is compelled to toil on for subsistance though trembling perhaps under the weight of 80 (or 63) winters oppressed by debt harassed by creditors with the certainty before him of dying poor and insolvent and leaving a numerous posterity on the parish” to which he adds that pathetic exclamation of Wolsey Oh Cromwell Cromwell had I but served my god with half the zeal I served my King (rather my country) he would not in mine age have turned me naked to mine enemies [Shakespeare, Henry VIII]



The letter from Col. Strother of the 8th of Dec'r. 1780 will shew that I was called into service again some months after I had become a supernumerary and that I had sent my clothes to Richmond with a view to obey the call when upon the receipt of that letter from a member of the Legislature then in session it was rendered unnecessary for me to go



Dr Sir Richmond December 8th 1780

I rec'd a letter from you some time past said to be by Capt. Welch but I have not seen him and therefore can say nothing about your cloathing which you made mention of – Your being cald on to take Command was owing to the want of experienced officers to command the Militia – the occation has now ceased and there is none for you And several of your Redgm't. has been discharged And rest your self assured our are not wanted. For the information you gave me of my family am greatly oblged as I can tell you before you expearence it there is nothing that gives a man more satisfaction than to hear from his family when he has it not in his power to see them. You [one or two undeciphered words] to suppose when you here from this place [undeciphered word] to get the news but as I am much hurried shall only [undeciphered word] in the general. The news from the south since the affair of Colo. Cambell at King Mountain [sic: Col. William Campbell's victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain SC, 7 Oct 1780] the particulars [undeciphered abbreviation] you must have had before now have been gen'l good G Green

[sic: Gen. Nathanael Greene, 16 Nov 1780] has past by here to take Command of the southern army. The Barran [sic: Baron von Steuben, Greene's Aide-de-Camp] came to this place with him and remains to command in this shall [undeciphered word] I think render very essential services. The enemy when they left this it is thought went southward where they in tend to [undeciphered word] there forces for this and the next Campain with full expectation of conquering the Southern States This we have from good authority And I can tell you we must fight like Furies. The Militia [one or two undeciphered words] execution gained immortal honour to them selves And I hope will continue to do so when ever they are called on Maj Lee is [undeciphered word] day with his horse which [page damaged] of the first sights I ever see in the Military way Pleas give my respects to Mrs. Broaddus & all my friends &c &c in your quarter [two undeciphered words] yr. mo. ob't.

H'bl Ser't

French Strother

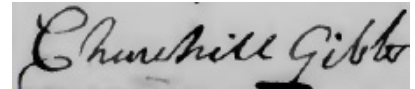


P.S. you will I hope excuse both stile and method F. S.

Madison County To wit

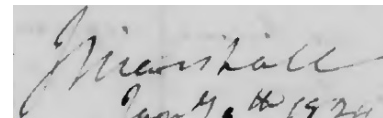
I Do hereby Certify that William Broadus of Culpeper County was a Lieutenant in the first Virginia State Regiment in which I was also a Lieutenant That we became acquainted early in the year 1777 and shortly thereafter marched together to the North and joined the main Continental Army in the state of Pensylvania with which we continued untill the month of December 1779 when we were ordered back to virginia & stationed in the City of Williamsburg. That some time in the Summer of 1780 (in consequence of the loss we had sustained in our number of Rank & file during the service to the North) the said Broadus (with several others) had to retire from service as a Supernumerary in which situation he remained untill the end of the war That I remained in service and received the five years Commutation with an additional allowance of 400 acres of Land in the western country. And I do further Certify that Col. William Campbell of Orange County was a Captain in the said Regiment and that he retired from service at the same time he said Broadus did and that during my acquaintance with them they were both considered to be usefull & vigilant officers and I knew of no difference in their services. Col Campbell woud no doubt certify the same facts but he is at this time at the point of Death and incapable of performing any act whatever. Given under my hand this 28th day October 1823

Churchill Gibbs [S46002]



I was very well acquainted with Mr. Broddus during the campaign of 1778 and 1779, saw him often, and was sometimes on duty with him. I thought him a good officer. All the Virginia troops left the north at the close of the campaign of 1779 and Mr Broddus with them. I do not know what became of him afterwards [John Marshall, pension application S5731; Chief Justice, US Supreme Court]

Jan'y 9th 1824



[Legislative history]

Dec'r. 4th 1824 ref'd to Claims/ Dec 2[?] Reasonable/ 29 Reported/ 1825 Jan'y 3 Bill drawn

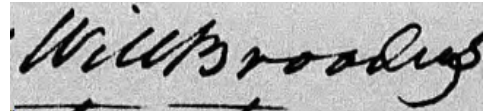
Auditors Office Dec 27 1824

The Claim of Will Broaddus has been disallowed because the Act of 1779 has received a judicial construction adverse to the petitioners demand against the Commonwealth

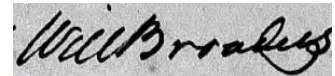
Jas E Heath/ Aud

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

I William Broadus of Harpers Ferry Jefferson County do hereby declare that I was an Officer in Col George Gibsons Regiment when it was put upon Continental establishment by an act of the virginia Legislature in 1777 and that we continued with the Continental Army under General Washington untill late in December 1779 – that some time in the latter end of the year 1780 or early in 1781 finding our Rank & file was much reduced it was determined that some of the Officers shoud retire as supernumeraries among which I was one – at the close of the war I received a Certificate for the depreciation of my pay and a warrent for 2666²/₃ [acres] being the quantity allow'd a Lieut. which Rank I boure with respect to the five years commutation there were various opinions a large majority of which was that we ought to receive it from the United States we remained without it untill 1824 when Captain Nicholas Ewell and myself petitioned the Legislature of Virg'a. and obtained it – I beg leave further to declare that I entered into the service in 1776 and remained in constant and active service untill I became supernumerary and that most of my services were render with the continental Army under Gen'l Washington that I was in the Battle at Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] was in Waynes [Gen. Anthony Wayne's] Light Infantry and march'd all night over a very rough country to storm Stoney Point, but the day dawned just as we arrived in sight and we were forced to abandon it – in consequence of indisposition which was produced by the most excessive fatigue I returned to the main Army, and to my great mortification was not with them when they stormed the fort which they did shortly after [16 Jul 1779] – I was also with LaFayetts [Gen. Lafayette's] party at Barren hill Church [20 May 1778] when the Enemy surrounded us and we escaped by a most rapid movement and wading the Shulkill [sic: Schuylkill River] upwards of four feet deep – 6th March 1830 certified upon Honor



I am well assured that there never was an act of the virg'a Legislature declaring Col Gibsons Reg't to be a state Reg't. after the act of 1777 puting it upon continental establishment



NOTES:

On 9 Feb 1854 Martha R. Broadus applied for a pension stating that as Martha R. Richardson she married William Broadus on 5 Nov 1805, and he died 7 Sep 1836. The file contains the following record copied from the family record: "William Broadus and Martha Richardson were married at her mother's in Hanover on Tuesday the fifth day of November 1805 Rev. J. D. Blair." A document dated 26 May 1832 lists the children of William Broadus and his first wife as follows: William; Harriet, who married John Brood and died without issue; Juliet, who married Henry Ward and died leaving two children, William Henry Brood and Philip Woodville Brood; Kitty, who married William M. Thompson and died leaving children Richard Thompson, Mary Thompson, Martha Thompson, and William Thompson; and Patsey, who married Merriwether Thompson. The children by his second wife, Martha R. Broadus, were listed as: Sarah Ann, unmarried; Maria, under legal age and unmarried; Levinia, under legal age and unmarried; John, who died unmarried; and Robert, who died unmarried.

On 14 Nov 1865 Sarah Ann Broadus, 76, applied for the pension of her mother, Martha R. Broadus, from the time it was suspended during the Civil War until her death on 21 Feb 1863. She stated that her mother had resided near Charlestown in Jefferson County and had subsisted on "the proceeds of a small lot of ground, the fencing of which was destroyed by the soldiers," and that she never bore arms or "sympathized with the rebellion beyond the common acts of humanity and hospitality, extended by her in common to the sick and suffering, and others needing her kind offices, of both armies." She also stated that "she has two sisters, Maria [Maria E.] and Lavinia [Lavinia D.], one of them a mute and the other afflicted with epilepsy."