

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Marston¹ R16031

f83VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 3/7/13 supp'd 4/22/15: 12/19/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

Executive Department January 29th, 1848

The Heirs of John Marston are allowed Land bounty for his service three years as a Lieutenant in the Continental line 200 acres allowed him by resolution of Congress of 16th September 1776, to be deducted

The Register will issue a Warrant accordingly if not drawn.

S/ Wm Smith

A Copy of a paper on file in the Virginia Land Office

Teste S/ S. H. Parker, Reg. L. Office

[p 4]

[Power of attorney dated November 4th, 1836 granted by Sarah S Minge, Robert B Bolling & Sarah M Bolling to William Helm to pursue the claim for John Marston, Lieutenant Virginia State line.]

[p 12: Copy of the last will and testament of Susanna Marston of Surry County Virginia in which she gives her friend Major John Peter her house in Cabin Point known by the name of Yellow Store; her relative William Lightfoot a Negro boy named Edmund son of Suzy; to her niece Sarah S Mingo wife of John Minge. The will is dated September 26, 1816. The will was probated at a court in Surry County May 24, 1819.]

[p 13: Copy of the will dated October 25, 1797, of John Marston in which he names his wife Susanna Marston as his sole heir. His will was probated in Surry County Virginia March 27, 1798.]

[p 15]

In Charles City County Court the 18 day of June 1833

On the motion of Sarah S Minge, It is ordered to be certified that it satisfactorily appears to the Court that John Marston (an attested copy of whose will is this day exhibited in Court) who was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and that Susanna Marston (an attested copy of

¹ Va. Half-Pay BLWt.2223-200

See N. A. Acc. No. 874 050 111 Half Pay John Marston

whose will is also exhibited) is the same Susanna to whom the said John Marston by his said Will has given his estate; and that Sarah S Minge of Sandy Point, Virginia is still alive and the person mentioned in the said Susanna's will; and that, Sarah Bolling, wife of Ro. B. Bolling also of Sandy Point is the only child of Sarah S Minge and John Minge; and the clerk of this Court is directed to furnish to the said Sarah S Minge and Ro. Buckner Bolling a copy of the certificate hereby ordered to be attached to the attested copies of said wills.

Teste; S/ R. W. Christian

[p 32]

This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 2nd day of May 1783 in the name of John Marston as Lieutenant of Infantry and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £155.8.2, delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 24th day of December 1849.

S/ Jas. E. Heath

First Auditor VA

[No Seal of Office]

Richmond April 30th 1783

I do certify that Lieutenant John Marston has served upwards of three years in the service of this State.

S/ Cha. Dabney, Lieutenant Colonel [Charles Dabney]

Executive Department at Richmond Virginia January 7th 1850

I certify the above to be a true copy of a paper filed in this office.

S/ Wm H. Richardson, SC

[p 36]

State of Virginia Madison County SS

The deposition of Churchill Gibbs² a surviving Officer of the revolution to be read and used as evidence in a cause now pending and undetermined between John B. Christian Administrator *de bonis non* with the will annexed of John Marston deceased a Lieutenant in the war of the revolution against the Commonwealth of Virginia for 5 years full pay in commutation of his half pay for life for his revolutionary service

Question by the plaintiff's Attorney

Were you acquainted with John Marston in the revolutionary war? If so state to what Regiment he belonged, what was his rank in the Army, where he lived when he entered the service, and if he continued in service until the close of the war?

Answer by Churchill Gibbs

I was very well acquainted with John Marston in the Army of our revolution; he and myself were appointed lieutenants on the same day in the first Virginia State Regiment

² [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

commanded by Colonel George Gibson and served together in said Regiment until it returned from the North to Virginia in the year 1780; I was then appointed Brigade Major in General Parker's Brigade of Militia, and Lieutenant Marston was transferred to Colonel Charles Dabney's Legion and was stationed at the Point of fork, and it has ever since been my impression he continued in service until the close of the war of our Revolution,

Question by the same,

Will you state what your reasons for believing John Marston served in Dabney's Regiment until the close of the Revolutionary War, and the day, month and year you consider the close of said war.

Answer by the same

My reasons for believing John Marston served as a Lieutenant in Colonel Dabney's Regiment until the close of the war are these – I very frequently heard from the Officers of Dabney's Regiment they were all old friends and intimate acquaintances, Marston among the rest of them and after the close of the war I met with said Marston in Richmond and we talked about his service and I now as much believe he did serve until the close of the war of the revolution as if I had witnessed his service all the time and have seen him discharged. The close of the war in Virginia as settled by our Court is the 22nd of April 1783, and further the deponent saith not.

S/ Churchill Gibbs

[attested December 12, 1836 in Madison County Virginia]

[a copy]

[p 39]

Return of Officers of the State Legion

Names	Ending of Service
Charles Dabney, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Charles Dabney R13624	April 23, 1783
Alexander Dick, Major Alexander Dick R13751	Retired first January 1783
Windsor Brown, Captain Windsor Brown BLWt1816-300	April 23, 1783
Abner Crump, Captain Abner Crump R13459	ditto
Frederick Woodson, Captain Frederick Woodson R19214	Deranged 8 th of February 1783
John Fleet, Lieutenant John Fleet R14208	ditto
Wyatt Coleman, Lieutenant Wyatt Coleman VAS3066	April 23 rd , 1783
James Harper, Lieutenant James Harper BLWt2148-200 and R14859	do
William Slaughter, Lieutenant William Slaughter R17891	do
David Mann, Lieutenant	do
Robert Boush, Ensign Robert Boush R19366	Do
Christopher Roane, Captain Arty. Christopher Roane X635	Deranged 8 th of February 83
Cary Wyatt, Captain Lieutenant	April 23, 1783
Nathaniel Rice, Lieutenant Nathaniel Rice VAS2175	do
William Armistead, Captain Cavalry William	Deranged 8 th of February 1783

Armistead R12155	
Dudley Digges, Lieutenant Dudley Digges S8328	do
Nathaniel S Savage, Lieutenant William Savage R9224	do
Samuel Tinsley, Cornet Samuel Tinsley S6243	do
William Graves, do you have William Graves R14570	do

S/ Chas. Dabney, Lieut. Colo. Comdt.

Note.

The above is copied from a copy, the original of which is filed in the High Court of Chancery, in the Suit – Roane & at Vs. The Comdthe [Commonwealth]

[p 41]

Richmond Virginia the 5th May 1783

Army

Warrant to William Graves, Cornet & Quarter Master to the State Legion out of the Military fund in part for pay and enlistment from the first April 1782 to 22nd of April 1783 as per order of the Executive

£38

Do to do out of do in full for do from do to ditto 43.12.4

I certify that the foregoing is truly copied from the Journal of 1783, now in this office.

Given under my hand at Richmond this 4th day of October 1849

S/ Jas. Heath, 1st Aud. VA

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] New Kent County Legislative Petitions

To the Hon. the Speaker & Members of the General Assembly

The petition of John Marston

Humbly Sheweth

That in July 1777 your Petitioner entered into the service of his country as a Cadet in Capt. Abner Crump's Company in the 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson with the approbation of Col. Gibson, with whose Regiment your petitioner marched as Cadet to the Northward in the same year and joined the main Army –

That afterwards in the year 1778 he was by Col. Gibson appointed 2nd Lieut. in the same Regiment. –

That afterwards to wit the 2nd of July 1778 he was appointed a 1st Lieut. by the same Col. in the same Regiment, and continued in actual service as such until late in the Spring 1780 when in consequence of necessary Arrangements in the said Regiment he retired a Supernumerary Officer with some others then the youngest 1st lieutenants in the said Regiment. – That after some retirement as Supernumerary he was ordered by Col. Dabney who then commanded the residue of the State Troops to take command under him on his march to join the Continental Army in & about Williamsburg just before the Siege of York & long afterwards, during which Siege he served as 1st Lieut. – And when the State Troops were formed into a Legionary Corps in Portsmouth in the year 1782, he was again for the reasons aforesaid obliged to retire as a Supernumerary Officer.

Your Petitioner always held himself in readiness to join in defense of his Country at any time afterwards, when he might be called into service – and humbly conceives himself entitled to

half pay for life, and solicits your Hon. Body to grant him the usual Commutation in lieu thereof,
– And as in duty bound will pray &c
[Reverse]

The petition of J Marston
October 16, 1792
to Claims
Rejected
Referred 2nd [indecipherable] '92
Vouchers delivered
Mr. Harrison

[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)
<https://www.fold3.com/image/616519058> [115 page file]

[p 3]
John Marston
Lieutenant 1st Virginia State Regiment

The papers in this case appear to refer to two different men.

The affidavit of Eleanor Mastin, age 72, widow, made in Logan County Kentucky December 17, 1833, states that she married John Marstin [sic] a few days before Christmas, 1785 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and that he died October 20, 1795. 3 children are mentioned
Elizabeth M McKenney
Catherine S Pulliam and
John W Marston

In December 1833 a power of attorney was given to Christopher Tompkins of the House of Representatives, to draw the money due, was signed by the three children named above and also by William McKenney, the husband of Elizabeth.

Churchill Gibbs states that he served with him as 1st Sergeant, and that Marston was “a delicate, spare looking gentlemen.”

Frederick Fishback, 84 years old in 1834, is named in the papers.

*One record shows that Marston died in Surry County, Virginia between October 25, 1797 and March 27, 1798.

James Pulliam and later Erasmus Helm whom administered the estate, and the securities were Richard S Hyde, Edward Halladay and John C Pulliam

*Probably refers to the other man.

[p 5]

Pension office
February 27, 1838

I certify that I have examined the claim of the heirs of the late John Marston, deceased, who was a Lieutenant in the First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson; that he continued in service until he became a supernumerary officer; that he died in Surry County Virginia, between the 25th of October 1797 & the 27th of March 1798; that the case is embraced by the provisions of the act of the 5th of July 1832, entitled “An act to provide for the liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia;” that the claims should therefore be allowed at the rate of One Hundred and Sixty Dollars per annum, from the 22nd of April 1783, when the war terminated, to the 25th of October 1797; and that the amount is payable to William Helm of Virginia, Administrator *de bonis non* of said John Marston, deceased.

J. L. Edwards
Commissioner of Pensions

Approved
J. R. Poinsett
Secretary of War

[p 6]
The United States
to John Marston, late Lieutenant in the First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson
For his Half-pay, as a Lieutenant, from the 22nd April 1783 to the 25th October 1797 – 14 years & 187 days at \$160 per annum \$2321.97

“An act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia” \$2321.97

Treasury Department
3rd Auditor’s Office
28th February, 1838

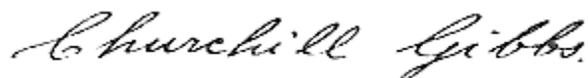
Stated by Robert Read, Clk

2nd Comptroller’s Office
February 28, 1838
Ex’d J. M.

[p 8]
I Churchill Gibbs of the County of Madison in the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that during the War of the Revolution I was intimately acquainted with the above named John Maston [sic]. We served as orderly Sergeant’s in the First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson – we were both appointed Lieutenants on the same day in said Regiment and continued in service in said Regiment as long as I did. He was a delicate, spare looking gentleman. I am under the impression that the officer named in the above certificate from the clerk of Spotsylvania County court is the same John Maston who belonged to Gibson’s Regiment – I well remember that his name was sometimes pronounced Maston and at other time Marston.

Given under my hand this 11th day of November 1833

Churchill Gibbs



[p 15]

Marston, John

A copy of a will is on file dated in Surry County Virginia October 25, 1797, witness by James Belsches, William Cocke and James Stewart. He made his wife, Susannah, at his sole Executrix. The will of Susannah gives the house at Cabbin Point to "my friend Mrs. John Peter." To William Lightfoot the Negro, Edmund, son of Susie, and other property to her niece, Sarah S Minge or Mingo, at Sandy Point, Virginia, who had married John Mingo. This will was made September 26, 1816 and was witnessed by Anthony H Lamb, John R Pierce and John Mingo, Jr.

This John Marston died about 1800 without issue. He had a sister Frances, who married Benjamin Mountcastle, reported dead in 1829, but she was then alive, and had a number of children.

John B Christian was administrator.

Turner Christian makes an affidavit in 1833, being then 76 years old.

In May 1783 a warrant for 26,666 [sic, 2666] acres of land was issued to him.

In 1834 Hamlin Wilcox, aged 69 made affidavit that John Marston was deputy clerk of Charles City County for several years, then moved across the river into Surrey County, where he died.

On December 19, 1835 a deed was signed granting to William helm of fark were County for \$1800 a sale of claim to money or lands do for the service of John Marston.

This deed is signed by Sarah S Minge of Charles City County, Ro. Buckner Bolling, and Susan Melville Bowling, both of Petersburg.

The parties were Bolling, his wife and mother in law.

[p 17: copy of will dated Oct. 25, 1797 of John Marston of Surry County leaving his entire estate to his wife Susanna Marston. The will was probated on March 27, 1798.]

[p 20: copy of the will dated September 26, 1816 of Susanna Marston summarized the above.]

[Transcriber's Note: This file, together pages 40-41 of the VA Half Pay file of [Bernard Glenn R14477](#), contain a number of documents which relate to claims made on behalf of two different men named John Marston or Maston/Mastin. The documents are so co-mingled as to require more time than I am willing to dedicate to unscrambling them. I invite researchers are just interested in these veterans to review the files for themselves.]