Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Stadler VAS1886

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

[From Digital Library of Virginia | Norfolk County Legislative Petitions]

To the Legislature of Virginia the petition of John Stadler respectfully represents
That your petitioner served this State in the capacity of Engineer, with the Rank and Privileges of a Lt. Col. of the line, from the 13th of December 1776 until the last of October 1777. That during the foregoing period by the directions of the Governor and Council under whose immediate orders he was placed, he was obliged to superintend the erection of fortifications at the different Towns of Portsmouth, Hampton, and York – and once, in every month to attend at Williamsburg, the then Seat of Government, to make a Report to the Executive of the State of the works of the aforementioned Garrisons. In addition to the above duties, the assembly having determined to erect a magazine above the falls of James River, your petitioner was ordered to go, and look out for a place proper for that purpose – but this project was abandoned, after he had incurred the Expense, and labor, of a long Journey.

Your petitioner further takes leave to show; that so soon as he became acquainted with the variety, and dispersion, of the duties he was to perform, which must effectually deprive him of the benefit of subsisting on his rations and forage – he stated this difficulty to the Executive who unanimously assured him, that his traveling charges should be sustained by the public: In consequence of this assurance, your petitioner with willingness, and zeal undertook the performance of all duties assigned him by Government – and kept a just account of the various Expenses, which he was necessarily obliged to incur, – the original schedule whereof is hereto annexed.¹ This paper was presented to the Executive for payment, which would have been made, had that Hon. Body possessed the power to do so as will appear by an endorsement of the account being judged reasonable, made in the handwriting of the Hon. Patrick Henry, at that time the Gov. of this State.

Your petitioner therefore entreats the attention of the Legislature of his Country to this his case; which he was Justly and faithfully recited – with great humility hoping that the Retribution which he has solicited may not be deemed unreasonable.

S/ John Stadler

¹ no such document is contained in this file
To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of John Stadler, Humbly shows that on the 30th day of December 1776 he was appointed Engineer in the Service of this State with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as appears by a Commission for that Purpose & of that date signed by the Honorable Patrick Henry Esquire then Governor of the same, & continued to act in that Capacity from that Time till about the last of October 1777, that his principal Station during the greatest Part of that Time was off Gwynn's Island; that from the nature of his Service he was subjected to extraordinary Trouble & Expenses in traveling to visit the different Posts from time to time where Fortifications were erected, for which he was promised by the executive that he should be paid a Compensation, his Pay as Lieutenant Colonel not being adequate thereto –, he further shows that the extra Expenses incurred by him upon that Business amount to the sum of £83.6.9, part of which is paper money & liable to be scaled, and appears by an Account hereto annexed, & which the Executive have certified the right, & that he has been paid part of this, Your Petitioner Therefore Prays That the Assembly Will Take His Case into Consideration, and Make Him Such Recompense on Account of the Premises As in Their Discretion They Shall Think Just & Reasonable & He Shall Ever Pray &c

S/ John Stadler
November 1st 1795

Commonwealth of Virginia to wit

Be it known that on this day the 24th of October in the year of Christ 1791 appeared before me William [paper damaged and name missing] Notary Public in and for the District of Fredericksburg in the Commonwealth aforesaid by lawful authority duly Commissioned and swarmed, Dwelling in the Corporation of Fredericksburg and said District, Colonel John Stadler late engineer in the service of the Commonwealth aforesaid who made oath according to law that
the annexed account of Traveling expense amounting to Eighty-three pounds 6/9 Virginia Currency is justly due him, he having received no part thereof.

The said John Stadler also produced at the same time to me the said Notary to Commissions, one signed by John Hancock, President, bearing date November 30th 1776 constituting him the said John Stadler, Engineer (n° one ranking as Major) in the Army of the United States, the other Commission signed by Patrick Henry, Jr. bearing date the 13th day of December 1776, constituting and appointing him the said John Stadler Engineer in the service of the Commonwealth aforesaid and to the rank as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army thereof, all which the said John Stadler requires to be Certified and recorded by me.

In witness whereof I the said Notary have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the Tory all at my office in Fredericksburg aforesaid the day and year 1st above written.