

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to William May VAS539

vsl 9VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/29/13

[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.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

His Excellency Thomas W Gilmer

The Petition of Polly May of the City of Richmond and State of Virginia Humbly Sheweth (see documents enclosed) That she is the only surviving heir at law of her brother William May who was a private in the War of the Revolution. He and my brother Thomas May both enlisted at an early period of the War, at a place called Cold Harbor in Hanover County under Captain William Barrett for the War; who commanded a company of Cavalry which as I have been informed were first attached to Colonel Bland's Regiment and afterwards to Colonel William Washington's dragoons and served in the Southern Army until the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], where my said brother William, was killed by the enemy: Thomas returned after the war ended, was placed upon the pension list and received a pension until he died in the year 1830. I hope served, that the Register of the land office will be directed to issue to me the only heir of William May deceased a Warrant for the bounty land allowed a private who enlisted for the war. Mister Underwood my agent and attorney in fact will call for the Warrant. And your petitioner will &c &c

S/ Polly May, X her Mark

The affidavit of Sally Bennett formally Sally Johnson, of the County of Hanover, but since I married William Bennett we moved to the County of Henrico, where I now live (my husband being dead). This affiant being duly sworn saith: – That she was well acquainted with William May and Thomas May when they were young man, and before they enlisted in the United States Service in the Revolutionary War; their father and his family removed from King William County where they were born, and lived upon a part of her father's land in the said County of Hanover, and early in the War of the Revolution said William and Thomas May (being a fine young man) enlisted in the service of the United States for the War, at a place called Cold Harbor in the said County of Hanover; under Captain William Barrett, who belonged (as she heard) first to Colonel Bland's Regiment of cavalry and afterwards to Colonel William Washington's Corps; she well remembers after those men had gone into service and had been away for a year or 2, that they obtained a furlough to come home and see their friends, that they remained in the neighborhood for some time, and until (they said there furlough was nearly out) when they returned to the Army. And after some time had elapsed it was said and believed that William May was killed in an engagement with the British at the battle of the Cowpens and at the end of the War, Thomas May returned home and confirm the report of his brother being killed at the Cowpens. Thomas May after returning to Virginia left Hanover County, came over to Henrico

County and lived near me where he died about the year 1830 and was buried in our burying ground. Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of September 1840
S/Sally Bennett, X her mark

City of Richmond

Personally appeared before me Francis Whicker Recorder of the said City, and made oath according to law: Sally Bennett of Henrico County who says that she was acquainted with William May & Thomas May deceased, Soldiers in the Revolutionary War: that their father and mother are dead, that William May was never a married man, that Thomas May left no lawful children, nor have they any brother or sister living but one sister, Polly May, who is believed to be the sole and entire heir at law. Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of September 1840
S/ F. Wicker, Recorder

I do hereby certify that I became acquainted with William May during the Revolutionary war in the year 1777 at Valley Forge where we went into winter quarters, that said May & myself served in Muhlenberg's Regiment as, and soldiers from the year 1777 to the year 1780 being actually in service together during that time & during that period, a little before Christmas in 1777 and about 3 or 4 weeks after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] said May & myself were sent in a detachment of eighty men to see where the enemy were & to drive them in, when we were surrounded & taken prisoners by the British, that we were confined together in jail in Philadelphia, out of which we together with thirty-four others broke & went back to Valley Forge & there served our three years out together.
Given under my hand this 28th of January 1841

S/ Ansillum Bayly,¹ X his mark

¹ [Ansolem Bailey S37702](#)