

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

Pension Application of Thomas Bressie R12763

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

To His Excellency/ The Gov'r. of Virginia/ & Privy Council of State

Elizabeth Bressie widow of Thomas Bressie dec'd. who was the son & only heir of Major Thomas Bressie or Bracey dec'd. formerly of Norfolk County respectfully represents that the said Major Bressie entered the service of the revolutionary war about the year 1776 and continued to the end of the war in 1783. She begs to refer to the Journal of the Council of 1777 page 371 which shews that he was commissioned a Captain to take rank from the 13th May 1776; and she proved by the affidavits of Mrs. Owens a very respectable lady in the Town of Portsmouth, Major Wyatt and a gentleman who was engaged in that war, and Isaac McDaniel a soldier formerly in Major Bressie Company – That he continued to the end of the war & held the rank of Major at the time of the conclusion of the war. she considers that under the act of 1779 (Hen. [Hening's Statutes at Large] 10 Vol. p. 160) the said Major Bressie was entitled to the proportion of land allowed to an officer of that rank, and also to the addition for a seventh year's service, as promised by the act of 1782 (Hen. 11 Vol. p. 84). She files herewith a certificate of the Auditor shewing that he drew his depreciated pay as a Captain, & the Certificate of the Register that no warrant has issued for his Bounty.

Thursday 15th February 1776.

Ord: a Warrant to Samuel Boush & [?] use Thomas Bressie & £42.16.8 for the pay of himself and Company as a Guard at ye Great Bridge – Militia.

Extracted from the Journal of the Committee of Safety page 12.

D'r. The Commonwealth of Virginia in Acc't. With Lawrance Smith, Jun'r C'r.[?]
1778

Jan'y 15. To Capt Thomas Bressie paid up to this date} £441.11.10

Extracted from Lawrence Smith's Pay Roll

Copy/ From the Journal of the Executive Council of Virginia of the 22^d day of March 1777.

"Ordered that a commission issue to Captain Thomas Bressie in the service of this State. A certificate of the Review of his Quota of men returned and ordered to be filed, the said Bressie is to rank as an Officer appointed the thirteenth day of May last."

I Elizabeth Owens do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Major Thomas Bracey of Norfolk County, who was an officer in the army of the Revolutionary war, and that Major Bracey, acting (as was said) by orders of General [Charles] Lee, came to my father house in this county and burnt it some short time after the war begun – I also certify that Major Bracey continued in the Army for three or four years afterwards and to the best of my belief and knowledge he did not return home from the Army untill after peace. As witness my hand this 1st of May 1830. Elizabeth Owens/ Norfolk

I Isaac McDaniel now seventy years of age do hereby certify that early in the war of the Revolution I enlisted as a soldier in a company commanded by Thomas Bracey of Norfolk County, and was afterwards transferred to Capt. Crump's company in which I continued the term of my enlistment. I did not know any thing of Major Bracey afterwards untill peace; but it was always understood that he continued in service untill the end of the war.

Witness my hand this 6th day of May 1830.

Isaac daniel [sic]

I Spiery Wyatt [Spievy (Spivey) Wyatt, pension application S6456] of Norfolk County now seventy one years of age do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Thomas Bracey of this County, who was a Captain in one of the Virginia Regiments on Continental establishment and commanded a company in the year 1777 and was engaged in service at the North. That he afterwards was promoted to be a Major – and continued in service more than three years – and that he (to the best of my knowledge and belief) continued in actual service to the end of the war. I know however that he did not return home from the Army untill after the close of the war. Spiery Wyatt

I, Ann Lewis certify I was well acquainted with Major Thomas Bracey (who was my uncle) an officer in the revolutionary war. That he has been dead many years, having left two sons Francis & Thomas his heirs. That Francis has since died a minor & without issue, and Thomas married & has since died leaving a widow Elizabeth Bracey to whom I am informed he devised his estate [will of Thomas M. Bressie dated 15 Jul 1824 in Currituck County NC and proved 26 May 1828 in Norfolk County]. [26 May 1830.] Ann Lewis

I Stephen Sikes of Deep Creek in Norfolk County, now sixty nine years old, do hereby certify that I knew Major Thomas Bressie dec'd late a resident of this County [Norfolk], who was an officer in the Revolutionary war. I know that he had command of a minute company at the time that Lord Dunmore came to Norfolk (1775) and afterwards he was appointed a Captain in the Army and he raised his quota of men. I know that he was in command & in service as a Captain at Portsmouth at the time of the surrender at York-town [19 Oct 1781] – and that he was in a Battalion or regiment under the command of Major Wells, who was the only field officer in that regiment. I know that I was drafted as a Militiaman & was placed in Captain Bressie company to proceed to the siege of York and on the march Bressie acted as a Major & Wells as Colonel. But I do not know that Bressie was commissioned as a major, although he held the title ever afterwards as long as he lived. I was discharged on the return of Wells' regiment which did not reach York before it was ordered back to Portsmouth to level the fortifications at that place. I believe that Major Bressie continued in service to the end of the war. I know that he was always considered as an officer who had served to the end of the war.

Witness my hand July 6th 1830. Stephen Sikes

State of Virginia }
Norfolk County } To wit

I Thomas Williams [pension application S14843] of Currituck County North Carolina aged 74 years. Do hereby Certify that I was personally well acquainted with Capt. Thomas Bressie, who served as an Officer in the Revolutionary War. I do further certify that I saw him the said Thomas Bressie when in Command and attached as Major to the third Virginia Continental Regiment in or about the year of 1779 or 80 and I am inclined to believe that he remained in the Service until the end of the War of the Revolution Given under my hand this 29th day of April 1837. [signed] Thos. Williams

Virginia At a Court held for Norfolk County the 22nd day of April 1845
The Court doth certify upon the evidence of A Barnes that Thomas Bressie dec'd died intestate bearing an only child Thomas M Bressie his only heir at Law as he has understood and believes that the said Thomas M Bressie died in 1824 after having duly made his last will and testament of record in the Hustings Court of Norfolk by which he made his wife Elizabeth Bressie sole legatee and devisee of all his estate. That Elizabeth Bressie the wife of the said Thomas M Bressie after his death married James D Fisher and by the said marriage had an only child named Sarah Frances Fisher. That James D Fisher died leaving his wife Elizabeth and daughter Sarah Frances surviving him: that Elizabeth Fisher then died leaving her daughter Sarah Frances Fisher surviving her who died an infant [i.e. under 21] about two years after he mother.

That Sarah Frances Fisher died an infant leaving a paternal grandfather Israel Fisher who is now living and Frederic Cason, Lewis Cason, Maria Caprew uncles and aunt of the half blood being the brothers and sister of Elizabeth Fisher dec'd of the half blood and Frances Cason a cousin being the daughter of Rheuben Cason dec'd who was a half brother and Elizabeth F Vangover a cousin she being the daughter of Sarah Vangover dec'd who was a sister to Elizabeth Fisher dec'd formerly Elizabeth Bressie. That the said Israel Fisher, Frederic Cason, Lewis Cason and Maria Caprew, Frances Cason and Elizabeth F Vangover are now living.

And at a Court held for Norfolk County the 26th day of April 1845. The Court doth certify upon the evidence of Taylor Sivills[?], that Thomas Bressie who he has no doubt was in the War of the Revolution from what he has learned from the said Thomas Bressie the said Sivills being intimately acquainted with him – That the said Thomas Bressie died bearing an only son named Thomas M Bressie who intermarried with Elizabeth and he thinks her name was Jameson that is Elizabeth Jameson was her maiden name. That the said Thomas M Bressie died hi thinks in the Borough of Norfolk leaving his wife Elizabeth surviving him, who after the death of her said husband married Mr Fisher, he thinks his christian name was James. That the said Thomas Bressie had a brother named William Bressie who was said to have served in the war of the Revolution, that the said William Bressie died leaving several children, among those living are the following William Bressie, Patsey (who now lived in Richmond) what her surname is he does not now recollect, and Mary Sivills the wife of the said Taylor Sivills, that these three are all the children of the said William Bressie deceased who are now living. The Court doth further certify that the said Taylor Sivills is a person of respectability and full faith and credit is due to his testimony.

NOTE: Only the most significant of the 145 pages in the file are transcribed here.