

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Brashears R12756

VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 21 November 2023.

[From Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com.]

State of Mississippi }
Adams County } ss

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the County of Adams Margaret Williams, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith to the following particulars & facts (Viz)

1st That She personally knew and was acquainted with Capt Richard Brashears on or about the year (forgotten) but say during the Revolutionary war

2 That s'd Richard Brashears was then a commissioned Captain or acting as such in the Illinois Cavalry & was stationed at Kaskaskia in or at the fort

3rd That her husband John Williams [W6511] a captain in the state artillery & John Gerault a captain in the Illinois Cavalry were also at the same time stationed at the same place, and that with the latter she was also well acquainted.

4th That she was well acquainted with & personally knew Ann Brocus (familiarily called by her friends Nancy Brocus) daughter of Wm Brocus that she the said deponent was married to her husband Capt John Williams at the said Wm Brocus house and that said Nancy Brocus stood up with her as bridesmaid and that they were married by the Reverend Mr John Kemp a church minister

5th That about 8 or 10 months after this deponents marriage with the said John Williams she this Dep't was present at the weding of said Ann or Nancy Brocus who was married to the aforesaid Captain Richard Brashears by the aforesaid Reverend John Kemp a Church minister

6th That they were married at the Fort at Kaskaskia when the troops were there stationed on or about the year as well as she can recollect — or — hereby & herein stating, that being in the seventy eighth year of her age, her memory is frail as to dates but clear as to circumstances and material facts but that they were married during the Revolutionary war

7th That herself and the husband of this deponent towit Capt John Williams were on terms of intimacy with the family of the said Capt Richard Brashears and his wife, Ann or Nancy, and that they sometime after said families separated and left the fort the husband of this Dep't had born to him a son and & heir whereupon he wrote to a letter to Capt Rich'd Brashears informing him of it and told him that he called his name Corke Williams. That some months thereafter the s'd Capt Rich'd Brashears wrote a letter to deponents husband stating that he had born to him a daughter and heir by the said Ann or Nancy his wife whom he called Celest, and which said Letter contained this particular sentence There is a wife for Corke Williams

8th That Clest Brashears the daughter & heir of said Capt Richard & Nancy Brashears was married as this deponent is informed and believes to Arthur Carney

9th That this Dep't has known Nancy Brashears now Nancy Tabor relict of said Capt Richard Brashears ever since her marriage and that she is now living and residing at Port Gibson in the State aforesaid

10th That she was personally acquainted with other officers in s'd Illinois Cavalry Viz Col G R Clark [George Rogers Clark VAS269] Lt Col John Montgomery [John Montgomery R16522] Major Thos Quirk [Thomas Quirk W5958] Capt Robt Todd [Robert Todd R18517] Capt Isaac Saylor Capt John Bayley [John Baley (Baily) R19354] and Capt Michael Perrault

11th That this dep't's husband & Capt Rich'd Brashears both served as officers untill the war was over & peace declared

Margaret herXmark Williams

Signed in presence of D Greenleaf

Sworn to & Subscribed before me this 19th day of August 1830/ H Tooley JPAC

Pension Office/ March 14th 1846

I certify that I have examined the claim of the heirs of the late Richard Brashears, who was a captain of Infantry in the Virginia State Troops, and I find that he left the service on the 31st December 1781, and that from that time the heirs should have received half-pay under the act of the 5 of July 1832. I therefore certify that half pay under the said act is still due to the heirs at the rate of Two Hundred and Forty Dollars per annum from the thirty first of December seventeen hundred and eighty one, when he left the service, to the third of September seventeen hundred and eighty three, from which they have already been paid, and that the amount is payable to William H. Todd, attorney of said heirs.

Approved/ Secretary of War

Commissioner of Pensions

NOTES:

The file includes a summary of documents submitted as evidence, including the following referring to documents not found:

No. 1 dated 28 Dec 1805 Divorce of Richard Brashears from his wife Ann Brashears.

No. 4 dated 6th Nov 1830. Deposition of Susan Havens, of the death of Richard Brashears the 7 or 27 May 1822

No 5 dated 12th Nov 1830 Deposition of Ann Tabor of the Identity of Richard Brashears, and the time of his death 27th May 1822

A typed paper in the file provides the following additional information:

Richard Brashears and Ann had a daughter Celest, who married Arthur Caney (or Carney) and had a daughter Elizabeth Louise Caney, who married Joseph Nicolls.

On 16 Nov 1832 Joseph Nicolls and his wife, Elizabeth Louisiana Nicolls of Claiborne County MS, assigned power of attorney as the only heirs of Capt Richard Brashears.