

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

Pension Application of William Cunningham R13534
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA Half Pay

[According to a note on the file jacket, this William Cunningham was a Major. The following letter may refer to a different William Cunningham.]

War Dep't/ Pension Office/ Sept 27 1836

Sir, In reply to the enclosed letter, from John M. Maury, Esq'r. I have to inform you that it does not appear that there is land, half-pay or any other gratuity due to the heirs of the late William Cunningham, dec'd. on account of his revolutionary services. It appears from our books and papers that he was a Captain in the Virginia continental line, and that he received on the 23^d May 1783, a certificate for the balance of his full pay agreeably to an act of the Virginia Legislature, amounting to £173.16, Va. currency. The books do not shew how long he served. None of the pension laws provide for such a case, as he died before the passage of those laws. The act of 5th July 1832, giving half-pay to certain Virginia officers, or their heirs, does not embrace any of the continental officers. It extends to those only who belonged to the State Troops, or their legal representatives. I have the honor
C. A. Harris, Esq'r/ acting Sec. of War

[The following is among the [bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#):]

It appears by reference to the books of this office that William Cunningham has rec'd a military bounty land warrant for his services three years as a Major of the Continental line. no other warrants for bounty lands appears to have issued to him. Wm G Pendleton V.L.Off [Virginia Land Office]
Land Office 7th Ap'l. 1809.

NOTES:

By the arrangement of commissioned officers in the Virginia Continental Line made at White Plains NY on 14 Sep 1778, (<http://revwarapps.org/b138.pdf>) Maj. William Cunningham became a supernumerary officer (with insufficient troops for a command).

On 6 Nov 1832 in Williamson County TN the following assigned power of attorney to obtain benefits for the service of William Cunningham [punctuation added]: "Phillip Maury & Betsey Ann his wife formerly Betsey Ann Cunningham; Richard Alexander and Nancy his wife formerly Nancy Cunningham; Jack Burton Cunningham; Polley M Cunningham; Susanna R. Hamilton formerly Susanna R Cunningham; James Cunningham; Samuel P Howard and Lucy B his wife formerly Lucy Cunningham, all heirs of Major William Cunningham."

John Bradley and Thomas Brooks stated that they had known Major William Cunningham while he lived in North Carolina and also after he moved to Smith County TN, and that he died in 1806 or 1807.