

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Leonard Helm R14982

VA Half Pay

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 May 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Kentucky Counties.]

To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of William Pope Executor of Leonard Helm deceased humbly sheweth That Leonard Helm performed various Services in the Illinois Country by special appointment of General [George Rogers] Clark as by his Certificate hereto annexed will appear [not found].

That the said Leonard Helm was killed some Time in the year 1782, without an Opportunity of settling his Claims against the State with the Commiss[ione]rs appointed for that Purpose; having previous to his Death made a Will, and appointed your Petitioner Executor thereto, as appears by a Certificate of the Clerk of Jefferson.

That many Claims have appeared against the decedents Estate, some of which have already been paid by your Petitioner, relying, principally, on his Demand against the State for Re-imbusement.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that the Services of the said Leonard Helm may be paid for; as also an Account with Vouchers, accompanying this Prayer, in such Manner as shall appear to your Honors to be most equitable & just.

And your Petitioner shall pray &c.

Dec'r 7th 1786 ref'd to Claims

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#).]

The affidavet of Tilmon Kamper [sic: Tilman Camper pension application W8573] of the age of sixty years and duly sworn sayeth the he inlisted as a solder under Capt Leonard Helms in the Virginia line in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight and joind Colo George R Clarke's Rgement and after he s'd Kamper serv'd out his time and was discharg'd he left s'd Capt Helms in the United service and further sayeth not

State of Kentucky Fayette County to wit

The above affidavet subscrib'd and sworn too before me a justice for the above s'd County on the 21st Oct'ber 1818

Leonard Young JPHC

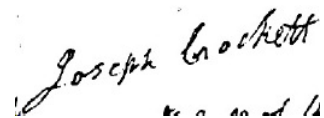


State of Kentucky Jessamine County Nov'r 7th 1818

I do certify I was well acquainted with Capt Leonard Helm in the year 1781 at Louisville at the falls of Ohio Said Helm was then acting as a Capt in a Regiment under the command of Col John Montgomery [R16522], all the Trupes at that place was under the command of Gen'l George R Clark. I was told by Capt Helm, and Gen'l Clark, that the said Helm was with Colo Georg Rogers Clark, in the year 1780 when said Clark took Kaskasky [sic: Kaskaskia, 4 Jul 1778] and that said Helm was also with Colo Clark, when he took governer Hambleton at Illinese [sic: Henry Hamilton, 25 Feb 1779]. I have been informed Capt Helm is ded, But I do not the date of his death. given under my hand the day and date a bove written

Joseph Crockett [S46377]

late Lieut Colo of the W R



State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for
Shelby County Ss } said County Benjamin Roberts [S31343] Who being duly sworn saith that
Leonard Hellams was a Captain in Col Geo R Clarks Regiment commonly called the Illinois Regiment he
does not know the precise period of his entering said Regiment but say that in 1779 or 80 [sic: 20 Jul
1778] he the said Hellams was left in command of the Post of Vincennes on the Wabash and was there
captured by Governor Hamilton of Detroit and became a prisoner of war [17 Dec 1778] – that afterwards
the said Hellams was stationed at the Iron Banks [on Mississippi River short distance below Wickliffe
KY] and subsequently at Louisville he does not at this time know the precise time of his death or where
he died and further he saith not

Ben. Roberts

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day April 1830 – Geo. Bergen JPSC

The State of Ohio Brown County Ss

This day personally appeared before me the undersing. one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for
said county capt. Thomas Young [S11921] who being duly sworn Deposeth and saith that he was a
captain in Crocketts Reg't of the Virginia State line of the Army of the Revolution that he arived with
said Reg't. at the falls of Ohio now Louisville in the Summer of 1781 where he found Leonard Helms of
the Illinois Reg't. the Virginia State line then in service at that place and that to the best of his
recollection when he retired in the last of December of that years he left the
said Helms still in service at that place and further he saith not.

Thos. Young

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of may 1830 James Wells JP

State of Kentucky }
Jefferson County to wit }

Personally appeared before me William Tompkins a Justice of the Peace for the County and State
afs'd. duly commissioned sworn and acting as such, Joseph Sanders [sic: Joseph Saunders], who being
duly sworn states that he was a Lieutenant in Slaughter's Battalion of Crockett's Regiment of the
Virginia State line in the War of the Revolution, and he says that Leonard Helms was a Captain of the
Regiment commanded by Col George Rogers Clarke commonly called the Illinois Regiment; but he is not
able to say, at this time, how long the said Helms remained in service; but being informed that Capt.
Helms died in the year 1781 he expects that he remained in service until the time of his death.

Witness my hand this 7th June 1830

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th June 1830

Joseph Saunders

State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in
Hardin County Ss } & for said County Jacob VanMeter [W8798] who being duly sworn saith
that he was an Ensign in Capt Wm Harrod's [William Harrod's] company of Regular Volunteers under
the command of Col George R. Clark at the taking of Kaskaskia and the posts in that vicinity in the
spring or summer of 1778 and he says that Capt Leonard Helm marched a company of troops from the
interior of the state of Virginia, across the mountain, and arrived on the Monongahala [sic: Monongahela
River] early in the month of April of that year, and descended the Monongahala and Ohio with his
company and was with Col Clarke at the taking of the aforementioned posts, and to the best of his knowledge
and belief remained in service [several illegible words] to the closing of the war or disbanding of said
Regiment. He the said deponent was not in service after the [two illegible words] but settled in the

aforenamed State [several illegible words] deponent saith not

Sworn and subscribed before me the 29th of January 1831 Allen Singleton JPHC

The Petition of the Heirs of Capt Leonard Helms Respectfully states. That the said Helms was a captain in the Illinois Regt. Commanded by Geo. R. Clarke in the Revolution and after being in service, as a Capt of said Regiment, more than three years, died in service. That no land Bounty has been received by them for their fathers services.

The Petitioners have obtained the evidence of Four of the Western Officers whose testimony, they hope, will sufficiently establish their claim.

- 1. Mr. VanMeter testifies that Capt. Helm early in April 1778 descended the Monongahela with his Company.
- 2&3. Capt Ben. Roberts & Lieut. Saunders testify that they knew him in in service – that he was a prisoner at one time &c &c.
- 4. Capt. Thomas Young testifies that Helms was in service in the summer 1781 he thinks he was in service when said Young left Louisville the last of Dec'r 1781.

The Land Bounty due a Captain of the Va. State Line for same as given to all the other Officers of Col. Clarkes Regt. is requested by The Heirs of Capt Helms/ pr their Atty/ T. Green

[The following are from [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#) in relation to claims for bounty land from unnamed heirs of Leonard Helm. Some of the online images are poor.]

Account of Merchandise issued at St. Vincents [Vincennes] not included in the foregoing Abstracts. Viz
 Capt. Helm }
 19 March 1779 } 1 Keg wine[?] containing 8 gallons
 } 2 [illegible] sugar 8 lbs each
 } 2 papers Tea 3 lb each

Extract from an account of Goods delivered 1779. Part of the Plunder taken at St. Vincents. Illinois Papers. Returns &c acounts &c &c Vol. 2nd Jas. E. Heath/ Aud'r Off. Sept 11 1833

Date Capt Leonard Helm

	Rum	Sugar	Tobacco	Pork
1781	£.S.P.	Lbs	Cannister	Lbs
May 3 Pr Orders brought from Day book	3.1.1			
5 Pr ditto		8		
25 Pr ditto		8	1	
June 7 Pr ditto		12		
July 9 Pr ditto		10		
Sepr 9 Pr ditto			1	
	3.1.1	38	2	

A true Copy of Capt. L. Helms account taken from "Martin Carneys Book." Illinois Papers Quarter Masters Returns & accounts Orderly Books &c. Vol. 3. Jas. E. Heath/ Aud Off Sept 11 1833

I John Dauthill[?] Clerk of the Board of Commissioners for the Illinois grant do hereby Certify that it appears from the books of surveys [illegible word] for the said Illinois grant, that Captain Leonard Helms was allowed the following tracts of land in said grant

Lots Numbers 66, 147, 201, 266, 269 & 279 each five hundred acres of land and No. 149 of two hundred and thirty four acres which appears was allowed him for his Services as a Captain in said Illinois Regiment

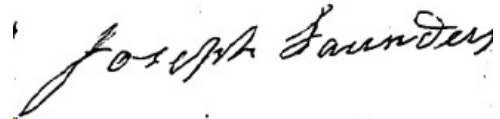
Given under my hand this 27th day of April 1831

John Douthill Clk

State of Kentucky } Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in &
Jefferson County } for said County Joseph Saunders a Revolutionary Officer who being duly sworn saith that Leonard Helm was a Captain in the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State line of the army of the Revolution, that he knows not how long the said Helm served but he says that in the fall of the year 1779 [one or two illegible words] he said Deponent was ordered from Kaskaskia into Virginia for the purpose of recruiting men.

That Capt. Leonard Helm was there at that time the commanding Officer at Vincennes through which place deponent passed on the way from Kaskaskia to Virginia and further he saith not

Sworn and subscribed before me
this third day of September 1832

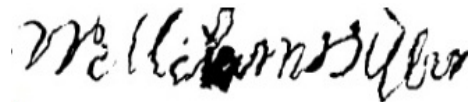


State of Kentucky Jefferson County to wit. This is to certify that Mason Lunsford [S32387] this day made oath before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County that he was stationed at the Iron Banks under Capt John Bailey of the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State line of the army of the Revolution sometime in the year 1781 and says that Capt Helms whose Christian name he does not recollect was also a Captain in the same Regiment at the time this affiant was stationd at the Iron Banks as above mentioned. that he knows not how long the said Helm continued in the said Regiment or when he entered it. Given under my hand this 16th of February 1833. Robert H. Grayson JPJC

State of Kentucky }
Jefferson County Towit }

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said county William Tyler [S14742] who being duly sworn according law states; that early in the Spring of the year 1778, he joined Capt. William Harrod's Company of Volunteers at Muddy Creek on the Monongahela River. That they were then joined by two Companies from Virginia East of the mountains; commanded by Capt. Joseph Bowman and Leonard Helms. That they descended the Ohio River under the Command of Col. George Rogers Clarke and were joined by the troops at the Falls of Ohio and descended to near the mouth of Ohio, where they marched across the Country and took Kaskaskia and the posts in that neighbourhood. Thence Capt. Helms was dispatched with a detachment and took Vincennes, where he remained in command until the place was retaken by Governor Hamilton from Detroit and the said Helm's was at the same time taken prisoner. That the said place was retaken by Gen'l. Clarke, and the said Capt. Helm's was again left in command of said post and was in command at said post when deponent left the service in the fall of 1779. Deponent does not know how long the said Helms remained in service but believes until the end of the war or until the time of his death, as Deponent recollects the said Helm's being in service at the Falls of Ohio some time after he left him at Vincennes

& further saith not
[19 March 1833]



To the Governor of Virginia

The Petition of the heirs of Capt. Leonard Helms respectfully states. That their ancestor at a very early period of the war accepted of a Commission in the Illinois regiment raised for the defence of our Western frontier, and was killed in battle as appears by the affidavit of Thomas Young already filed with the claim.

The claim has been rejected, but the additional affidavits of Veritable men, three in number, now render they think the claim indisputable.

Jos. Saunders an old revolutionary officer states that, he knows Leonard Helms was a Captain of the Illinois regiment – he saw him in Command at Vincennes which he, Saunders, passed from Kaskaskia to Virginia on a recruiting tour.

Mason Lunsford states that he was stationed at the Iron Banks in 1781 under Capt. Jno. Bailey of Illinois regiment & that Leonard Helms was also a Captain in said regiment.

William Tyler swears that in 1778, in the Spring of the year, he joined a Volunteer Company commanded by Capt. William Harrod & was joined by two companies from Virginia, one of which was commanded by Leonard Helms – that they descended the Ohio river, took Kaskaskias & other forts in that neighborhood – afterward Capt. Helms with a small detachment of troops took Vincennes & remained at that post till it was retaken & the said Helms taken prisoner – but was released when said place was retaken by Col. G. R. Clarke & Capt. Helms left the service in the fall of 1779.

Your petitioners hope that this evidence will satisfy your Excellency of the justice of their claim & removing any doubts you may have entertained when it was rejected

Your petitioners humbly solicit a reconsideration of the case & allowance of the Land Bounty to which they consider themselves so clearly entitled.

Thomas Green per Thomas Kenan Jr
Atts. for the heirs

[The following is from the federal pension file.]

State of Kentucky }

Hardin County } Sct July Term 1850/ 15 July 1850

This day Ben Helm appeared in the County Court of Hardin in the State of Kentucky being a Court of Record and made the following statement On Oath. “That he is now in the Eighty fourth year of his age. He is the son of Thomas Helm who removed to Kentucky in the year 1780 and resided for a short time at the falls of the Ohio now Louisville. His father had two Brothers Siner Helm and Leonard Helm. That he has seen and knew Leonard Helm. That he knows the fact from Common Report obtaining a general notoriety in that day, that Leonard Helm entered the Revolutionary service as Captain under General George Rogers Clark in the Illinois Regiment and as Captain served under General Clark in and during that Campaign. He further states that after the return of General Clark he became well acquainted with him and held repeated conversations with General Clark concerning the services of this affiants uncle Leonard Helm, that General Clark informed him that Leonard Helm has served with him in the Illinois Regiment as a Captain. General Clark related to him many facts connected with the services of Leonard Helm tending to show the value and importance of his services to the Country. Affiant further states that he has been informed and from general rumour of the day that Leonard Helm died in the County of Jefferson in the State of Kentucky. The facts stated herein by him ware of general notoriety and he was the more intimately acquainted with the facts because of his near relationship. The affiant Ben Helms is personally known to the members of the Court and full faith and credit is due to his statements made on Oath”

[Copy from the Minute Book of the Court certified 2 Aug 1850.]

NOTES:

Documents in the federal pension file state that after his military service Leonard Helm was appointed an Indian Agent in August 1779 and died before the close of the war. His heir was therefore not entitled to half pay under the act of 5 July 1832.

The rejected-claims file includes a copy of the last will and testament of Leonard Helm dated 2 May 1782 with the following provisions: To his children, Sally Achelles and Molly Helm, "equal distribution of all lands, debts, and accounts on the Western department of Virginia and if either of my said Children should die before they come of age or marry it is then my desire that their proportion of said estate be equally divided between the surviving Children or their Heirs."

A document in the rejected claims dated 22 Dec 1824 lists the two heirs of Leonard Helm as Sarah Jones, wife of William Jones of Henry County KY, and Mary Jenkins, wife of Ezekiel Jenkins of Clark County IN.

On 18 Feb 1834 Henry Floyd and John Floyd of Union County KY assigned power of attorney to obtain half pay under the provisions of the act of 5 July 1832 for services rendered by Leonard Helm, "the full brother of our mother Anne Floyd alias Helm." On 20 Aug 1851 Leonard Jenkins of Poweshiek County, Iowa, assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits for the service of Leonard Helm, who was the father of his mother, Molly Jenkins.