

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Callis W14444

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } to wit:

County of Mathews }

On this 13th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Mathews County now sitting, George Callis a resident of the County of Mathews and State of Virginia, aged seventy two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He was under Captain Philip Tabb, George Bullups Ensign and Colo. James Baytop. He cannot recollect the exact time when he entered the service he was not on the muster list when Lord Dunmore came to Gwyn's Island [Gwynn Island, Dec 1775] but he was called out soon after, he out there off and on until the siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] he left the service after this siege about October 1781 he was in a little skirmish at one Culleys plantation lying on Horn harbour where he was keeping guard. a family was moving and the British [illegible word] pursued a little vessel and fired upon them his party saved the vessel; He lived in Kingston Parish part of Gloucester County when he entered the service and he has lived there ever since, he entered as a militia-man, he volunteered to make up a minute company – he was drafted three times, he was in no pitched battles – he kept guard at Gwyn's Island when he first went out and then placed in Kingston Parish, he marched through King & Queen [King and Queen County], crossed at West Point, down to Williamsburg from there to James Town when Arnold came down James River [Gen. Benedict Arnold, Jan 1781] the Fleet went immediately under the guns; when Cornwallis came to York [1 Aug 1781] he was marched down upon their lines and was there until the capture [19 Oct 1781]; at Williamsburg General [Thomas] Nelson, Major [John] Nelson, Capt Armistead of the continental line served with him, he has no documentary evidense that will show when he entered or when he left the service he can prove his service by Richard Hurst [pension application S9593], William Morgan [S7246], he was born in Kingston Parish Gloucester County, the year he does not recollect, he had a register of the ages of himself, brothers and sisters set in the Prayer Book, the book got burnt up his brother's house, he had no written discharge. He thinks he served more than four years in all, he acted as a private all the time of his service.

[signed] Geo. Callis

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the county of Mathews in the State of Virginia George Callis, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot now swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection it was not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grade to wit: For one month I served under Capt John Billups at Gwynn's Island Cricket Hill near Gwynn's Island we were ordered out by Colo Peyton – For twenty one days I served in Lilley's neck on guard under the same officer called by like order – by order of Colo Peyton Commandant of Gloucester county, twenty five men were to be drafted to stand guard on Pepper Creek, I was one of them and served there one month – by like order I was drafted to go to little York and served there two months under Capt John Billips I volunteered under Capt Philip Tabb to go to Richmond, we went to Williamsburg, James Town and other places around there, when the British came down James River, I served on that tour three months, Capt Tabb was a Capt of our regiment and the number of men was made up by order of the Colo. we joined the main army at Williamsburg, when the British came to little York the whole militia of Gloucester County was called out. I was in John Billup's company and went out

with the company. I think it was about June 1781, I served on that tour three months – during the periods mentioned herein I was in actual service as a private militia-man all the time and was not engaged in any civil occupation. I do not recollect the number of the regiment it was the regiment of militia for Gloucester County. For periods of service in the Revolutionary War amounting in the whole to eight months and twenty one days service as a private militia-man I claim a Pension

[signed] George Call[?]

The Affidavits of Richard Hurst and William Digges [S8327] both of lawful age made in Mathews County to accompany the declaration of George Callis made 15th of August 1832 in open Court before the Court of Mathews County in order to obtain the benefits of An Act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832, to which he has added an amended declaration.

These Affiants being first duly sworn, depose and say that they served in the Revolutionary War with George Callis that he belonged to the company of John Billups of the Gloucester Militia which regiment was commanded by Colo Sir John Peyton he was a part of the time attached to Philip Tabb's company – that he entered the service in 1777 and was discharged in the fall of 1781 – they think that George Callis is as old as he has said in his declaration that he is – he was with these affiants on duty at Williamsburg, James Town, Hubbard's Old field [near the dividing line of Gloucester and King and Queen counties], Ware Church [near Gloucester] Seawelle's Old field [sic: Seawell's Old Field near Gloucester] and Gloucester Town. These affiants have heard the declaration made by George Callis this day and believe that he served fully as long as the periods mentioned therein – that he was not engaged in any civil employment during those periods – that he was on duty by order of the Colo of the regiment and further these affiants say not.

[signed] Richard Herst [signed] William Degges

NOTE: On 10 Apr 1854 Elizabeth Callis, 60, applied for a pension stating that she married George Callis sometime after 2 Jan 1800. On an application for bounty land dated 31 Mar 1855 her identity was certified by Samuel Callis and Lorena F. Callis, who stated they had known her for 25 years. A letter dated 16 Mar 1864[?] states that Elizabeth Callis "is a very worthy old woman and dependant on said Samuel Callis for a living and is often compelled to gather berries to sell for bread." On 28 Jan 1866 Elizabeth Callis applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which period she had subsisted by "sewing, knitting and washing." A document in the file states that on 1 Jan 1870 Elizabeth Callis was 78 and living with her son-in-law, Samuel Callis.