

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Caleb Furbee W740 Mary Furbee DE
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia } ss.
County of Monongalia }

On this 28th day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two, personally appeared in open court, before the County court of Monongalia now sitting Caleb Furbee, a resident of said county aged eighty 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 beleives that it was in the year 1775 when the enemy first came into the Deleware [sic: Delaware Bay], he volunteered to go upon the beach between Motherkill and Jones creeks [sic: Murderkill and St. Jones creeks] on the deleware bay, where we had an encampment under the command of Capt. Sipple a militia officer in the Deleware militia, that he was discharged by Capt. Sipple in the last of November having served upwards of six months during all this term we guarded the shore to prevent the enemy from landing.

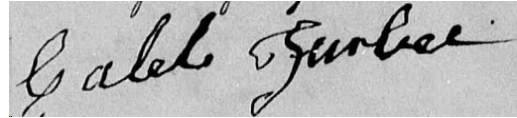
That in the spring of the year 1776 he was commissioned as a lieutenant in Capt. Sipples company by the Honb^l. Govenor Radnor of Deleware [sic: probably Caesar Rodney, but see endnote], and a bout the last of April 1776 he received orders from his captain who had received orders from the said Governor to march to the same place that he had the previous year been at – that he marched and took command of about fifteen of his company, the captain refusing to go – that in June he with his company had an engagement with the enemy at the mouth of Muskmelon creek [sic: Mispillion River], and succeeded in preventing them from landing – that he thinks that it was in July we had another engagement at Shirleys bar on the bay shore, that the enemy cannonaded us severely and he was near being killed by a cannon ball but we succeeded in preventing the enemy from landing out of their boats – that late in the fall and after the shipping left the bay we returned home, being at this service about eight or nine months.

That about the month of May 1777 when the enemys shipping returned in to the Deleware, Gov. Radner sent him orders to march to the bay and guard the coasts, that he immediately marched without [sic] about fifteen men under his command and remained guarding the coast untill the enemy landed at the head of Elk which he beleives was in July [sic: at present Elkton MD, 25 Aug 1777], – he received orders from the Govenor to head the enemy, he accordingly marched and joined the Deleware regiment at Christeen creek [sic: Christiana, now Christina River] commanded by Col. [Charles] Pope or Col. [David] Hall. that he and his men were attached to a company commanded by Capt. Caldwell – that we headed the enemy untill we met at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] in which engagement he was in the Deleware regiment being on the right wing – that after the battle the enemy having returned into the Deleware bay, with their shipping, he with his men marched back to that bay – that the enemy being in possession of Philadelphia, and the bay, a man by the name of Chaney Clow [Cheney Clow] a tory, collected a large company and built a fort at the head of Chester river – that he was ordered by the Governor who headed the troops, amounting to near two hundred, to march and take the fort of Clow which we succeeding in doing but Clow escaped to the enemy but was afterwards caught and hung [in 1788] – that he thinks this fort was taken in December 1777 [sic: 18 Apr 1778] – that after this we returned home, after an absence of about eight months.

That frequently after the year 1777 and during the revolution he volunteered to go out against the enemy, the refugies and tories, and thinks that it was not less than six months he was employed in this kind of service – that during the year 1778 he was taken prisoner by the refugies but was discharged in a few days.

He hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension, or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

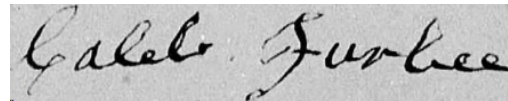
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



State of Virginia } ss.
county of Monongalia }

On this 25th day of February in the year 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the County court of Monongalia now sitting, Caleb Furbee the same person named in the foregoing declaration, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in addition to his former one. That he was born on the 22^d of November in the year 1752 in Kent county Delaware, on the Delaware bay within three miles of the serf – that the record of his age is recorded in fathers bible now in the possession of his brother Waitman living in Tyler county Virginia – that he always lived in Kent county when ordered into the service of the United states, and removed from that county, into the county of Monongalia aforesaid in the year 1796 – that he recollects the names of the following regular officers in the Delaware state Col. Pope, Col. Hall, Col. Richardson Gen’ls Wayne [Anthony Wayne of PA], Mercer [Hugh Mercer of VA], Smallwood [William Smallwood of MD] – Major Vaughn – Capt. [Robert] Kirkwood. John Rhodes, Nixon of Delaware regiment and many others whose names he has forgotton – that his company joined Col. Richardson’s regiment at Christeen, but he cannot recollect the names of his officers altho’ we were together sometime and in the battle of Brandywine – that he recollects Col. Rhodes Lieut. Col. Philip Barrett, Major Gibbs, Capt. Manny, Caldwell, Gray, Berry of the Delaware militia regiment. That has been fifty one years a member of the Methodist church. That he preserved his commission untill about eight years ago when it was destroyed by a grandchild – that he has for a long time been personally acquainted with the Rev’d. Joseph A. Shackelford, Richard Harrison, Charles Simpkins [pension application R9588], Simeon Everly esq’r and other aged and respectable citizens of said county who he beleives can testify as to the general beleif of his services in the Revolution.

That he is confident that he served altogether in the Revolution, a term not less than twenty eight months. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid



State of Virginia } SS.
County of Monongalia }

Be it remembered that on this 26th of March in the year 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber Richard Watts a Justice of the peace in and for said county John Davis a resident of said county, and to me personally known, and after being duly sworn doth depose and say. That he was born in Kent county Delaware on the 22^d of July in the year 1751, and at the age of eighteen or nineteen he became personally acquainted with Caleb Furbee now a resident of this county – that during the Revolutionary war but the year or time he cannot now possibly recollect, he served two tours of duty in the Delaware militia stationed on and near the Delaware bay, opperating against the enemy, under the said Caleb who acted and he beleives was a Lieutenant of the said Delaware militia, that he has a perfect recollection of hearing at the time of the expedition – that the said Caleb had the reputation of being a brave man and he has no doubt frequently marched into the service, to repel the encroachments of the enemy who frequently made excursions up the Delaware, and against the tories who were more dreaded than the British. that forty one or two years ago, he removed into this county, from the said county of Kent, and has ever since resided here -that the said Caleb removed from Kent into this county, one year before – that he is the brother in law of the said Caleb. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid

John hisXmark Davis

State of Virginia } ss.

County of Monongalia } Be it remembered that on the 6th day of April, in the year 1833, personally appeared before me Nimrod Dent the subscriber, a Justice of the peace in and for said county, Charles Simpkins a resident of said county, aged seventy five years who after being duly and solemnly sworn, doth depose and say, That he has been personally acquainted with Caleb Furbee, a resident of said county (and as he has been informed an applicant for a pension) for forty years – that many years ago he has heard the said Furbee speak of his services as a Lieutenant of the militia of Delaware in the Revolutionary War, and recount scenes that then happened – that from his knowledge of Furbee’s character, he has no doubt that he was in the Revolution as an officer – and he now has and bears a reputable standing in society

Charles hisXmark Simpkins

Also on the same day personally appeared before me, Ann Davis aged Seventy seven years, a resident of said county, who after being duly and solemnly sworn, doth depose and say, That she is the sister of the Caleb Furbee named in Charles Simpkins deposition. that during her infancy [i.e. under age 21] she resided in Kent county Delaware and continued to reside there during the whole of the Revolutionary War. that she has a perfect recollection of her brother the said Caleb Furbee, frequently going into the service of the country as well a private soldier as a Lieutenant of the Militia, that she frequently witnessed her brother’s departure and return upon expeditions on the Bay side (within two miles of which her family resided) and to other places, but she cannot possibly say the years or the length of service – that during the Revolution we were much more fearful of the refugees and tories than the British, and our people had a great deal of military service to perform – that she has a perfect recollection of hearing that her brother was in the expedition against Cheney Clow the Tory, but she cannot recollect the year it took place – that it is about forty three years since she removed into this county.

Ann herXmark Davis

Also on the same day personally appeared before me, Richard Harrison, aged sixty three years a resident of said county, who after being duly and solemnly sworn doth depose and say, That he has been personally acquainted with the above named Caleb Furbee for about twenty years, that some years ago, he frequently heard the said Furbee speak of his services in the Revolutionary War. that in the year 1811 in passing through the state of Kentucky, he fell in company with a Col. Gibbs and after some conversation the said Gibbs stated to him, that he the said Gibbs and the said Furbee had served for some time together in the Revolutionary War.

Rich’d Harrison

State of Virginia } ss.

Tyler County } This day [11 June 1833] personally appeared before me John W. Allen one of the justices of the peace in and for said County Watenen Furby aged Eighty three years a resident of said County who after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he is a brother of Calib Furby of Monongalia County who he understands is an applicant for a pension that during the revolutionary war that he the deponent resided in Kent County Delaware the deponent saith that he served under his brother Caleb Furby about three months at the mouth of musmelin Creek there we had a battle and succeeded that his services under his brother Caleb was in the year of 1776 in Captain Manney Company of volunteers and that he is surtain that the said Calib Furby was a Lieutenant and served as such about three years and that he knows of said Calib being at the taking of Chaney Clows army and also knows that said Caleb had the sole Command of the Company that Garded the murdkil Creek he thinks that his brother was Comeshend by Governer Radney as he knows that Radney presided at that time as Governer of the State of Delaware he dos not Recolect of ever seing his brothers Comeshen but that he has the record of his ag and that he was born the 22^d of November in the year of 1752 in Kent County Delaware near the delaware bay and he further stats that the said Calib was reputed to have been an active ofeser and a good Solger

[signed] W. Furbee

[On 17 Jan 1834 Caleb Furbee was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years service as a Private.]

State of Virginia }
Tyler County } Ss

On this 26th day of September 1834 Personally appeared before me John W Allen, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county of Tyler & State aforesaid John Davis aged Fifty Six years, who I hereby certify to be a creditable person, who being first duly sworn according to law, on his oath states, that he has been well acquainted with Caleb Furbee (of Monongalia county Virginia) for Forty five years past – That from the year 1798 to the year 1810, Deponent occasionally lived with the said Caleb Furbee as one of his family, and while residing with the said Caleb Furbee, he the said Caleb Furbee shewed Deponent his commission of Lieutenant under which he served as he said in the Revolutionary War; which was dated as well as deponent recollects in the year 1776 (or thereabouts.) Deponent frequently within the above specified period, while living in the family of the said Caleb Furbee, seen the said commission & heard the said Caleb Furbee speak of his services as a Lieutenant in the war of the Revolution – Deponent further states that in the lifetime of the father of Deponent; Deponent has heard his father (who lived a near neighbor to the said Caleb Furbee in the time of the Revolution & afterwards in the County of Monongalia, where they both had removed to) speak of the said Caleb Furbee as having served the United States as a Lieutenant in the Revolution – and further this Deponent saith not

[signed] John Davis

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On Furbee's report Singleton wrote "Entitled."]

Caleb Furbee, draws 80\$

I the undersigned Caleb Furbee at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my age and service as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit – I shall be 82 years old the 22^d day of November (next)

In the year 1775 the British Fleet came into the Delaware Bay (among the ships were the Robuck [sic: *Roebuck*] & Vermillion) and committed many depredations upon the inhabitants of the bay shore – the people of Delaware voluntarily turned out in the defence of the people thus Harrassed – and defended them & their property from death & destruction – I was in this kind of service fully six months.

In the succeeding Spring of 1776 volunteer companies were called to protect the settlers on the Bay Shore against depredations from the british Fleet then lying in the bay. a Capt. Sipple called a company of volunteers in which I myself was Ensign – this company raised three Batteries on the Bay Shor one at the mouth of Muddy creek a nother at the mouth of Jones creek & a third [illegible word] way between the first two. We were under the command of Col. Rodes who was occasionally with us – in this tour I was in service at least six months.

I the Spring of 1777 Capt. Furbee called a company of volunteers in which I was Ensign – we marched to Namans Creek [sic: *Naamans Creek*] the dividing line between Delaware & Pennsylvania. we remained there and in going & returning at least 3 months – on returning the British Fleet had gone up the Chesapeake Bay & disembarked at the head of Elk.

Captain Manny raised a volunteer company in which I was Lieutenant. we marched to Christian bridge and there joined Col. Richardson's Regt. of Regulars. from Christian Bridge the army marched to Brandywine. remained there awhile after the Battle then returned to the Beech[?] on the Delaware. we remained there for a short time before we went in pursuit of Chaney's army or rather force, (this man Chaney was a tory & those under him were also tories –) he had collected a good many men and built a fort. on getting near the Fort and offering battle he came out with his force, a battle ensued. Chaney was defeated many of his men were killed & many taken prissoners – he himself escaped to the British Fleet but was subsequently taken and hung for his tory principals. Col. Pope commanded us in this engagement. We were then marched to Dover, remained there and in the vicinity until the succeeding March. I was in service this tour at least six months.

All my subsequent service was in pursuit of Refugees. I was in that service “of and on” for two years – I cannot detail all the different tours performed, the tours were generally short and frequent. I am perfectly confident I done at least nine months service against the Refugees. I was Lieutenant in all this service and was at the Battle of Masmillon & Shirley Bar. in the latter was taken prisoner, was a prisoner 15 days procured my release by giving a barrel of Brandy and a barrel of flour – I proved my services in part by Weghtman Furbee Thos. P. Ray wrote my Declaration. I gave him the same statement I now give In witness whereof I hereto subscribe my name Nov 10 1834 Caleb Furbee
Note. Mr Furbee says he has an application now pending for an increase of his pension – he thinks himself entitled to the Pension of an Ensign or Lieutenant. In reference to that matter I may be permitted to say that his statement to me was highly satisfactory – and I believe strictly true in all particulars – Mr. F. I am informed is a man of veracity. W. G Singleton/ Nov. 28 1834

NOTES:

The State of Delaware was governed by a Council of Safety until 12 Feb 1777, when it elected its first President, John McKinly. McKinly was succeeded on 22 Sep 1777 by Thomas McKean who served only until 20 Oct 1777. George Read served from that date until 31 Mar 1778, when he was succeeded by Caesar Rodney, who served as President of Delaware until 6 Nov 1780.

On 11 April 1853 Mary Furbee, about 67, of Tyler County VA, applied for a pension stating that she married Caleb Furbee in Greene County PA in December 1833, and he died about 16 April 1837. As evidence of marriage she submitted the last will and testament of Caleb Furbee, Sr. dated 22 March 1837, apparently in his own handwriting, leaving a mare, cow, and household furniture to Mary Furbee. Dallas Lemasters of Tyler County stated that he had been present at the wedding. On an application for bounty land dated 28 March 1855 she stated that her name before the marriage was Mary Lemasters.

On 19 July 1868 Enoch Lemasters and Daniel Doll certified that Mary Furbee of Middlebourne WV was still a widow.