

**Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements &  
Rosters**

Petition Relating to the Services of William Poythress Va14<sup>1</sup>  
Transcribed by John M. Poythress

5/28/11

**27 Dec 1833**

Petition of the heirs of **Capt. William Poythress** of Virginia Continental  
Line for commutation of five years full pay. Petition submitted to U. S.  
Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives 27 Dec 1833.

Following is the text of this petition and its attachments. **Capt. William Poythress** is Batte # 211 2 m. **Mary Gilliam**. The petitioners are sons **Joshua Poythress**, **Thomas E. Poythress**, and **William P. Poythress** who are Batte #s 211 21, 211 22, and 211 23 respectively. By the time of this petition (1833) siblings **Patrick Henry Poythress** (211 24) and **Mary Poythress** (211 25) were deceased and the petitioners represented themselves as the “only” heirs.

After three referrals to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims it appears that no action was taken on this partition, and, indeed, the attachments seem to imply the government rested on what it presumed to be proof of payment of the pay and the petition languished in committee with no action.

Text:

Page 1 (outside folio/title/disposition notations)

**William Poythress**

***Petition of the Heirs of***

**Capt. William Poythress** of  
Virginia Cont Line  
for commutation of  
five years full pay

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***Dec. 27. 1833***

**Ref\_to Com on Rev. Claims**

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<sup>1</sup> The originals are to be found in 3 sets of microfilm reels in the Library of Virginia: Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants, reels 1-29; Virginia Land Office Military Certificates, reels 1-38; and Revolutionary War Rejected Claims, reels 1-15.

**December 9, 1834**

**Ref\_ to Com on Rev. Claims**

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*June 6<sup>th</sup> 1836*  
*Ref to the Committee*  
*on Rev. Claims*

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Page 2 (Text of Petition)

**To**

the honorable Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States assembled.

Your petitioners **Joshua Poythress Thomas E. Poythress** and **William P. Poythress** humbly represent that they are the children and only heirs of **William Poythress** a Captain in the Army of the Revolutionary war, and an officer in the Virginia Line on Continental establishment. That the said Poythress entered the service at an early period of the War and continued in active service until its termination and received from Virginia his military bounty land for seven years services as appears by the Certificate of Benjamin Harrison then Govr of Virginia and herewith filed marked B. It also appears that from the certificate of the Auditor of Virginia marked A. accompanying this petition that the said **Poythress** rced £14/14/0 in certificates for the balance of his full pay for services to the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1781.- your petitioners deem it unnecessary to furnish any further testimony of their father's services as an Officer of the Revolution as the accompanying documentary evidence from the army records of Virginia is conclusive evidence to prove that Capt. Poythress is entitled to relief under the Ressolutions (sic) of Congress passed in 1780.- Your petitioners therefore humbly pray the passage of an act granting to them the commutation of five years full pay and interest thereon on account of the aforesaid services of their father which is amply proved continued until the end of the war in the Virginia Continental Line in the rank of a Captain. And your petitioners will ever pray so.

**Joshua Poythress**  
**Thomas E. Poythress**  
**William P. Poythress**

By  
John H. Price

Page 3—Exhibit A “Certificate of Register of Land Office Va.

This is to certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of Virginia *Continental* Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the *Seventh* day of *Novembr*.

1783 , in the name of **William Poythress**..... as *a Lieut Artillery* for £417.14.0 , which Certificate appears to have been delivered to *himself* ..... and was given for services prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1782. *To wit*\_\_as *Lieut. from March 77 to 19 August 80 and as Capt Lt. from 19 August 80 to 5 March. 1781.*

No Seal                      Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office,  
of                              Richmond, this *Fourth* day of *Decembr*—1883.  
Office                              *Jas E Meath*    Auditor.

Page 4 Exhibit B Warrant for 4000 Acres

No. 1878              Council Chamber 1783

I do Certify that **William Poythress** is entitled to the proportion of Land allowed a Captain Lieutenant of the Artillery in the Continental line who has served seven years.

*Thomas Meriwether*                      *Benjamin Harrison*

A warrant for 4000 Acres issued to **WmPoythress** 8 Nov: 1783  
An Examined Copy from Records  
in the Land Office of Virginia.  
*Mr pedinns off Va*  
*Dec 12 1833*

Page 5 Exhibit "C"

*County of Prince George State of Virginia Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1833 I hereby certify that Joshua Poythress, Thomas E. Poythress & William P. Poythress are the Lawful heirs of Wm Poythress Formerly an Officer in the Revolutionary War.*  
*Benjamin Cocke JP*