

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

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to William Helm VAS1479

[vsl 16](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/11/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8^h of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[p 2]

The Petition of the heirs of Captain William Helm respectfully States that he was a Captain in the War of the Revolution from an early period of the same, until its close, and never received any Compensation in Land or Money Being opulent, he followed the example of his Commanding Officers, but his heirs now need all to which they are justly entitled, and pray that the Land Bounty may be allowed them for his Services as Captain of the Virginia Continental Regiment to the close of the War.

The affidavits of William R. Withers a Lieutenant in the Revolution, of Joseph Kemper, David Doyle, James Kemper and William Foster all show that said Helm was a Captain in the Virginia Continental Line in active Service for the greater part of the War. The land Bounty is respectfully solicited

Thomas Greene
for the Petitioners

[p 3]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

This day Joseph Kemper personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid and made Oath that from the early part of the year 1779, he personally knew a certain William Helm as a Captain of Infantry of the Virginia Line on Continental establishment; and that the said Captain William Helm remained in the service in command, until sometime in the year 1782, when he retired as a Supernumerary without resigning his commission. The same Captain William Helm married a Miss Pickett of Fauquier County Virginia, a few years after the close of the War of the revolution. Given under my hand this 21st day of April 1832

S/Pierce Perry [JP]

[p 5]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

This day personally came before the subscriber a justice of the peace in the County aforesaid William R Withers¹ and made oath in due form that he was a Lieutenant in the Army of

¹ [William Withers W18351](#)

the American Revolution and is now to the best of his belief in the 75th year of his age and that he was acquainted with William Helm deceased which said Helm was a Lieutenant in the Virginia line attached to the Continental Army of the said American Revolution & in the course of the war he was called Captain Helm and to the best of his believe & recollection the said Captain Helm continued in the service of the said Virginia line on Continental establishment until the close of the war of the aforesaid revolution and the said Withers did further make oath that the said William Helm intermarried with a daughter of Captain William Pickett in Fauquier County Virginia a few years after the said war terminated. Given under my hand & seal this 30th day of October 1832

S/ French Strother [JP]

[p 7]

Virginia Fauquier County to wit

This day Charles Kemper² personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in the County aforesaid and made oath that he was personally acquainted with William Helm as a Lieutenant of Infantry of the Virginia line on Continental establishment from the year 1777 until 1779 and then the said Lieutenant William Helm was promoted to the rank of Captain of the aforesaid Virginia line on Continental establishment and that the said Captain Helm continued in the service in command of a company until the year after the defeat of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia and he the said Captain Helm then became a supernumerary and retired from the service and a few years after the said War Captain Helm married a daughter of Captain William Pickett of Fauquier County Virginia. Given under my hand this 2nd day of May 1832

S/ Joseph Chilton [JP]

[p 8]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit:

This day David Doyle personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid and made oath that he was personally acquainted with Captain William Helm in the character of an Officer of the Virginia Line on Continental establishment from May 1777, until the fall of the year 1780; that is to say – the said Helm was a Lieutenant from May 1777 until the year 1779, and was then promoted to the rank of Captain of Infantry of the aforesaid Virginia Line on Continental Establishment, and continued in command until the fall of the year 1780, about which time he the said Doyle left the Army and left Captain Helm in the service. A few years after the termination of said War, the said Captain Helm married a Miss Pickett of Fauquier County, Virginia. Given under my hand this 19th day of April, 1832

S/ Fred Fishback [JP]

[p 10]

Petition for bounty land

The Heirs of Captain William Helm C. L.

This officer's name is not on the Army Register either of the Continental, or State, line. It is not on any of the rolls of officers – or reports of Boards of Officers. It has not been found in the minutes or journals of the Committee of Safety nor of the Journals of the Council.

The testimony of witnesses is in substance as follows –

Lieutenant William R Withers, a respectable witness, says that he was acquainted with

² [Charles Kemper W20292](#)

William Helm deceased, who was a Lieutenant & afterwards Captain in the Virginia Continental line: and that "to the best of his belief & recollection" the said Captain Helm continued in service to the close of the Revolutionary war.

John Gotobed, a respectable witness, and a revolutionary Soldier, says that he knew Captain William Helm well as an officer, and repeatedly met with him in service that the said Helm was in a skirmish at James Town, between the British & American troops – he was afterwards at York Town, in 1781 – he belonged, as the witness believes, to the 3rd Regiment; and to the best of the witnesses recollection, he the said Helm remained in service to the close of the war.

Joseph Kemper – a respectable witness, says that he personally knew William Helm, as a Captain of Infantry in the Virginia line on Continental establishment, from the early part of the year 1777 – that the said Captain Helm remained in service, in command, until sometime in the year 1782, when he retired as a supernumerary officer, without resigning his commission.

Charles Kemper, also a respectable witness, says that William Helm was Lieutenant of Infantry in the Virginia Continental line from the year 1777 to the year 1779 – that then he was promoted to the rank of Captain – and that he continued in the service in command of a company until the year after the defeat of Lord Cornwallis at York. That the said Helm then became supernumerary, and retired from the service.

David Doyle, a witness of respectability – says – that he personally knew William Helm, in the character of an officer of the Virginia Line on Continental establishment, from May 1777 until the fall of the year 1780 – at which last period he was Captain and then in actual service.

William Foster, a soldier of the Revolution, and a respectable witness, says – that in the year 1776, he knew Lieutenant William Helm of the first Virginia Regiment – that when the Army went into winter quarters at Middlebrook, the said Helm was Captain in the said first Virginia Regiment. The witness says he always believed – that Captain Helm continued in service until the close of the war: and he heard his brother officers say that the said Helm was in service to the end of the war, and never heard it doubted by any person.

This claim has been once rejected. It has been registered for reconsideration, on additional evidence.

It belongs to your Excellency to decide upon this claim.

Respectfully submitted
John H Smith, Commissioner &c
May 22nd, 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

[p 14: apparently this is the affidavit of John Gotobed given in Culpeper County but the image of it is illegible as posted online.]

[p 15]

Virginia Culpeper County to wit

I William Foster in the 81st year of my age do certify that I was a soldier in the first Virginia Regiment attached to the Continental Army for four years and that I became personally acquainted with William Helm in the year 1776 who was then a Lieutenant in the said First Virginia Regiment and think he was then attached to a company commanded by Captain Sayers

[? very faint]³; and the said William Helm was a Captain in full command in the aforesaid first Virginia Regiment the winter the Army went into winter quarters at Middlebrook and that he said Captain Helm was in actual service when I received my discharge from the said first Regiment; and I always believed he continued in service until the close of the war, – I heard several of my brother soldiers who I left in the Army say that Captain Helm remained in the Army till the close of the war; and never heard it doubted by any person. I will further add that the aforesaid Captain Hung him was an [indecipherable word] strict disciplinarian [entire line of text: up by what appears to have been a tape repair of this document] distinctly and a few years after the close of the Revolutionary War he intermarried with a daughter of Captain William Pickett of Fauquier County Virginia.

S/ William Foster, X his mark