



FAIRFAX COUNTY CIVIL WAR PENSIONS, 1876-1943



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Shelf Location: Records' Room, Top of Unit 4; Oversize in Unit 38, Drawer #6

Repository: Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center

Contents Summary:

Records: 1 linear foot

Date Range: 1876 - 1943

Geographical Location: Primarily Fairfax County

Materials & Media: Paper, cardstock, ink, graphite

Formats: Pension applications, blank forms, letters, pension rolls, judges' orders, reports

Topics Covered: Confederate and Union civil war pensions, disabilities

Prominent People & Organizations: Confederate Pension Board of Fairfax Co., State Auditor of Public Accounts, State Pension Clerk, Fairfax County Circuit Court

Historical Events Covered: Civil War

Biographical/ Historical Note

In 1867, the State of Virginia began its first Confederate veteran aid program by offering artificial limbs to disabled veterans who had lost a limb as a result of war-time injuries. An act in 1872 allowed for artificial legs to be provided to veterans, and an amendment to this act also allowed African American veterans and 'employees' to receive legs. Beginning in 1873, the State offered commutations (one-time payments) to veterans whose artificial limbs were badly-fitting or unusable. Officially called Artificial Limb Commutations, these payments were eventually offered to veterans whose wounds completely disabled or paralyzed their limbs but did not result in amputations. Further acts in 1876 and 1882 provided aid for veterans who couldn't perform manual labor owing to wounds wholly or partly disabling their limbs, and finally, for wounds disabling any part of their body. These qualifying wounds included loss of eyesight. A final act passed in 1884 superseded the Artificial Limb Commutations with Aid to Citizens of Virginia Wounded and Maimed during the Late War. This act provided \$60 to veterans with generally disabling wounds, and \$60 to veterans for each limb or eye lost.

Realizing that a one-time payment would not provide permanent relief for the many disabled veterans who couldn't support themselves or their dependents, the General Assembly passed the first Confederate pension act in 1888. This act allowed a wounded veteran to apply for an annual pension if his total annual income was less than \$300 and his personal and real property was valued at less than \$1000. Widows whose husbands had died during the war, who remained unmarried and whose income and property values met the same requirements as those of veterans, were also entitled to apply.

The pension act of 1900 allowed veterans disabled owing to old age to apply. Widows whose husbands died after the war, and whose annual income was less than \$100, were also eligible for application. This act dramatically increased the number of Confederate pensioners and, therefore, added to the strain on Virginia's economy; as a result of this, the General Assembly passed a further act in 1902 which placed more severe restrictions on income limits. Veterans and war-bereaved widows could not earn more than \$150 per year or have more than \$500 worth of real and personal property. In addition to this, widows whose husbands had died since the war had to have been married before May 1866.

Each subsequent act enlarged the eligibility quota. In 1908, former Confederate nurses, known as matrons, were included. Unlike the widows, the matrons had to be married to receive their pension. A further addition was the introduction of one-time disbursements of funeral expenses (\$25). The 1912 act allowed women who had been widowed, remarried to another Confederate veteran and widowed again to apply. The 1924 and 1926 acts opened up pensions for former slaves and freemen who had acted for the Confederate Army as body servants,

cooks, guards, hostlers, teamsters, blacksmiths, hospital and railroad workers, and who had buried the dead. Former Virginia residents who had moved to D.C. were also eligible under the 1924 act.

The required dates of marriage for widows also changed as time progressed. The 1912 act changed the date to before May 1868, the 1918 act to before May 1870, the 1922 act to before May 1877, the 1924 act to before December 31st 1882, the 1926 act to before 1886, and the 1927 act to before 1890. In response to inflation, the General Assembly gradually increased the maximum salary and property values allowed for eligibility. By 1926, the salary limit was \$400, and the total property limit was \$2000.

The Confederate commutation, aid and pension processes in Virginia relied on county circuit courts to collect, vet, accept or deny applications. The circuit court clerk collected applications and made a certified list of applicants, one of which was sent to the judge, one sent to the local pension board and one displayed on the courthouse door. The clerk also handed the applications to the court. From 1888 to 1900, county judges decided pension eligibility. In 1900, the pension act required counties to elect a five-person pension board to determine eligibility and send applications to the State Pension Board for further examination. In 1902, judges became the deciding authorities again, and the county pension board's purpose was relegated to assessing each applicant's eligibility and passing their recommendations to the deciding judge. Judges examined applications, determined eligibility and made an Order to certify or disallow a claim. The clerk then sent a list of allowed and certified pension claims to the State Pension Board, and, later, to the Auditor of Public Accounts.

The local pension board's commissioners other duties were to report the deaths of pensioners and discover and report pensioners who no longer met eligibility criteria, so that their names were removed from the State Pension Rolls, and their pensions not overpaid.

In 1958, the Federal Government also began issuing pensions to Confederate veterans and widows. The last Virginia Confederate veteran died in 1959; Virginia and the Federal Government continued to pay pensions to widows and unmarried children into the 21st century. In 2009, Virginia Code §51.1 - 900 (governing Confederate pensions) was repealed and Confederate pensions ceased to be.

Sources: The collection, Google Books, Encyclopedia of Virginia, Library of Virginia

Scope & Content Note

Series 1: Applications, 1876 – 1943, contains one Union pension application, applications for Artificial Limb Commutation (Confederate), applications for aid (Confederate), Confederate pension applications and supporting paperwork

Series 2: Confederate Pension Board of Fairfax Co., 1900 – 1933, contains oaths & appointment statements, reports and correspondence

Series 3: Circuit Court & Pensions, 1902 – 1933, contains judges' orders, Confederate pensions rolls, correspondence with the State Pension Clerk and State Auditor of Public Accounts

Series 4: Miscellaneous, 1902 – 1930, contains lists of applicants, correspondence and notices

Series 5: Publications by State Auditor of Public Accounts, 1922, 1924, 1926

Series 6: Roster of Confederate Pensioners of Virginia, 1909, 1916, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1925

Series 7: Oversized Documents, 1888 – 1925, contains Confederate pension applications, an applicant list and Confederate pensions rolls

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Applications

Folder 1: Union Pension Application & Related Correspondence, 1897 - 1898

Subseries 1: Confederate Applications for Aid

Folder 1: B - H, 1876 - 1887

Folder 2: L - T, 1876 - 1887

Subseries 2: Confederate Pension Applications & Related Correspondence

Folder 1: A & B, 1896 - 1938

Folder 2: C, 1888 - 1936

Folder 3: D & E, 1888 - 1925

Folder 4: F & G, 1909 - 1943

Folder 5: H - K, 1914 - 1936

Folder 6: L - N, 1888 - 1933

Folder 7: O - R, 1909 - 1933

Folder 8: S, 1904 - 1928

Folder 9: T, 1913 - 1938

Folder 10: W & Y, 1914 - 1923

Folder 11: Clerk Certified Lists of Confederate Pension Applicants, 1902 - 1932

Folder 12: Pension Applicants Approved by Confederate Pension Board of Fairfax Co., 1900
- 1920

Folder 13: Blank Forms, 1905 - 1932

See also **Oversized Documents**

Box 2

Series 2: Confederate Pension Board of Fairfax Co.

Folder 1: Oaths & Appointments, 1900 - 1924

Folder 2: Reports, 1902 - 1909

Folder 3: Correspondence with Circuit Court, 1933

Series 3: Circuit Court & Pensions

Folder 1: Judges' Orders for Confederate Pensions, 1902 - 1923

Folder 2: Correspondence with State Auditor of Public Accounts, 1902 - 1933

Folder 3: Correspondence with State Pension Clerk, 1918 - 1933

Folder 4: Confederate Pensions Rolls for Fairfax Co., 1902 - 1931

Series 4: Miscellaneous Documents

Folder 1: Miscellaneous Lists, no dates

Folder 2: Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1925 - 1930

Folder 3: Miscellaneous, 1902 - 1930

Series 5: Publications by Auditor of Public Accounts

Folder 1: Virginia Pension Law, 1922, 1924, 1926

Box 3

Series 6: Roster of Confederate Pensioners of Virginia, 1909, 1916, 1917, 1919 - 1921, 1925

Series 7: Oversized Documents: Confederate Pension Applications, 1888 - 1913

Confederate Pension Applications - Special Tax, 1914, List of
Eligible Persons

Confederate Pensions Rolls, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1912, 1914
- 1917, 1919 - 1923, 1925

Appendix I: Confederate Pension Applicants

Name	Type of Applicant	Type of Application/ Document	Year
Adams, Thomas F.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Anderson, William A.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1918
Ashford, America E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Ballard, John Newton	Veteran	Artificial Limb Commutation	1882, 1884
Barbee, Robert S.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1898
Beavis, W. H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Bell, Elizabeth	Widow	Pension correspondence	1904
Bicksler, John F.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Boland, John	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1926
Boyer, Daniel	Veteran	Pension	1898
Bullard, Mrs. S. H.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1926
Burford, Frederica Bristoe	Widow	Pension correspondence	1938
Burr, Charles Nicholas	Veteran	Pension	1914
Burr, Lorena D.	Widow	Pension	1933
Byington, Emma J.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Carter, George F.	Veteran	Aid	1886
Carter, Landon E.	Veteran	Aid	1886
Carter, Thomas L.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1888
Chinn, John Plaster	Veteran	Pension Re-rating correspondence	1928
Chinn, Sarah Virginia	Widow	Pension correspondence	1936
Clarke, Frannie E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Cornell, G. H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Cottrell, Mrs. E. F.	Widow	Pension	1914
Coulter, Alexander M.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Criddler, John W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Cross, Hamilton I.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Crouch, Joseph	Veteran	Aid, Pension & Re-rating correspondence	1886, 1888, 1905
Cullinan, Ann	Widow	Pension	1914
Cummins, Jane E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Davis, George E.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1884
Davis, James J.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Davis, Jonathan Henry	Veteran	Pension	1914
Davis, Kate	Widow	Pension	1914
Davis, Susan J.	Widow	Pension	1914
Deavers, Mary F.	Widow	Pension	1914
Dickey, Julie A.	Widow	Pension	1914
Donald, Sarah N.	Widow	Pension	1914
Donaldson, Martha A.	Widow	Pension	1914
Dove, Fenton	Veteran	Pension	1888
Edelin, Joseph	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1887
Evans, A. J.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Fairfax, Mildred	Widow	Pension	1914
Fisher, Alexander M.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Fletcher, Alice	Widow	Pension correspondence	1934

Follin, John N.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1922
Follin, Laura L.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Ford, John M.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Foster, D. W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Franklin, Barbara Ellen	Widow	Pension	1914
Gaines, George W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Gallahan, John W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Garner, Hezekiah	Veteran	Pension	1914
Gentle, David	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Gentle, Margret L.	Widow	Pension	1914
Gilmer, J. P.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Godfrey, J. W.	Servant	Pension	1932
Gofney, Robert H.	Servant	Pension	1943
Gorham, William	Veteran	Pension	1909
Grayson, William	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1931
Gunnell, John R.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1883
Hall, Booker Campbell	Veteran	Aid	1887
Hall, William H.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Harrison, George F.	Helper/ Hostler	Pension correspondence	1936
Harrover, John H.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1878
Hatcher, Caroline McLin	Widow	Pension correspondence	1932
Hawes, T. H.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1922
Head, George J.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Hiett, Flora B.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1924
Hinson, C. W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Holbrook, Thomas H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Holden, Thomas	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Houchens, Leonidas R.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Hummer, Willella B.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Hurst, Edward Smith	Veteran	Pension	1914
Iden, Mary Virginia	Widow	Pension correspondence	1923
Jerman, Middleton Garner	Veteran	Pension	1914
Jerman, Ida M.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1926
Jett, Peter	Veteran	Pension	1914
Johnson, L. E.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Kennedy, Andrew Jackson	Veteran	Pension	1914
Kennedy, Sarah E.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1936
Kincheloe, Annie M.	Widow	Pension	1914
Kincheloe, Mrs. James C.	Widow	Pension	1914
Lambert, Colin N.	Veteran	Pension	1888
Lane, Francis	Veteran	Pension	1914
Lee, Thomas H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Legg, James E.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Lewis, W. A.	Veteran	Aid	1885
Maffett, Rachel A.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1925
Mathers, George William	Veteran	Pension	1913, 1914
Mattocks, Richard T.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1884
McIntosh, Josephine	Widow	Pension	1914
McRae, George	Veteran	Aid	1886

Moncure, Mary J.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Moon, J. D.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Moore, James W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Moreland, H. H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Morgan, Flora Louise	Widow	Pension correspondence	1925
Murphy, Mrs. M. A.	Widow	Pension	1914
Niswander, J. B.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1906
Oliver, Nathan	Veteran	Pension	1914
Orrison, J. W.	Veteran	Re-rating & Pension	1909, 1914
Orrison, Virginia	Widow	Pension correspondence	1917
Pangle, Milton H.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Payne, Elizabeth Catherine	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Pettitt, George W.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Poole, James H.	Veteran	Funeral Expenses	1911
Presgrave, Thomas L.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Ramey, Mrs. James William	Widow	Pension correspondence	1928
Raney, John W.	Veteran	Artificial Limb Commutation	1882
Robey, Charles Ozias	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1884
Robey, Charlotte E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Susan Rouse	Widow	Pension	1914
Ryon, Rebecca	Widow	Pension correspondence	1916
Sartin, John H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Saunders, Georgia A.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1928
Saunders, John H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Seaton, James W.	Veteran	Pension, Re-rating	1914, 1918
Selecman, Thomas H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Sewell, Joseph C.	Veteran	Aid	1884
Sillman, Elizabeth	Widow	Pension correspondence	1921
Simms, Walter H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Sinclair, Arthur	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1907
Skillman, J. W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Skinner, Gertrude	Widow	Pension	1914
Speaks, E. W.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1887
Spindle, Martha E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Springman, John	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1884
Steele, William H.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1876
Stone, James E.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Stone, Thomas K.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Sweeney, Adolphus Albert	Veteran	Pension	1914
Taylor, A. J.	Veteran	Re-rating correspondence	1913
Taylor, Annie M.	Widow	Pension	1914
Taylor, Milton	Veteran	Pension	1914
Terley, R. A.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Thomas, P. P.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Thompson, Malcomb E.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1886
Thompson, Randolph S.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1919
Thompson W. F.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Thornton, P. L. W.	Veteran	Aid correspondence	1876
Thorp, Amanda Wilson	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933

Tillitt, George W.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Tillitt, Henry T.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Trammell, Elizabeth	Widow	Pension correspondence	1913
Trammell, John A.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Trammell, John E.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Trammell, William H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Triplett, Catherine L.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1938
Tyler, R. B.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Walker, Susie W.	Widow	Pension	1914
Wells, Sarah J.	Widow	Pension	1914
Whaley, Virginia	Widow	Pension	1914
Wiley, Jennie	Widow	Pension correspondence	1933
Willett, James T.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Woodyard, Emma E.	Widow	Pension	1914
Wrenn, William H.	Veteran	Pension	1914
Wyckoff, A. C.	Veteran	Pension correspondence	1921
Wyckoff, James William	Veteran	Pension	1914
Wyckoff, Irene M.	Widow	Pension correspondence	1924
Young, Elizabeth	Widow	Pension	1914

Appendix II: Pension Acts' Changes in Annual Pension Amounts

	1888	1900	1902	1908	1912	1916	1918	1922	1924	1926
Veterans with Loss of 2 Limbs	\$60	\$100	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$180	\$180	\$250	\$260	\$270
Veterans with Total Blindness	\$60	\$100	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$180	\$180	\$250	\$260	\$270
Veterans with Loss of 1 Limb	\$30	\$50	\$50	\$65	\$65	\$85	\$85	\$130	\$140	\$150
Veterans with Partial Blindness	\$30	\$50	\$50	\$65	\$65	\$85	\$85	\$130	\$140	\$150
Veterans - Total Disability - Wounds	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$36	\$36	\$50	\$75	\$130	\$140	\$150
Veterans - Partial Disability - Wounds	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$24	\$24	\$35	\$55	\$100	\$110	\$120
Veterans - Total Disability - Old Age	–	\$30	\$30	\$36	\$36	\$50	\$75	\$130	\$140	\$150
Veterans - Partial Disability - Old Age	–	\$15	\$15	\$24	\$24	\$35	\$55	\$100	\$110	\$120
Widows - Husband died during war	\$30	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$50	\$76	\$80	\$90
Widows - Husband died after war	–	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$35	\$50	\$76	\$80	\$90
Matrons	–	–	–	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$80	\$90
Body Servants	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	\$25	\$25
Funeral Expenses	–	–	–	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25