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Wm. P. Poyor

Charlottesville
March 1857

L. Tyler

John W. Martin

Agent for Claims

Richmond

Feb 27/57

Charles C. Goff

John Tyler

President

Sherwood Forest, Ch. City County

Feb 27, 1857

My dear Sir,

Your favour of the 22. is before me and it affords me great pleasure to give you any information I possess in relation to my departed friend General Major W. Poyor. I knew him from boyhood - we were during early life educated at the same school, and lived under the same roof that of my venerated father - A more noble, brave and generous man never lived or died - He commanded an artillery company at the battle of Hampton - Lewis and Jones were his lieutenants. They fought with desperate valour mowing down whole ranks of the enemy by their destructive fires - The last fire was delivered at some twenty paces - so that when they retreated they did so with their faces to the enemy and in the midst of smoke and fire - I had the account from Poyor and Jones. The latter of whom I believe is still living in Hampton - as to this I may be mistaken - I regret that I cannot say when Captain Poyor was called into service - Doubtless the general order quoted by you of the 6. Feb. 1813 - has distinct reference to this identical Cap. Poyor - and he is the person mentioned by Major Stapleton Crutchfield. The detachment at Hampton was commanded by Crutchfield and Corbin, the latter was wounded in the action. There was but one Cap. Poyor at Hampton

Bear in mind that the population ~~at~~ the vicinity of
Chesapeake Bay was pretty constantly in service
from the date of the war, and that it may well have
been that Pryor was in service before the array at
Hampton. The date of his commission may be
found by reference to the Executive Journals of
the State, and I should conclude that he had been
constantly on duty from its date, but I cannot speak
from personal knowledge. Immediately after the
affair at Hampton the 52 Regiment was called into
service. I commanded a company of Riflemen in
that Regiment, was marched from Providence
Forge to Williamsburg where I saw Capt. Pryor.
He was engaged I think for a few days in training
the Artillery of the 52^d. but it may have been of his
own volition. He was elected Brigadier General
by the Legislature in the winter of 1815-16. I
nominated him. Afterward we served together
on the Legislature and I recommended him to Mr.
Adam's administration as Collector at Norfolk
which place he filled to his death. I may
add that he married Elizabeth Deaneville -
and that I received from him an invitation
to his wedding. Now if the above narra-
tion can be of any service in securing to his
widow the land bounty, you are at liberty
to use it. You have this advantage in prose-
cuting this claim, ^{that} ~~and~~ Mr. Death the Com-
missioner of Pensions, is I believe pretty well

acquainted with the facts of Capt. Pryor's life.

I am Dr Sir Very Respectly Yrs

John Tyler

I return you Mr. Fogg's letter -

John R. Martin.