

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Edward Sorrel (Sorrell): W26493

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia}

County of Northumberland} SS

On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Northumberland, & state of Virginia Edward Sorrel a resident in the county of Northumberland & State of Virginia aged Seventy nine 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 with Capt Thomas Downing a militia officer and served in the 2nd Regt of the Virginia line, under the following named Officers Gen'l [Horatio] Gates. Colo [Charles] Porterfield, Capts [Thomas H.] Drew & McGill Lt. Mann & Ensign Vaughan.

That he lived in the County of Northumberland & State of Virginia at the time he enlisted which was in the fall of the year 1779. He marched from the County to Williamsburg Virginia in February or March of the following year, with a recruiting officer by the name of Carvell, he there joined the Regt of Colo Porterfield. after a few days stay at Williamsburg he marched with the Regt. of Colo Porterfield for Charleston South Carolina.

The Regt marched through North Carolina by Sallsbury [sic: Salisbury], Hillsborough & Guilford court house. the Regt. arrived in one or two days march of Charleston before it heard of its surrender.

He was in frequent skirmishes with the british. He was at the battle of the Point of Forks where Genl Gates was defeated [sic: see note below]. he there received musket ball in his right shoulder. Colo. Porterfield was their wounded. Seargent Booth to others & my self were carrying Colo Porterfield off after he was wounded but were so closely persued by the enemy that they had to leave him he was taken prisoner. The defeat of Genl Gates was in August 1780: after the defeat of Gen'l. Gates he with others collected at Hillsborough & with Maj. Marzard marched to Richmond City Virginia, where he joined Capt Smith late in the fall & went with him to the western part of Virginia to obtain wagons & teams for the Army. they returned in the spring following. in a few days after their arrival at Richmond, he was ordered to Camden by Capt Smith for the purpose of attending Colo Porterfield to Virginia on parole. Colo Porterfield was confined a prisoner in Camden he went in company with Capt Singleton of the Maryland line to the neighbourhood of Camden he found Colo. Porterfield still a prisoner & being ill, he died in four or five days after he arrived in Camden. he immediately brought Colo. Porterfields baggage to Richmond City Virginia & delivered it to Capt Smith it was then in the fall of 1781. He then obtained for the first time his discharge from Capt. Smith (which has been lost) he served more than six months after his enlistment had expired (which was for 18 months) before he was discharged.

Immediately after returning home he volunteer'd in Northumberland County Virginia & went to York Town Virginia, he was put under Colo Ennis command on Gloucester Point opposite York Town his whole service in the Militia was about six months

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

Sworn to & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid

Edward hisXmark Sorrell

NOTES:

The troops with whom Sorrel served certainly knew of the surrender of Charleston before they began marching south, because Gen. Horatio Gates had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Army precisely because Gen. Benjamin Lincoln had surrendered at Charleston on 12 May 1780. Gates's army was not defeated at Point of Fork, but near Camden in South Carolina on 16 Aug 1780. Col. Porterfield died only a few days after the Battle of Camden, so Sorrel could not have traveled to Richmond and back to Camden. Compare the pension

application of Guilford Dudley (W6891). Point of Fork, which is in Virginia at the junction of the James and Rivanna Rivers, was the site of a near engagement on June 5-6, 1781.

The 1810 federal census for Northumberland County VA lists Edward Sorrel as “a free mulatto.”

On 21 Nov 1853 Darcris Sorrell, resident of Baltimore aged 62, applied for a pension stating that she married Edward Sorrel on 15 Dec 1814, and he died 7 July 1837. On 16 April 1855 Dorcas Sorrell filed an application for bounty land, which stated that her late husband “Edmund Sorrell” had served under Col Taylor at the Battle of Yorktown, and that as Dorcas Lewing she had married him on 15 Dec 1815. With her application is a copy of a marriage return for Edward Sorrel and Darcris Lewin.