In the House of Delegates

November 11, 1783

Resolved that the Petition of Edward Stevens, and Robert Lawson, praying that a bounty of Lands may be granted them, is reasonable.

Resolved that the same Bounty of Land ought to be allowed to Brigadier General Edward Stevens, and Brigadier General Robert Lawson, as is allowed to Officers of the same Rank in the Continental Army.

Teste:

S/ John Beckley, C. H. D.

1783 November 19th
agreed to by the Senate

S/ William Davis, C. S.

A Copy

S/ John Beckley, C. H. Ds

[From Digital Library of Virginia] Culpeper County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

The Memorial of Edward Stevens & Robert Lawson, – late Brigadier Generals in the Militia of this State, Humbly represents. – That when the contest between Great Britain and the United States of America commenced, they were early impressed with the justice of the American cause, & therefore took a decided part against Great Britain. At an early period of the War they had the honor to command each, a Regiment in the federal Army: for which important trust, they had the confidence to believe, they discharged the united duties of Soldier, & Citizen, being pressed by a variety of circumstances, which although of a private nature, were nevertheless so weighty with your Memorialists, as to constrain them to resign [paper damaged and several words rendered illegible] their command, which they had accepted with alacrity. But although they were thus impelled to leave the Continental Army, to pay some attention to their domestic matters, which were in such a train at that time as absolutely to require
their immediate care, still they trust, that it is a fact well known, that they did not abandon the cause of their Country: – but on the contrary they sought the first opportunity that offered, of being employed in its defense, when invaded by the Enemy in 1779; and it is with the most lively gratitude, that they reflect, on the generous confidence of their Country, in calling them into its Service; & conferring on them, a higher degree of rank, then they had in the federal Army, or their merits would well entitle them to aspire to. This consideration alone, would have operated so powerfully upon their minds, as to shut, out every wish of seeking further reward, for their past Services, if they had been so happy as to render any, in the opinion, of their Countrymen, had they not observed, in a variety of instances, that the benefit, and liberal disposition of this Honorable House, hath [one or more words rendered illegible] them to grant Lands to those of the Public Servants employed in the War, whose pretensions thereto, with diffidence they conceive, were not founded under longer, or more faithful Services to the Commonwealth, then your Memorialists.

The intent then of your Memorialists, in soliciting the attention of this Honorable House, is, that they will be pleased to take their case under consideration, & grant them such bounty in Lands, as you in your Justice, & generosity, shall think fit.

And your Memorialists,
as in duty bound will ever pray &
S Edw.d Stevens
S/ Ro: Lawson

Novr 5th 1783

[reverse]

Stevens and Lawson
their Petition
November 5th: 1783
referred to Propositions
(reasonable)
(reported)