

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Lawrence Everhart S25068

Anne Mary Everheart MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Nov 2019.

[The following document is marked “Duplicate.”]

Charleston

Dear General [Brigadier General William Washington] November 3rd 1803

In reply to your Letter of the 23rd Ult'o [Oct], and to the Letter which you enclosed for my perusal, I do hereby (not only from recollection but from a Journal now in my possession, which I kept at the time) Certify – That about the dawn of day on the 17th of January 1781, you selected Serjeant Everhart from your Regiment and twelve men, whom you sent to reconnoitre Lt. Colonel Tarletons Army.

The advanced Guard of his army were mounted as we understood, and believed, on some of the fleetest race horses which he had impressed from their owners in this Country, and which enabled them to take Serjeant Everhart and one of the men – but the other ten men returned, and gave you information of the approach of the Enemy.

Immediately after the Battle of the Cowpens commenced, you will recollect that your first charge was made on the enemies Cavalry, (who were cutting down our Militia,) and whom, after a smart Action, you instantly defeated, having in the course of Ten Minutes 18 of their brave 17th Dragoons dead on the spot, and whom you will recollect were deserted by Colo. Tarletons Legeonary Cavalry.

The former wore a uniform of Red and buff, with Sheep Skin, on their Caps; the latter wore a Uniform of Green with black facings. In pursuit of their Cavalry you overtook their Artillery, whom you immediately made prisoners, but the Drivers of the Horses who were Galloping off with 2 – 3 pounders, you could not make Surrender untill after repeated Commands from you, you were obliged to order to be Shot; – after securing these field peices, – your third Charge was made on the right wing of their Army Composed of their Legeonary Infantry, intermixed with the Battallion of the Brave 71st (under the Command of Major [Archibald] McArthur) and who, under the Operation of a Universal panic, (having been successfully charged on the left of their Army by our friend Colo. [John Eager] Howard) instantly surrendered; immediately after Securing the Prisoners your 4th Charge was in pursuit of their Cavalry, who finding they could no longer keep Everhart a Prisoner, Shot him with a Pistol, in the head, over one of his eyes, (I cannot remember particularly which) being then intermixed with the enemy, Everhart pointed out to me the man who shot him, and on whom a just Retaliation was exercised, and who by my order, was instantly Shot, and his horse as well as I can recollect, was given to Everhart, whom I ordered in the Rear to the Surgeons. – It was at this period of the Action that we sustained the greatest loss of Men, Lt. Bell having previously taken off with him in pursuit of the Enemy, on our left nearly a fourth part of your Reg't. – The Enemy were obliged to retreat, and were pursued by you 22 Miles taking several prisoners, and wounded. —

To the best of my recollection Serjeant Everhart was so disabled by his wound, that he received a discharge from you, and he retired from the Army. —

That Serjeant Everhart was a brave Soldier, there is no better proof, than your selecting him at such an important moment, for such important Service. —

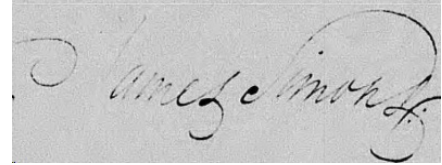
That Everhart would have been promoted to the Rank of an Officer had he been able to remain with our Regiment, your practice in several similar instances leaves no room for doubt; – as the Meritorious was certain of promotion from you!

To recompence therefor in the evening of his day, for past Service, an Old, Gallant, and Meritorious wounded Soilder, – will I am persuaded be a great gratification to all with whom the decision of this Question now rests. —

I am Dear General Your Old brother Officer and Sincere Friend

Brigadier General Washington

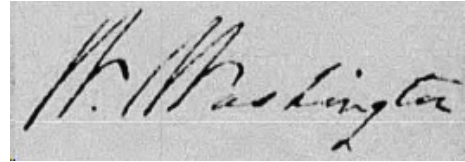
James Simons



I believe the circumstances, detailed in the certificate of James Simons, relative to Lawrence Everhart are strictly just; and can, with truth aver that Serjeant Everhart was a brave and meritorious Soldier during our revolutionary struggle

Sandy Hill Nov'r. 13th 1803

W. Washington



Sandy Hill/ Nov'r 11th 1803

Dear Sir

I should have answered your favor of August 4th long since; but the certificate & affidavit of James Simons could not be obtained 'till a few days ago.

Such a length of time has elapsed, that, all the circumstances, relative to the wound & discharge of Lawrence Everhart, are not so fully within my recollection, as to justify my making an affidavit of the same, but, doubtless, the certificate & affidavit of James Simons, who was a Lieutenant & Adjutant in our Regiment, fully meets all the requirements of the Law of Congress.

It gives me much pleasure that you, and, my old Friend, Howard are about to advocate the pretensions of that brave & meritorious Soldier, Lawrence Everhart, and I cannot be induced to believe that Congress will reject the just claims of an old Soldier who was instrumental in accomplishing that Independant situation which they now enjoy, and who, in consequence of his bravery, was, unfortunately, deprived of the means of supporting himself comfortably in old age.

I am Dear Sir/ with most Respect & Esteem/ y'r. very H. Serv't.

W. Washington



Enclosed, herewith you will receive the certificate & affidavit of James Simons.

[A letter in the file from Gen. Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War, dated 1 Feb 1804, indicates that Lawrence Everhart received a pension of \$5 per month.]

We the Subscribers practising Physicians of Frederick Town do hereby certify that after a careful examination in the case of Laurence Everhart, who is now on the Pension Roll of the State of Maryland, we are of opinion that his disability does still continue, from wounds received on his left side of the head from a sabre [see endnote] & shot on the right elbow, partially disabling the arm, on the shoulder, on the left hand on his back, through the leg by a shot, besides other minor wounds in different parts of his body. and further that the degree of disability under which he labours at present is Total being no less the original degree of disability for which he was place on the Pension Roll, and in our opinions the disability of the said Laurence Everhart cannot either in whole or in part ever be removed — Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23^d day of Sept'r 1823 [signed] N Bradly Tyler Jacob Baer

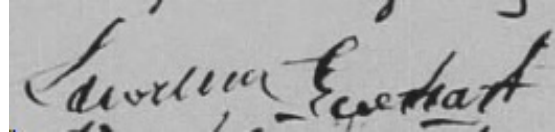
United States

District of Columbia, County of Washington Set

On this 7 day of April 1834 personally appeared before the Circuit Court of the United States in & for the County of Washington & District of Columbia Laurence Everheart a resident of the County of Frederick and State of Maryland aged seventy nine years on the sixth day of May next 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 7 1832. That he enlisted on the first day of August 1776 at Taney Town [Taneytown], Maryland in the company of militia commanded by Capt Jacob Goode [sic: Jacob Good] in the Flying Camp: next day marched for Anapolis [sic: Annapolis] Maryland, thence to Philadelphia where he remained some time thence to New York, was united here to Gen Bealls [sic: Reazin Beall's] regiment was in the action at York Island [Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug 1776] under Gen [Thomas] Mifflin, the next engagement in which he participated was at White Plains State of New York [28 Oct 1776], retreated from this place to Fishkill thence to Hackensack neighbourhood, thence to Fort Washington, when that fort was taken [16 Nov 1776] petitioner with others escaped in a boat to Fort Lee, thence to Hackensack, here saw Gen George Washington in tears walking the porch & conversed with him. thence to Morris Town [Morristown NJ] where he remained a considerable time, thence to Elizabeth Town [NJ] discharged from the Flying Camp but returned to Camp, remained with the officers. After the capture of the Hessians at Trenton [26 Dec 1776] in which affair he did not participate, he arrived at Philadelphia, remained here several months & in the spring of 1777 reached home Frederick County Maryland. After harvest 1778, he enlisted under Capt Swann [sic: John Swan VAS2026] in the regiment of cavalry [3rd Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons] commanded by Lieutenant Col. William Washington, in Frederick Town, Maryland – in March 1779 he marched under Washington himself from said place to Fredericksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg VA] as a sergeant of cavalry in the company & regiment aforesaid thence to Petersburg [Petersburg VA], where he was under Capt Stith [John Stith BLWt2064-300], Washington being then on service to the North. in the winter of 1780, or about Christmas 1779 Col Washington returned from the North to Petersburg: thence went to Charles Town Carolina [Charleston SC] in April 1780. thence back to Dorchester. about seven or eight miles from this place at Stoney Church [sic: Stono Church; possibly referring to St. Paul's Parish Church] petitioner was in a skirmish Pulaski's Corps, Bland's, & Baylor's [Kazimierz Pulaski's Legion, Theodorick Bland's & George Baylor's] regiments of light dragoons led by Washington; the British commanded as he believes by Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton]: petitioner received a slight wound: the enemy retreated. thence back to Dorchester, thence to Monk's [sic: Moncks] Corner in the north & while at the last named place Tarlton lay concealed in a swamp about one mile & a half or two miles distant, & surprized us before day [14 Apr 1780]. Major Vannear [sic: Major Chevalier Pierre François Vernier] of Pulaski's Corps was killed. on the same day collected our forces at Mayent's [Mayrant's?] tavern seven or eight miles beyond Monks Corner & same day returned to the last mentioned place in order to gather our men & horses: lost about forty or forty-five prisoners. thence towards Murrays ferry [on Santee River near Pineville] about eight or ten miles in a kind of wilderness where we survived several days on parched corn & a little bacon thence crossed the Pedee [sic: Pee Dee River] to the neighbourhood of George Town [Georgetown SC]. On the 3rd of May we crossed the river at Lanod's ferry [sic: Leneud's or Lenud's Ferry on Santee River near Jamestown] in pursuit of Tarlton, making all possible efforts to overtake him, travelling much at night but failed: the Tories being very numerous but on the 6th of May we captured one company of horse consisting of perhaps forty persons. retreated rapidly with the prisoners to the ferry, Bluford [sic: Col. Abraham Buford S46372] then lying on the other side of the Pedee [sic: Santee]. Here we were surprised by Tarlton, Col Washington having tried strenuously that we should cross the ferry, but was overruled by Col White [Anthony Walton White W6477] who had come on for the north & took command of Bland's regiment. The prisoners were recaptured & about twenty or thirty or forty of our own men taken. Crossed the river at Murray's ferry where he found about seven of his companions & two days after this affair we collected together once more below Lanoos ferry where our heavy baggage lay. As the intimate friend of Col Washington, he underwent with him much peril in devising with him the safest means of conduct our

forces up to Wilmington [North Carolina]. arrived at Halifax about the last of May or first of June. remained here recruiting our regiment with men & horses from the north until about the last of September. By this time, the regiment in fine order, started for the South through Hillsborough, Salisbury, to Rudgeleys Mill [sic: Henry Rugeley's Mill 12 mi N of Camden SC on 1 Dec 1780] where our Col putting a pine log on a cart led Rudgeley to suppose it a piece of artillery & he & all his company consisting of about one hundred men, surrendered to us. Washington sent in a corporal with the flag demanded an immediate surrender or he would blow him up. Prisoners lodged in Salisbury jail. From Rudgeleys we marched to Ninety Six & joined [Gen. Daniel] Morgan. There we met with divers misfortunes and underwent many dangers: our corps, not however sustaining many losses the enemy considerable damage. From this place we retired to Pacolet river near the mountain. Here Washington set out for Hammonds store [in Laurens County SC] where there was a nest of Tories, leaving me in charge of the baggage, & he took about fifty or sixty prisoners, killing some [30 Dec 1780]. He returned in two days. – From Pacolet we moved to Cowpens about Christmas or New Years day of 1781. Here we were day & night reconnoitering, until the memorable 17th day of January 1781. For the details of that engagement [Battle of Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781], the petitioner refers to the documents hereto annexed towit the letter of Col Wm Washington in his own hand writing dated Sandy Hill [near Rantowles SC] Nov 11 1803 and the affidavit of James Simons bearing date Nov 8 1803 who was a lieutenant in the action of Cowpens. Petitioners horse being shot he was captured early in the morning by quarter master Wade of the British army with whom he had some previous acquaintance & by him taken to Col Tarlton. our army at this point of time being perhaps three miles in the rear. Dismounting from his horse, that officer asked this petitioner, after some previous conversation if he expected Mr. Washington & Mr. Morgan would fight him that day. Yes if they can keep together only two hundred men was the reply. Then said he, it will be another Gates' defeat. I hope to God it will be another Tarlton's defeat, said this petitioner. I am Col Tarlton Sir. And I am Serjeant Everheart. My wounds were bleeding at this time but soon afterwards were dressed by the surgeon, & I received from the enemy great kindness. After the battle, Col Washington sent two dragoons with me about three miles from the ground to take care of me: Dr Pendell formerly of Hagers Town [Hagerstown] Maryland surgeon of our corps dressed my wounds – remained here until the latter part of February & went thence to Catawba near where I remained a few days with a friend of mine of my name: thence to Salem in North Carolina accompanied by the two dragoons & from this place to Guilford Court House prior to the battle on the 15th of March: saw the gallant Colonel Washington & informed him that my wounds would prevent my taking part in the engagement. He requested me to remain with the baggage & did so Saw the whole action from a hill & was the whole time within range of the enemy's shot. Cornwallis retreating & [Gen. Nathanael] Greene having started in pursuit of him next day, I remained under the care of Dr. Wallis at the Court House in order to cure my wounds, & tarried for several weeks about three miles in the Country at the house of a Mr. Scott & frequently rode into town to have my wounds inspected. Some time in the summer we started to Halifax, having while at the Court House received a letter and order from Gen Greene to call on Gov [John] Burke for a number of horses then in his possession & called on him at Halifax for them. remained at this place for several weeks, & finally pushed on to York [Yorktown] in Virginia where he became acquainted with Gen'l. LaFayette: remained here until the surrender [19 Oct 1781] but did not participate in the engagement. and returned home to Frederick County Maryland about the last of October. In the last of November he set out for Fredericksburgh & while here received a letter from Col Baylor, who by this time being exchanged [see endnote] was at the head of our regiment – desiring me to call on him at Petersburg. Col Washington had been taken at Eutaw [Battle of Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] & was now a prisoner. Here I remained with Col Baylor until the following summer – and was finally discharged at Petersburg & in the fall of 1782 once more returned home to his native County. Petitioner was born in Frederick County, Maryland on the 6th day of May 1755, & with the exception of three or four years since the revolution, has resided there until this time. His discharge at Petersburg as above detailed was in writing but does not know what has become of it. He states that he is known to L. P. W. Balele Esq of Frederick Town Maryland & to the Hon William Cost Johnson and The Hon. Francis Thomas Esq of the House of Representatives who can

testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a serjeant of the revolution. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and except that which he receives as an invalid pensioner dated February 8 1828 registered in book C Vol 7 page 6 as per certificate in his possession. And he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State except that of the Agency in the State of Maryland.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Lawrence Everhart". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Petersburgh March 31 1782.

I do hereby Certify that Laurence Everhart Serjeant in the 3 Regiment of Light Dragoons has served three years the term of his enlistment as a brave faithfull & attentive soldier and is discharged from the said Regiment. he has received several wounds which has disabled him from being a soldier

George Baylor Col.

A Copy Markes Vandewall

NOTES:

Contrary to the statement by James Simons, the physicians who examined Everhart did not mention a bullet wound to the head, nor did Everhart mention such a wound in his pension application. Thomas Balch, who apparently personally heard Everhart discuss his service at Cowpens, did not mention such an incident in Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution that he edited and published in 1857

(<https://ia801004.us.archive.org/7/items/PapersRelatingChieflyToTheMarylandLindDuringTheRevolution/Balch-PapersRelatingChieflyToTheMarylandLine.pdf>).

Balch included transcriptions of the documents in the pension application and added the following (p. 50): "Everhart informs me that, while the dragoons were making the charges described by Major Simons, he could hear them distinctly cry out as their watchword, 'Buford's play,' referring to the odious massacre perpetrated on the detachment commanded by that officer, as before detailed." The reference is to Tarleton's massacre of Col. Abraham Buford's detachment at Waxhaws SC on 29 May 1780.

Col. George Baylor had been severely wounded and captured at Old Tappan NJ on 28 Sep 1778. He was exchanged for a British prisoner on 9 Nov 1782.

On 24 Aug 1840 in Frederick County MD Anne Mary Everheart, 84, applied for a pension stating that she was married to Lawrence Everheart "in the fall of 1781 or very early in 1782" by a minister of the German Reformed Church at the home of her father, Caspar Bechenbaugh of Middletown Valley in Frederick County, and that Lawrence Everheart died 2 Aug 1840. Lawrence Everhart's tombstone says he died on 6 Aug 1840, but a letter in the pension file dated 5 Aug 1840 states, "Yesterday the gallant Lawrence Everheart was buried," and "an immense concourse of people paid him all honor." Anne Mary Everheart signed with an X, and her last name was evidently misspelled by her agent, L. P. W. Balch. The application was given number W9431 before being merged with the file of her late husband. Lawrence Everhart's brother made a supporting statement, to which he signed his name in German script as Philil Eberhart, anglicized as Philip Everheart. Philip Everheart, aged 70 on 15 Apr 1840, stated that he witnessed the marriage by Rev. Henof of his older brother to Anne Mary Bechenbaugh at her father's house "in the latter part of March or first day of April 1782," and that his brother was still in his uniform when he came to his father's house before the wedding. Philip Everheart also stated that his brother brought his bride back to his father's on Carrols manor in Frederick County, where she remained until he returned from the army in the fall of 1782 dressed in his regimentals on his horse, named Painter "from

the fact that he had been attacked by a panther & bore the marks of his claws on his rump.”

Included with the widow's application was a sheet listing the dates of birth of Lawrence and Anne Mary Everheart and of their nine children, copied by a neighbor between 1810 and 1815 “from the original called in German ‘Dorfschein’” and transcribed as follows:

Lorentz Everheart was Born in the year of our Lord 1755 on the 6th day of May.

Mary Everheart, his Wife was Born on October Anno Domini 1755.

William Everheart was Born on the 1st. January Anno Domini 1783.

Elizabeth Everheart was Born on the 10th April Anno Domini 1784

Jacob Everheart was Born on the 25th April Anno Domini 1786.

Mary Everheart was Born on the 10th February Anno Domini 1788.

Nancy Everheart was Born on the 28th February Anno Domini 1790.

John Everheart was Born on the 24th August Anno Domini 1791.

Catherine Everheart was Born on the 31st January anno Domini 1793.

Sarah Everheart was Born on the 21st October Anno Domini 1796[?].

George Everheart was Born on the 6th September Anno Domini 1798.