

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Newit (Newett) Edwards S39481
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA

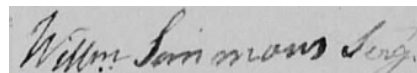
[Punctuation partly corrected.]

Virginia Sct.

on this 1st day of September 1818 before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia, personally appears Newit Edwards aged sixty five years resident in the County of Southampton in the State of Virginia, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War." That he the said Newit Edwards enlisted in the County of Southampton in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Capt Thomas Ridley company of the 4th Virginia Regiment on the 5th day of March 1776. that he continued to serve in the said Corps or in the service of the United States until the fifth day of March 1778, when he was discharged from service at the Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania, that he was in the battles of Trenton [26 Dec 1776] and Princeton [3 Jan 1777], Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and Germantown [4 Oct 1777], and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services

Southampton County, to wit

I William Simmons [pension application S7514] of the County aforesaid and State of Virginia do hereby Certify that Newit Edwards of said County & State of Virginia aforesaid was enlisted in the service of the United States as a Corporal for two years in Capt. Thomas Ridleys Company in the 4th Reg't. commanded by Colo. Adam Stephens, Lieut. Col. Isaac Reade [sic: Isaac Read] & Maj'r. R. Lawson [Robert Lawson], & that the said Newit Edwards performed his tower of duty in said Regiment, & was honorably discharged, Given under my hand, as Sergeant, this 7th day of May 1818



District of Virginia Sct

Southampton County (to wit)

On this 19th day of March 1821 personally appeared in open Court, Newit Edwards, aged Sixty eight years the 21st of day of July next who being first duly sworn, according to Law doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820, that he the said Newit Edwards inlisted, for the term of two years, on the 5th day of March in the year 1776 in the State of Virginia in the Company Commanded by Capt. Thomas Ridley in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Robert Lawson in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment and that he continued in service in the same Corps untill the 5th day of March in the year 1778 when he was discharged from the said service at the Valley Forge in the State of Pennsylvania That he was in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandy Wine and Germantine and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said service, and in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than

what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed – one hundred and Twenty nine acres of land, one negro man Lewis, about Thirty years old (which land and negro is subject to a deed in trust, for the payment of three hundred and fifty dollars, one negro woman, Milly about fifty years old, one old horse, one Colt, nine Cattle, fifteen Sheep, Thirty one hogs, one forty gallon Still, fifty old Cyder barrells, Seven plow hoes and four Cutters, four weeding hoes, three grubbing hoes, one bridle and saddle, four pine tables, three pine chests, one pine safe, nine old chairs, two tubs, three spinning wheels, one flax wheel, on loom and Harness, three pewter basons, one puter dish, one frying pan, one tin Coffee pot, one pair hand irons, two pair Sad irons, one knoging, one grind Stone, two augurs, two D [Dutch] ovens, one hand saw, three chissels, one apple mill, Seven stand bees, four pair of Cotton Cards, one Tin bucket, four Jugs, three iron pots, two iron pot racks, one Shot gun, one Looking glass, two decanters, three glass tumblers, parcell knives and forks, one tin funnell, three iron wedges and 20 barrels. I also owe in sundry debts about Two hundred and Ten dollars. My ocupation is farming my ability to persue it is bad owing to my age and infirmity, the number and age of my family, residing with me is as follows, my daughter Mary E Edwards, aged thirty years, negro woman Milly about fifty years old, one negro man Lewis about Thirty years old My daughter is engaged in spinning and other house business negro woman Milly engaged in Cooking, milking, washing, and spinning, but very infirm, negro man Lewis engaged in farming – Signed Newit Edwards

Southampton County Sct.

On this 17th day of May 1824 personally appeared in the county Court of Southampton aforesaid in open Court Newit Edwards resident in said County aged Seventy one years the 21st day of July next who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st May 1820. that he the said Newit Edwards enlisted for the term of two years on the 5th March 1776 in the state of Virginia in the Company Commanded by Captain Thomas Ridley in the Regiment Commanded by Colo. Robert Lawson in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental Establishment that he continued to serve in the said Corps untill the 5th March 1778 when he was discharged from the said service at the Valley forge in the State of Pennsylvania. That his name has been placed on the pension list and dropped therefrom on account of his property. That he was in the battles of Trenton Prinston Brandy Wine Germantown and Stono [Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779] and in the latter engagement he was severely wounded which in a great measure renders him unable to support himself, and that He has no other evidence now in his power of his said Services [Oath similar to that of the preceding declaration follows. The schedule of property is similar to the preceding except that the two slaves are not listed.]

My occupation has hitherto been that of a farmer, but now from age and infirmity am unable to pursue it being very much afflicted with a rheumatick affliction. the number and age of my family residing with me are as follows. My daughter Mary C. Edwards aged 34 years whose occupation is Spinning and other household business One negro woman Milly about 54 years of age, and very infirm belonging to my said daughter Mary C Edwards who is generally engaged in cooking and washing &c.

That since the exhibition of my first Schedule the following change has been made in my property [This account is not transcribed here. It notes the sale of “Negro Man Lewis” in 1833 to Amos Stephenson to satisfy a debt and the sale of “one negro woman Milly” on 25 Jan 1823 to Aubin Middleton for \$78. Edwards made an application similar to the above on 16 May 1825.]

The petition of Newett Edwards respectfully represents to the legislature of Virginia, that he is an old revolutionary soldier, who during the war for our freedom, was engaged in some of the most trying scenes, and encountered as many privations and personal dangers, as most whose fortune it was to be engaged in that arduous struggle.

That in the year 1818, being in reduced circumstances, as well as in a state of corporal incapacity, (from his age and the effect of a wound which had rendered his right arm of little use to him) to live with comfort, he felt no hesitation in availing himself of the provision, which the general

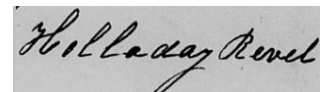
government had made for the relief of the distressed and infirm soldiers of the revolution. That he felt the less delicacy in throwing himself upon the bounty of his country, because tho' individually grateful for the regard which that provision manifested in the present age toward the past, yet he reflected, that the struggle in which they had been engaged had produced less benefit to themselves than to others, and that any assistance which a few survivors could receive might be viewed more as debt than as a bounty. That under the provisions of the act of Congress, he sent on the evidence of his service, and in the manner prescribed established the following facts: That he enlisted in the Company of Capt Ridley, which was a part of Col Lawson's regiment of the Va line, on the 5th of March 1776, for two years, and in that Corps rec'd the appointment of Corporal. that during the same tour he was at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, and Brandywine, and at the expiration of two years was discharged at Valley Forge, where the army there lay – that sometime after his return home he was on a visit to his friends in N Carolina, and the Militia of the neighbourhood being called on to march to the South, he volunteered his services and was wounded at the battle of Stono; and after remaining some time in the hospital and performing some more duty, he was discharged – that he was afterwards several times called out in the Va. Militia & was at the skirmish at Petersburg & the siege of York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781]. – That from a representation of these facts, the war department granted him a certificate for his pension, which he received one year and a half, and was after that time stricken from the pension list, as he has been informed, by virtue of a subsequent Act of Congress, which has been construed to mean “that none but absolute paupers would be provided for” – That the property which your petitioner is possessed of is nothing but a very small piece of poor land, which he had acquired as a retreat for his old age, the sale of which would not relieve him & which he has nobody to cultivate, having to depend on his own hands, which are rendered feeble by age & casualty – Yet this small piece of land has deprived him of the aid of the government, when its whole value would be less than the pension for a very short time, and when he cannot part with it, for that would seem to be in fraud of the act of Congress. Yet because he holds this piece of land, sufficient only for a home & a burying place, the government has refused him any assistance. Your petitioner by no means wishes to censure the course which Congress has pursued on the subject, but believes that some policy, other than the belief “that the possession of a small piece of land should render its owner unworthy of assistance,” has prompted the subsequent act and its construction. by this doctrine, it seems that your petitioner is too rich to receive the aid of Government, yet it is a distressing fact, which his necessity alone could prompt him to represent to you, that he is too poor to live comfortably without assistance from some quarter. Your petitioner being aware, that his application is purely to the discretion of the legislature, and believing that the circumstances of his case are known to the representatives from his county, has deemed it unnecessary to introduce any formal evidence in support of his petition, but begs leave to refer to the certificate from the war office to shew that it has been made out to the satisfaction of that department, that your petitioner was a soldier of the revolution. Your petitioner claims no right to the assistance of the Va legislature, but hopes that he will receive that relief from them which he had a better right to demand elsewhere but which has been denied to him

Newett Edwards

[The petition is accompanied by a supporting statement signed by Edwards's neighbors and dated 1 Dec 1826.]

This is to Certify that when I join'd the army at Valla forge in Pennsylvania that Newit Edwards were there in the latter part of 1777 as a regular.

[Holliday Revel (Holladay Revell) S39034 & S5980]
Dec'r 5th 1826



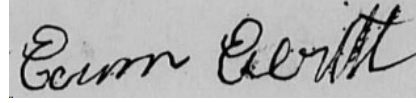
Virginia Southampton County Sct

I hereby certify that I was a Soldier in the militia during the revolutionary war, was at and engaged in the battle at Stono near Charleston South Carolina, that during the engagement I saw Newit

Edwards come out from among those engaged in the action holding one hand with the other saying he was wounded, and I saw the blood then running down from his arm.

Given under my hand this 5th December 1826.

Exum Everitt

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Exum Everitt". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTE: Edwards's pension was restored commencing 26 Feb 1827.