

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Edwards W19222 Ruth Edwards VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 4 Jan 2014.

State of Tennessee }
Washington County }

On this ninth day of September 1833 personally appeared before the Honorable the Judge of the Circuit Court of Law & Equity for said County within the First Judicial Circuit John Edwards a citizen of said County who being first duly sworn made & subscribed the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 that he served under the following named officers at the times & periods herein after stated to wit. that he is now aged Eighty three, was born in September (day unknown) of 1750. in Baltimore County State of Maryland, but has no record of his age but this is the tradition of his Ancestors & he believes it true. That His father removed from Maryland when he was very young to McAllisters town Pennsylvania & from thence to Shannadoah [sic: Shenandoah] & thence Bedford County Virginia where he resided when the war of the Revolution broke out and where he entered during the term that he served as a militia man in said War & which is as follows.

1st he in the month of October 1776 Volunteered under Captain Bluford [probably Henry Buford] in Bedford County aforesaid being at the time a Sargeant in the Company to perform a tour of duty of six months, & marched to the frontiers against the Cherokee Indians, on the way, Joined Col Christy [William Christian] at the Big Lick marched under sd Christy to the Long Island of Holsten [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN] & from there to the Cherokee Nation & served under s'd Christy for six months as sargeant on said tour well known as Christies expedition against the Cherokees. Was discharged verbally by Cap'n Bluford at the Long Island under promise to give written discharge on return home which he never obtained from him. This service he has proved by the affidavit of Cap'n. Christopher Taylor [pension application R10420.5] hereto annexed.

Again in the month of April 1777 [sic] he again volunteered in the Bedford Militia under Captain Thomas Arthur he being orderly Sargeant in the Company was so continued under Capn Arthur. was enrolled at Bedford and marched for a three months tour of duty to Richmond, from thence to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] there joined G1 Stubane [see endnote] and served out his three months under said Stubane at Petersburg and was verbally discharged by Capn Arthur at Petersburg & returned home.

Again in the fall of 1778 he volunteered for a three months tour of duty, under Capn William Leftwich to go against the Shawnee Indians & guard the frontier, was marched by Capn Leftwich to Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier], declarant being again orderly Sargeant, of Leftwiches Company. Col Andrew Lewis was the Col who commanded on said expedition & he on said tour guarded on the frontier his three months and at the expiration of his three months was verbally discharged by Capn Leftwich & returned home.

Again in May 1781. he volunteered under Capn Payte [sic: possibly Jeremiah Pate], in Bedford Va to go a three months tour of duty to the south to join G1 Green [sic: Nathanael Greene when Cornwallis was on his march south [sic: north] again was appointed orderly sargeant in Paytes company. Major [John] Ward commanded the Virginia Militia to South Carolina where he joined G1 Green at ninety six before the engagement with Lord Rawd[on] was in said Battle [Siege of Ninety Six SC, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781]. retreated to Broad river under G1 Gates [sic], when he was discharged by Capn Payte his three months having expired. Said discharge was verbal.

Again in the month of August 1781. a general call was made for the Virginia Militia to go to YorkTown against Cornwallis enrolled himself and marched with his equipage to Shingle block on Goose Creek [in Bedford County] continued to join Washington at York Town where news reached them that Cornwallis had surrendered [19 Oct 1781] & they were allowed to return home, having been a few days absent the time not now recollected That in the four several tours first set forth he served fifteen months, and the last he served without the time exactly but could not have been less than half a month, for which fifteen

months and half he claims a pension as orderly sergeant having served all the time in that capacity. that he has no documentary evidence in his possession nor can he make any other positive proof of actual service than that annexed which goes to twelve of the fifteen & half months service which proof is annexed. but that Henry Taylor and [blank] are persons known to him & he to them & by whom he can establish the reputation of his said services. that there is no minister of the Gospel in his vicinity by whom he can establish the facts required by the instructions of the War Dept. That his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state & He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present.

Sworn to & Subscribed in open Court the day & year before written

John hisXmark Edwards

State of North Carolina }

Yancey County }

On this 31st day of October 1844 came personally before me John Hensley one of the acting Magistrates in and for the County aforesaid Ruth Edwards a resident of the aforesaid County and State an applicant for a Pension who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh oath, that she is the widow of John Edwards late pensioner deceased of Washington County East Tennessee, and that she was married to the said John Edwards some ten years before he (Edwards) Entered into the service of the United States in the war of the Revolution. That from the best of her recollection her husband the aforesaid John Edwards entered into the Army in or about the year Seventeen hundred and eighty 1780, that he left home Bedford County Virginia in the spring of the year under Captain Arter and remained in the service 'till fall; he then came home to his family and stayed some few days and then left for the army again, under Col [Charles] Lynch (she thinks) and did not return untill the next fall; that at the time he (Edwards) first entered the army they had a family of four children namely Wm, Sally, Montearth, and James, that the eldest was large enough to Plow and that she with the help of their little children made two Crops during her husbands the aforesaid John Edwards absence in the army which was about eighteen months, that he first left home in the spring and remained in the army untill the second fall and that during his absence they had planted and made two crops she well and distinctly recollects

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and date aforesaid before me Jno. Hensley JP

Ruth herXmark Edwards

NOTES:

Gen. Baron von Steuben was not in the area of Petersburg until early 1781.

Since it was the duty of an Orderly Sergeant was to record orders in an Orderly Book, it would be expected that Edwards would sign his full name if physically able.

On 9 Sep 1833 William Edwards of Washington County certified that he knew of the service of John Edwards.

On 8 April 1844 Ruth Edwards was said to be 92, and she stated that her husband died 16 Oct 1833. William Edwards, eldest son of John and Ruth Edwards, stated that he was born about 1771 and "did on one occasion go with his father John Edwards to join the army in Bedford County which was some thirty miles from home and at the house of Colonel Caleways" (sic: either James or William Callaway). The file contains a document stating that no record could be found in Bedford County of the marriage of John Edwards and Ruth Crabtree.