## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Estes (Estis) W7119 Nelly Estes VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Jan 2014.

State of Virginia.

On this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1847, personally appeared in Open Court, before the County Court of Halifax now sitting, William Estis, or Eastes, one of the surviving children of Nelly Eastes, or Estis, deceased, a resident of said County and State, aged 62 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, (so far as he knows or believes) make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838, entitled "an Act granting half pay and pensions to Certain Widows" –

He declares, that he is one of the surviving children of Nelly Estis, or Eastes, deceased, late of said County and State, who was the widow of Abraham Estis, or Eastes, deceased, formerly a Private in the Virginia Continental line, in the War of the Revolution. He has always understood, and believes the same to be true, that his Father the said Abraham Estis, enlisted in the County of Halifax sometime in the Month of May, 1776, under Capt. Nathaniel Cocke [pension application R13415], to serve for the term of three years in the Virginia Continental line, and that he served the said term (except a short time whilst on furlough) faithfully, and was honorably discharged from service. All of which will appear by reference to affidavit of George Estis [George Estes, pension application S18394] a soldier of the Revolution. That the said Abraham Eastes departed this life on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1804, in the County of Halifax.

That his Mother Nelly Eastes, departed this life on or about the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 1844, leaving the only living children to wit: William Eastes, John Eastes, and Abraham Eastes; all of whom are of legal age. That his Mother was endeavouring at the time of her death to procure the necessary evidence to establish her pension claim; but from disease, old age and bodily infirmity was unable to do so.

He further declares, that he always understood that his Father and Mother were married some time in the year 1780, by Parson Gordon a Minister of the old Episcopal Church, by publication of Banns, according to the rites & ceremonies of that Church – and he believes the same to be true. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January, seventeen hundred and ninty four; to wit, about the time above stated.

He further declares, that his Mother the said Nelly Estis, after the death of her husband the said Abraham Estis, never intermarried; but remained a widow to the day of her death.

That he knows nothing personally of the services of said Abraham Estis in the War of the Revolution, or of his marriage; and therefore relies on accompanying proof and the Records of the Army to establish all that is set forth in the foregoing Declaration. That he served longer than two years is apparent from the testimony; but claims a pension for two years services. He claims a Pension for himself and surviving children of Nelly Estes, widow of Abraham Estes, from 4<sup>th</sup> March 1836 to the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1844, the date of her death. [signed] William Estes

State of Virginia. Patrick County to wit:

I do hereby Certify, that Nelly Estis, widow of Abraham Estis, deceased, late of Halifax County, died at the Home of William Edwards, her son in law, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 1844. I made her Coffin, which enables me to state the precise date – having kept a memorandum.

Gabriel Critz

State of Virginia Halifax county to wit [15 Oct 1847]

I George Estes of Halifax a soldier of the Revolution and pensioner of the united states do herby certify that I have a distinct recolection of the marriage of Abraham Estes and nelly organ they wer married in the county of Halifax in the fall of 1780 the precise day and month not recolected, by publication of Banns by parson Gordon of the old Episcopal church according to the rites and ceremonies

of that church They raised as man & wife a family of children not fare from where I reside and the marriage was after Mr Abraham Eastes returned from the service but long prior to 1<sup>st</sup> Januay 1794

George States

State of Virginia: Halifax county to wit: [15 Oct 1847]

I george Estis of Halifax County, state of Virginia, a Revolutionary soldier, and Pensioner of the United states, in the 86 year of my age, do herby certify, that I was intimateley acquainted with Abraham Estis or Eastes late of Halifax, and know the fact as coming within my personal knowledge that said Abraham Eastis in the month of May 1776, enlisted under Capt Nathaniel Cocke in the county of Halifax to serve for the period of three years, in the continental line and that he served the said term faithfully, and was honorably discharged from service. I was presant at the time of enlistment, which took place at a school House, and recolect that John Estes [pension application S3338] and several others enlisted at same time – after entering the armey for some time, he returned home on furlough, and staid a short time, then returned to the armey and remained in the same untill his term expired I served in the malitia, but know all the above stated facts to be true

State of Virginia: Halifax county to wit: [14 Jan 1848]

I George Estes of Halifax County, do hereby certify, in addition to my former Certificate, That Abraham Estes late of Halifax enlisted under Capt Nathaniel Cocke and was attached to the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment: I do not recolect at this time, the names of the field officers; But I have a distinct Recoletion, that Edward Wade was Lieutenant in the company; and that he was stationed [several illegible words] Guinns Island [Gwynn Island], and then marched to the north I was a soldier of the Revolution now a pensioner of the united states, and in the 86 year of my age

George hisXmark Estes

[The following are from bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia.]

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia: [25 Oct 1847]

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal Representatives of Abraham Estis, deceased, late a Private of the Virginia Continental line in the War of the Revolution Respectfully Sheweth:

That the said Abraham Estes, or Eastis, sometime in the month of May 1776, enlisted under Captain Nathaniel Cocke in the County of Halifax Virginia to serve for the term of Three years in the Virginia Continental line. That the said Abraham Estes, as a Private served faithfully the term for which he enlisted, and was honorably discharged from service. All of which will fully appear by reference to the Army Register where his name appears, and the accompanying Certificate of George Estis a soldier of the Revolution and a Pensioner of the United States a competent and credible witness who had an opportunity of knowing.

your memorialist farther state, that said Abraham Estis in his life time, never applied for, or has drawn a Warrant for his Bounty Land, as promised by the laws of Virginia; nor have his Heirs, since his death, applied for or received the same.

Your Memorialist, therefore, humbly pray that your Excellency will grant them a Warrant for the usual quantity of Land allowed to a Private of the Virginia Continental line for the service of three years, pursuant to the Laws of Virginia in such case made and provided. And as in duty bound, shall ever pray &c William Estes

[George Estes made an affidavit similar to the one in the federal pension file dated 15 Oct 1847.]

## NOTE:

On 26 Aug 1848 Laban Durham, 75, listed the children of Abraham and Nelly Estes as David, the eldest, William, John, Nancy, Sally, and Abraham. He stated that only William, John, and Abraham were still living.

The file includes an original record of the names and dates of birth of David, William, and John Estis on the back of the title page of a small New Testament printed in 1767. The record, which is difficult to read, is transcribed below.

David Estis the son of Abraham Estis and Nelley his wife was born the 8th[?] of July 1783 William Estis was Born 11 day of March 1787 John Estis was Born 28 day of december 1784