

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Virginia documents pertaining to Thomas Evans VAS1084

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Apr 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Lunenburg County]

To the honorable the house of representatives & Senate of Virginia. The memorial of Thomas Evans begs leave to represent that he is one of the few remaining revolutionary soldier; that he enlisted at an early stage of the war; in a regiment commanded by Col [William] Brent; under whome he served during the greater part of the war; and by whome he was regularly discharged; that he was present at some of the splendid achievements & witnessed some of the disasters of his country men. That he served several campaigns to the north; where his constitution received an injury; which his native climate has never repaired; That as long as he was able to support himself by personal labour; the acknowledged merit of the patriot band of which he was a member, was deemed an ample recompense for all his services; and he required no other compensation, than the proud conciousness of having bestowed them freely. But that he is now old and infirme & no longer able to support himself & therefore under the necessity of making an appeal to the boasted liberality of his country. That with this in view he lately sent on a memorial (which he here with encloses as a memorial of his services) to the secratary for the department of war praying the pension which the congress of the United States had generously bestowed on the few surviving actors in her revolutionary struggle [pension act of 18 Mar 1818]. That from that department he has been informed that whilst the merit of Col Brents men are acknowledged that from their not having been placed regularly on the continental establishment they are not entitled to the pension. Surely if true value of services or the gallantry and fidelity with which they were performed had been made the standard by which national gratitude should dispense its bounty the merit of this [undeciphered word] would not have been withheld; the length of time they were in service gave them the regular [one or two undeciphered words] of veterans their own native valour [undeciphered word] in all the fearless daring of adventurous chivalry. They shared largely in the triumphs of stony point [16 Jul 1779] – their number of slain bore ample testimony [to] their galantry at monmouth [28 Jun 1778] And if it was not deemed unnecessary to detail events which have long been recorded in glory and chronicled by fame the strong claims of this regiment on the attention of their country might be easily displayed. his memorial having been rejected he is under the necessity of making a last appeal to you & hopes that a moderate pension may be granted him to preserve the lingering remnant of that life from begery & want which has been passed in honour.

Virginia. In Lunenburg County Court 11th Nov'r 1819

Be it remembered, that on this day Thomas Evans, a free man of Colour appeared in open Court, held held for and in the County aforesaid, who being 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, & naval service of the united states in the revolutionary war. That he the said Thomas Evans is a resident of the County of Lunenburg aged sixty three; and that he the said Thomas Evans enlisted in the County of Mecklenburg, and state of Virginia, in the company commanded by Captain Henry Dudley [pension application R13891], in the second Virginia state Regiment, on the continental establishment [sic], that the regiment was Commanded by Colo. Brent, that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the united states, untill the month of May 1780, that he enlisted in September 1777, and having served as aforesaid til May 1780 he was discharged from service in the town of Williamsburg, and State of Virginia. That he was in no battle, he was in about two Miles of the field of battle at Monmouth but was ordered by Colo. Brent to remain with and take care of his baggage, and so did not engage in it. That he belonged to General Mulenburgs [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade, and that he was in the neighbourhood of the battle of Stoney point but was prevented from being present by similar orders given at Monmouth; and

that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support, that he has no other evidence in his power of his said services – that he delivered his discharge to the auditor of Virginia upwards of thirty years ago, when he applied for and obtained his land warrants and Certificates.

Joel Aiken a free white man being first sworn in open Court, deposeth and saith, that he was born, and raised in the same County, with the above named Thomas Evans that he enlisted, about the same time, that the said Evans enlisted, in the same company. That on his own personal knowledge the said Thomas Evans, enlisted as he has above stated, in or about the month of September 1777 and continued to serve as aforesaid, untill a bout the month of May 1780. That he was in the town of Williamsburg at the time said Evans was discharged, and believes that he was legally discharge after serving the time for which he enlisted. sworn to in open court.

Petition of Thomas Evans Presented, Dec'r. 23^d 1819/ Dec'r. 27th ref'd to Claims/ Reasonable Dec'r 29th Reported Dec'r. 30th/ Bill drawn Jan'y. 6th

To the honorable the legislature of Virginia.

Your petitioner, Thomas Evans, a free man of colour, begs leave to represent, that at an early period of the revolutionary war, he enlisted in the second Virginia State rejiment commanded by Col. Brent in the Continental army; that shortly after he enlisted this rejiment joined the Northern Army Commanded by General Mulenburg, and was engaged in some of the most memorable and best contested actions of the war. Your petioner will not attempt to particularise deeds that are known, & familiar to the recollection of every reader of his country's history; the patience and fortitude with which this rejiment submitted to privations the most distressing and danger the most appalling, bear ample testimony to the patriotism which sent them to the field; and the triumphs of Monmouth and Stony Point declare the galantry which sustained them in the hour of battle. Your petitioner was in service nearly three years and was regularly discharged: Having contributed to the triumphs of his Country, and the discomfiture of her proud and insolent foe, he was thrown back upon the world poor and friendless. His humble fortune had been dissipated in his absence, and his constitutioned impaired by exposure to a nothern climate. But the labours of the field had succeeded in obtaining for America freedom and independence, and he who had offered his life, thought it cheaply purchased by a smaller sacrifice. His Country was free and promised to be grateful – but her finances were deranged and her treasury exhausted. Your petitioner waited with patience until her happier fortune would enable her to reward the galantry which had supported, and the fidelity which had never deserted her. But with returning prosperity his country seemed to forget the claims of the Veteran to whom she owed it; and those who have spent the vigor of their life in defence of their Country, were dragging out a wretched existence in penury and want. The Congress of the United States passed an act [18 Mar 1818] making provision for the revolutionary soldiers, but as the rejiment to which your petitioner belonged, had never been regularly placed on the Continental Service, he was denied the benefit of the act of Congress. Thus, while the services of that rejiment are conceded, while their achievements occupy the proudest page in American history, a distinction in terms has closed the door to the reward to which they are justly entitled. Your petitioner is nearly seventy years old, he is infirm and unable to support himself; and if this appeal should be in vain, one at least of that Band, which has been proudly called the fathers of their Country, will be forced to depend for existence on the precarious charity of a cold & unfeeling world

Your petitioner therefore prays that yr. honorable body will allow him a pension.

Thos. Evans/ Lunenburg Dec. 16th 1822.

Hanover Nov'r 2^d 1822

I do hereby certify that Thomas Evans was a soldier in the second Virginia State Regiment, and that he served the term faithfully for which he was inlisted, in the Continental Army [sic]

Cha Dabney [Charles Dabney R13624]

Lieutent. Col. of the second Virginia State Regim't.

We certify that Thos Evans has supported a reputable character; that he is old and infirm and unable to support himself. We have no doubt of his having served faithfully during the war which established our independence & think him entitled to the attention and liberality of the Legislature of the State.

Lunenburg December the 8th 1822 [18 signatures]

I hereby certify that I attended as a Physician upon Thomas Evans, (a free Man of Color of Lunenburg Co. Fa.) about 20 years ago while suffering under a Billious Remitant fever, & a severe affection of the Lungs, which terminated in a Dropsy of the Breast. By a regular course of Medicine for a long time it was partially cur'd; but has never been entirely remov'd. – By living very temperate, & the use of suitable Medicine occasionally it has been so far kept under as to enable him to go about some & so some little business to get a support, but he is not able to do any kind of work that requires much exertion, or bear much fatigue any way, or exposure in bad weather. Indeed his breast compaint is such, & his constitution is so much impair'd that he never enjoys good health & I do not believe he ever will; – Consequently, as he was a Soldier in the Revolutionary war, he has become a proper object of public benevolence.

Given under my hand the 11th day of December 1822. Asa Barnes M.D.

Dec'r. 24th ref'd to Claims

1823 6th Jan'y. Reasonable/ 7th Report Drawn/ 18th Bill Drawn

[From [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Thomas Evans a Soldier 2^d Virginia State Reg't having served three years the term for which he was inlisted he is hereby discharged the Service.

Given under my hand at Wms.burg the first day of May One thousand seven hundred & Eighty.

Wm. Brent Col [William Brent]

a copy from the original/ Markes Vandewall, Clk.