

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elvington Knott VAS1107

vsl 22 +6VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/6/13

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

The Affidavit of Nathaniel Norfleet¹ relative to the services of Captain Elvington Knott in the revolutionary war of America

The affiant being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God saith that he was well acquainted with Captain Elvington Knott for the affiant served with and under the said Elvington Knott that Captain Knott commanded a company attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Josiah Parker – Captain Elvington Knott to the best of my recollection and belief entered the Army at the commencement of the Revolutionary war and served until the latter part of the year 1779, when he was shot by some Tories, and among those Tories who aided [?]² in shooting Captain Knott, was one by the name of Dempsey Butler – it was understood that a reward of five hundred guineas was offered for the head of Captain Knott by the enemy; after Captain Knott was shot that he & others pursued these Tories who had shot and taken Captain Knott, and retook Captain Knott from them who died in a short time after – This Affiant is perfectly satisfied that Elvington Knott was a Captain in the American Army, and that the Company commanded by him, belonged to Colonel Josiah Parker's Regiment, he knows it because he was in the service with Captain Knott and part of the time under his command, and this affiant is also confident cannot did serve at least three years, before he was killed and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Nathl. Norfleet [Nathaniel Norfleet]

[Attested in Person County North Carolina February 14, 1834]

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To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

J. W. Murdough for the heirs of Captain Elvington Knott formerly of Nansemond County represents that Captain Knott entered the service of the state in the year 1776 as Captain of a minute Company and was afterwards commissioned in the State line or was transferred to that line, and whilst in actual command of his Company then stationed with the American troops at

¹ [Nathaniel Norfleet R7692](#)

² 

Jericho near Suffolk, was killed by refugees headed by a man named Jo Cliff [??]³ and is consequently entitled to Land bounty –

J. W. Murdaugh files here with a certificate showing that Knott commanded a minute company – The deposition of Major Wyatt, formerly the Sheriff of Norfolk County, & who during the war was in the militia – proves that Captain Knott was positively in the State Line and that he was a gallant & brave officer & was killed in the service – John Halloway a very respectable shipbuilder proves that Captain Knott was in the State Line & not in the militia at the time of his death – Halloway was in the militia during the war & for a short time before the close of the war was in Captain Hoffler's Company on State line, and he must be presumed to have known the difference of the lines. Mrs. Shepherd proves that Knott was considered an officer in the Army but does not know the particular line – Mrs. Powell the widow (previous to her second marriage) of James Jones deposes that her husband was a Lieutenant in the Nansemond [County] militia – That she knew Knott to be a Captain in the Army and that he was killed whilst in service.

J. W. Murdaugh will add that he has always heard in the neighborhood that Captain cannot was attached to the Army & he believes that every person in the lower part of Nansemond has heard that Captain Knott was a gallant & patriotic officer & that he was killed in the War. In fact his service & death constitute the most prominent facts in the revolutionary tradition of that neighborhood.

Richmond December 8th 1831

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Petition for bounty land the Heirs of Elvington Knott – Captain &c

This claim has been before the Executive – and twice rejected. It is now offered again, for reconsideration, on additional evidence.

The facts are these – Elvington Knott commanded a Company of minute men in March 1776. (See Journals of the Committee of Safety.)

His name has not been found on the Army Register = nor on any of the Rolls of officers of the Army, reported to the Executive at different times.

There are several affidavits filed – to wit – of John Hargroves – Holliday Hedgebeth – Mrs. Mary Powell – Mrs. Peggy Shepherd – Joseph Ross and Nathaniel Norfleet.

In the Petition dated December 8th 1831, two other affidavits are spoken of, which are not, at this time, among the Papers. Perhaps, the Petitioners withdrew them. They were the affidavits of Major Wyatt, and John Holloway.

The question submitted to your Excellency is a question of evidence – the weight of evidence I have given no abstract of the statements of witnesses. It belongs to you, after having examined the affidavits which have been filed, to say whether or not they supply the deficiency of evidence of Record; and whether, or not, they prove that Elvington Knott was ever in the Regular Service

respectfully submitted
John H Smith, Commissioner &c
May 12, 1834

Jo Cliff

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

[Note: the intervening pages are either not substantive or illegible]

[p 13]

Virginia County of Nansemond

This day Holladay Hedgebeth a Revolutionary Soldier now of the age of seventy-seven years, and apparently in his perfect senses & memory and who certainly is entitled to credit was this day sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God who deposeth and saith that he knew one Elvinton Knott [sic], a Captain in the American Army during the Revolutionary War. That the said Knott was a true patriot and a very efficient and useful officer in the American Army – that he done the enemy (the British) more injury in and about the mouth of the Nansemond River than any other officer in the American Army – That he was finally killed by the Tories as he has been informed and verily believes; for he was told it by one Dempsey Butler, who was a Tory, and who was present at the time the said Knott was killed; and that the said Knott was decoyed out of his own house one day by a mulatto man, upon some pretense or other and as he Knott passed a very large oak tree not far from his house, he was shot down by a man of the name of Logan, as this affiant has been told by said Dempsey Butler, and that he cannot was then taken in a boat, and carried across the River, and a horse and cart was then got (this being about the 21st of June 177_, in ploughing time) and the Tories and murderers made their way to Norfolk, – where they were carrying the said cannot to the British Army to receive a reward which had been offered for him, but they were overtaken by some Light-Horse men (our men) and brought back and [so] he this affiant has been informed and verily believes – that the said Knott war uniform (and also his soldiers, as he now thinks) – And that one Mathews was his Colonel and one Dick his Major, as he now believes, and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Holladay Hedgebeth, X his mark

[Attested in Nansemond County Virginia March 7th, 1833]

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Nansemond County Court 13th May 1833

The deposition of Joseph Ross⁴ taken in open Court this 13th day of May 1833 to be read as evidence in establishing the services of Captain Elvington Knott in the American Army during the war of the Revolution. The deponent being sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he knew Captain Elvington Knott, that he enlisted in the Company commanded by Captain Elvington Knott, and served in the company commanded by him six months, after the expiration of the six months, he was placed under the command of Captain Hoffler. The deponent does not remember the exact year when he served in the Company commanded by Captain Elvington Knott, that after he left the company commanded by Captain Elvington Knott – the said Captain Elvington Knott was shot by a party of the refugees as was generally reported and believed at the time, and which this deponent verily believes was the fact – for the said Captain Elvington Knott was a very spirited man, and was no doubt a terror to the enemy and to the Tories. – This deponent states that the said Captain Elvington Knott served until he was shot as above stated, in the State Line of Virginia, and further this affiant saith not

S/ Joseph Ross, X his mark

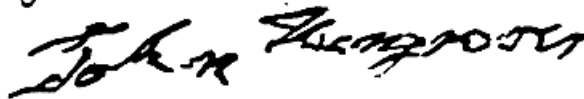
⁴ [Joseph Ross S7390](#)

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Virginia County of Nansemond SS

The affidavit of John Hargroves of the County aforesaid and of the age of 72 years the said Hargroves being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with one Captain Elvington Knott during the Revolutionary War that he commanded as Captain and such was his ardent desire to serve his Country that he exerted himself much beyond what any other man did and in fact being so true to his Country that he would not hesitate to shoot anyone who was suspected of not being a friend to his Country that he was finally shot as he has always understood and so believes at the time by some Tories and Negroes, the [paper damaged by an ink blot and text obliterated] he does not now recollect but so it is [paper damaged by an ink blot and text obliterated] was certainly killed during the Revolutionary War and that [indecipherable word] by the enemies of our Country that he was constantly in service. This affiant verily believes in what was called the Regular Service or the Virginia Service perhaps Continental service or it might have been the militia this affiant cannot at this late day speak with any degree of certainty, but this much he knows he was constantly in service and as a Captain but the particular name of the service he cannot at this distant time speak of further he know if not.

S/ John Hargroves



9th May 1833

[p 20: affidavit illegible as posted online]

[p 22]

The Affidavit of Mrs. Peggy Shepherd taken in the Town of Suffolk, County of Nansemond and State of Virginia concerning the circumstances of the death of Elvington Knott a Captain in the American Army during the revolutionary war

The Affiant Margaret Shepherd being first sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith, that Elvington Knott was a Captain in the Army of the revolution as she has understood, that he resided in the County of Nansemond about 8 or 10 miles from the residence of the father of this affiant. This Affiant states, that the said Elvington Knott who she has no doubt was a Captain in the Army, was considered a very brave and violent man in favor of his country, and that his bravery caused him to be despised by the enemies of his country; and from the great zeal and bravery which the said Captain Elvington Knott manifested for the rights of his then injured and oppressed country no doubt were the cause of his death. This Affiant states, that she understood at the time, and very well remembers, that the said Captain Elvington Knott was shot by a refugee or one of the enemy, by name of Logan, and that after he was shot, he was brought in a boat to the house of the father of this affiant, and was put in a bed in Hall of the said house, but that he did not long remain there, for he was removed from this affiant's father's house, to the house of a Mrs. [indecipherable name]⁵ Browne a relation or connection of

said Captain Elvington cannot which was not more than a mile distant. This affiant states that the said Captain Elvington cannot did not live more than two or three days after he was shot and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Peggy Shepherd

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Shepherd". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

[second file]

Nansemond Court to wit

I John B Benton a Justice of the peace hereby certify that Mrs. Abrah Red this day made oath before me that she knew that Captain Edrington Knott was an officer in the Virginia service in the revolutionary war and was killed by Negroes very early in the war – this affiant further made oath that she believes Knott was not in the militia but was an officer in the regular service – he was an officer of distinction & was so sell us in the American cause as to induce the English to all for a large reward for his head – Given under my hand & seal this 29th of June 1838

S/ John B Benton

The deposition of John Holloway taken the 14th day of June in the year 1833 to be read in evidence in establishing the service of Elvington Knott a Captain in the American Army during the Revolutionary war

The Affiant John Holloway being first sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he knew Captain Elvington Knott well and for a long time and knows full well that the said Captain Elvington Knott was a Captain in the American Army, and this affiant believes the said Elvington Knott was a Captain in the Virginia State line. The said Captain Elvington Knott was a brave [several indecipherable words] friend to his country, and a terror to the enemy. That he was despised by the enemy, and he did everything he could to harass them. This Affiant states that Captain Elvington Knott served two or three years in the war before he was shot, and believes he would have [several indecipherable words] this time if he had not been shot, and the [indecipherable word] of the country [indecipherable word] his services. That in the year 1780 or 1781 the said Captain Elvington Knott was permitted to go to his home to see his family, and that a Tory by the name of Logan having laid in ambush for him, shot him – and the said Logan with another Tory named Butler took the said Captain Elvington Knott after he was shot and put him in a boat and carried him across Nansemond River, and as soon as they landed, they put him in a cart, and proceeded to carry and deliver the said Captain Elvington Knott into the hands of the enemy – but the Army which was at that time stationed about eight miles below Suffolk, having received the news that Captain Elvington Knott was shot and the Tories were carrying him to the enemy, a party was detached for the [indecipherable word] and directed to proceed immediately and endeavor to rescue the said Captain Elvington Knott from Logan and his associates. The detachment succeeded in retaking Captain Elvington Knott and carried him to his house and had [indecipherable word] aid afforded him – but he died the day after he was shot and did not take the Tories who made their escape. The reason why Logan and

his associate were carrying him to the enemy is because the said Captain Elvington Knott was so brave and [indecipherable word] a man, and annoyed the enemy so much, that they offered a large reward for him dead or alive. This Affiant knows that the said Captain Elvington Knott left one only daughter, who married Edward Browne and died leaving two sons Samuel and Elvington Knott Browne. The affiant states that in March last he was ninety-six years old, and further he saith not.

S/ John Holloway, X his mark