

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

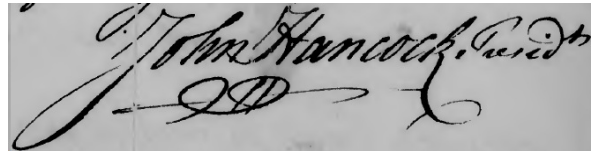
Virginia documents pertaining to William Rickman VAS1888  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Charles City County – Rickman, Elizabeth]

In Congress  
To all whom it may Concern  
Know Ye,

That the Delegates of the Thirteen United Colonies have Constituted and Appointed William Rickman Esquire Director & Chief Physician of the Hospital in Virginia in the Service of the Continent, Subject to such Instructions Rules and Regulations as shall from time to time be given by the Congress or Commander in Chief of the Continental Forces for the time being.

Given under my Hand at Philadelphia the Eighteenth Day of May 1776  
John Hancock Presid't

A black and white image of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "John Hancock, Presid't". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

In Congress Oct'r. 21<sup>st</sup> 1780

Ordered that Doct'r. W Rickman be informed that pursuant to his former request he is left out in the new arrangement of the hospital department.

That the letter be referred to the board of treasury and that the board take the proper steps to have his accounts finally adjusted.

Extract from the minutes/ Chas Thomson Secy

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Assembly

The Petition of Elizabeth Rickman Widow and Executrix of William Rickman late of Charles City County deceased  
Humbly Sheweth

That the said deceased, William Rickman was appointed Director and chief Physician of the Continental Hospital in Virginia by a Commission [undeciphered word] from the [undeciphered word] the Congress of the United States bearing date the eighteenth day of May one thousand seven hundred and seventy six, and acted in that capacity untill the twenty first day of October One thousand seven hundred and eighty, when his resignation was accepted, in consequence of which appointment and services he became entitled to demand from the Auditors warrants for the depreciation of his pay, and a certain quantity of land, proportioned to his rank in the Army, which he accordingly applied for, but the Auditors not conceiving that his application was authorized by the strict letter of the Act of Assembly, refused to issued such Warrants, whereby he was precluded from receiving equal emoluments with other Officer of the same rank.

Your Petitioner feeling herself much aggrieved by that loss of pay which the said William Rickman in his life time sustained, and flattered by the hope that the same [undeciphered word] which were by Your Honorable House at a former Session conferred on several persons in like circumstances, and among others to a certain Anthony Dixon [Anthony Tucker Dixon R13772] Assistant Surgeon to the said William Rickman will not be withheld from his family

Your Petitioner humbly prays that your honorable house taking the [undeciphered word] into Consideration will be [undeciphered word] pleased to order and direct that the Auditors of public

accounts may grant to your Petitioner the proper warrants or Certificates for securing to the family of the said deceased William Rickman such quantity of [undeciphered word] and depreciation of pay as shall be thought adequate to his late Rank and Services. and Your Petitioner as in duty bound Shall ever pray

November 10<sup>th</sup> 1783 Referred to Propositions/ reasonable/ rep[orte]d

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Charles City County – Edmondson, John.]

To the General Assembly of Virginia

Your memorialists respectfully represent that by Resolution of Congress of the 15 of May 1776 Doct'r. William Rickman, was constituted and appointed Director & Chief physician of the Hospital in Virginia, or for the Southern Department, and that under the Resolutions of Congress of the 3<sup>d</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1780, the said Dr. Rickman was left out, or became a retiring or supernumerary officer under s'd Resolutions, That some years afterwards, he departed this life, Testate, devising all his estate to his widow. That in the fall of 1783 his said widow Elizabeth Rickman, petitioned the General Assembly of Virginia, praying that the Auditor of public accounts might settle the accounts of the s'd Dr. Wm. Rickman her late husband. That in answer to her s'd petition, the General Assembly on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1783 passed a resolution directing the Auditor to adjust & settle the accounts of the S'd Dr William Rickman, and to issue to the said Elizabeth Certificates for such amount as might be found due to her s'd husband on account of Depreciation of pay. That in pursuance of s'd Resolution of Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1783 the Auditor on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 1784 issued to Benjamin Harrison her brother, as her agent, and for the use and benefit of the s'd Elizabeth Rickman, Ten several certificates, for sums amounting in the aggregate to £1722.19S.2d. That the s'd Elizabeth Rickman in 1789 intermarried with John Edmondson the father of your memorialists. That subsequent to the intermarriage of the s'd John & Elizabeth, they united in the execution of a Trust Deed to her brother Carter B Harrison, by which Trust Deed the s'd Elizabeth acquired the power under coverture, to dispose of her estate by last will & testament (a copy of s'd Trust Deed is herewith filed) That the s'd Elizabeth died about the close of the year 1790 having made her last will & Testament bearing date May 3<sup>d</sup> 1790 (a copy of which will is herewith filed. That by this her last will and Testament, the s'd Elizabeth devised, as will appear by reference thereto, to her husband John Edmondson, her above named certificates which were in the hands of her brother Benjamin Harrison. Your memorialists further represent that the s'd John Edmondson died in 1802 leaving your memorialists, then infant children [i.e. under 21] by a second marriage, his only surviving heirs at law. Your memorialists have good reason for believing that the aforesaid Certificates, if ever they were in the possession of the s'd John Edmondson, were lost or destroyed and have never been paid or discharged by the state, but to this time remain unpaid either wholly or in part. Your memorialists would respectfully state, that they have made diligent search in the several offices both in Virginia and at Washington City to discover if they could, an evidence of the payment of s'd certificates, but have been unable anywhere to find any proof whatever, that the government has ever discharged its obligation in this behalf. Your memorialists therefore pray the General Assembly to order the payment of s'd Certificates with the interest accruing thereon from the date of their issue to Sept'r. 1825 at which time the interest accruing upon such claims is limited by statute. Your memorialists further represent that it appears from the books of the auditors office that in the settlement of the accounts by the s'd auditor an error was committed against the s'd Rickman of £127.9.8. Your memorialists also pray that this error may be now corrected. In addressing this petition to the General Assembly your memorialists would respectfully suggest, that they only ask the application to the state, of a well established principle which obtains between individuals in equity and as in duty bound your memorialists will ever pray &c &c

[signed]            John Edmondson            L Waddell            Elizabeth Waddell

Dec'r 8<sup>th</sup> 1857 Ref'd to Finance

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

The Memorial of the Heirs and legal representatives of Doctor William Rickman, deceased, who was “Director General, Chief Physician and Surgeon of the Hospital Department” of the State line of Virginia on Continental Establishment, in the War of the Revolution: Respectfully sheweth:

That on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1776, a “Continental Hospital” was established in the State of Virginia by Congress then sitting; and on the same day, Doctor William Rickman of Virginia, was elected by the same Congress, Director General and chief Physician & Surgeon of the same – (See Journals of Congress, 1776, page 347 – Vol. 1<sup>st</sup>) That on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1780; at the particular request of said Doctor Rickman, by letter addressed to Congress, the said Congress entered into a Resolution that Dr. Rickman be informed, that pursuant to his former request he is left out in the new arrangement of the Hospital Department – “ (See Journals of Congress, 1780, page 539 – Vol. 3<sup>d</sup> –) Thus it appears, from the Public Records, that said Dr. Rickman was Director General of said Hospital Department from the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1776 to the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1780, ma[one or more pages are apparently missing from the online file]

6666% acres of Land Bounty for three years service as aforesaid – (See Journals of Executive Department and papers filed in this case–) And that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1784, the Register of the Land Office, or Commissioner of War issued to heirs a Warrant for the same – (See certificate of Register–) No farther Land Bounty has been drawn by him, or his Heirs since his death.

Your memorialist farther state that as the said Dr. Rickman in his life time, only was allowed and drew a Warrant for Land Bounty from the State of Virginia for a service of three years, they humbly conceive themselves, as his Heirs and legal representatives, entitled to additional Land Bounty from the State of Virginia for a service of Seventeen Months, it being the difference between four years and five months the length of time he actually served, and three years, the time for which he was allowed Land Bounty.

Your Memorialists therefore most respectfully petition that your Excellency will grant them an additional allowance of Land Bounty in conformity with the uniform and established practice and usage of the Department, and in pursuance of the Laws of Virginia in such cases made and provided. And as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

Wm R Coupland

State of Virginia: Cumberland County to wit:

This day William Rickman Coupland, one of the Heirs of said Dr. William Rickman, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid, and made oath, that the facts as set forth in the foregoing Memorial, he believes to be true – Given under my hand this 26<sup>th</sup> day of Decr 1834  
J. Lyle J.P.

NOTES:

Letters in the Legislative Petition file of John Edmondson indicate that records of the certificates issued to William Rickman were destroyed in the burning of the Treasury building in 1814.

The Legislative Petition file of John Edmondson includes a copy of the last will and testament of Elizabeth Edmondson of Milford dated 3 May 1790 and proved on 20 Jan 1791, devising to him, with other property, “the following negroes. Ned, Abraham, Charles, Pompey, Polley, Jane, Aggy, Isaac, Beckey, Moses.” She also made the following provisions: “to my Brother Carter B Harrison [Carter Bassett Harrison], I give Henry, his wife Betty, and their Children forever; to my sister Sarah Harrison, I give Polly (and three children, Molly, Tom and Polly, to my Brother Ben’s son Ben, I give Johney to my Brother William H Harris [William Henry Harris, later President of the US], I give George, to William Rickman Coupland, I give Joe, Sarah (daughter of Polly)... I lend to my dear husband, during his life my negro boy Isham, at his death to return to my brother Ben’s son, Benjamin Harris....” Also named was her sister, Ann Coupland. This file also contains a copy of the Deed of Trust referred to.

Another document in the Legislative Petition file of John Edmondson states that he lived near Staunton VA and died in 1803 leaving two children: John Edmondson and Elizabeth Edmondson, who married Lywellen Waddell.