

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Thomas Elliott VAS1952

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Transcribed by Will Graves

5/3/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] King William County legislative petitions

To the Honourable Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates of Virginia  
The Petition of Thomas Elliott of the County of King William humbly sheweth, that your Petitioner ever attached to what he deemed the true Interest of his Country, and ever desirous to advance it to the utmost of his power, entered into its service in a Military capacity in early Life, and was Subaltern Officer in a regular Regiment raised by this State in the years seventeen fifty-eight, fifty-nine & sixty. That influenced by the same motive he found himself warmly disposed to assert and maintain the rights of this his native Country; by resisting the Tyrannies from which the late war has extricated America, and gave such unequivocal proof of his sentiments, that when the convention had recommended the raising some volunteer Troops of Cavalry, and one was raised in the County where your Petitioner resides her countrymen supposing him to have derived some advantages as a Soldier from experience, elected him to be a Lieutenant in the same, and with it, he was several times in actual service between the month of May & November in the year 1775, at which time, he being elected a Lieutenant Colonel in a minute Battalion, was ordered to take the command of the Garrison at Hampton – that he continued in this station for three months, and indeed until he was in the end of that, or the beginning of the following year, elected a Lieutenant Colonel in one of the regiments designed for a Continental Establishment. – That in this capacity & that of Colonel to which he was advanced the same year, he was exposed to all the hardships of two perilous Campaigns, and reluctantly resigned his Commission in October 1777 from the constraint of sickness, and Bodily Indisposition, when (had Health permitted) the complimentary speeches of his superior Officers had given him reason to believe it in his power to bear [?]<sup>1</sup> in with emolument to his Country and Glory to himself. That though pecuniary motive by no means influenced your Petitioner to enter upon the duties of these several stations, yet the duty which he owes to a large Family, prompts him to suggest to this Honourable House, that he conceives himself in Equity at least to have merited by the services he had performed, an equal Bounty in Lands with those Officers who held the same Rank with himself, and resigned after they had been in a regular Army for three years. He well knows indeed that the Term of three years aforesaid gives a Legal Title to that Bounty which he does not possess, but he Trusts that when this Honourable House reflect that his services had been as

constant as if they had been in a regular Army and that his Resignation was not the effect of volition, but constrained by sickness, it will grant that Bounty in Lands to your Petitioner, as an act of Equity and material Justice, which (however well he may be entitled to it, on those considerations) he acknowledges himself to possess no legal right to Claim.  
And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever Pray &c

[Reverse]  
Elliotts Petition  
June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1784  
Referred to Propositions  
Reasonable  
(reported Specially)  
(Colonel)