

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to Robert Lawson VAS850

[vsl 2VA](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/10/13 supp'd 4/27/15 & 5/20/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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 [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

In the House of Delegates

November 11, 1783

Resolved that the Petition of Edward Stevens, and Robert Lawson, praying that a bounty of Lands may be granted them, is reasonable.

Resolved that the same Bounty of Land ought to be allowed to Brigadier General Edward Stevens, and Brigadier General Robert Lawson, as is allowed to Officers of the same Rank in the Continental Army.

Teste:

S/ John Beckley, C. H. D.

1783 November 19<sup>th</sup>

agreed to by the Senate

S/ William Davis, C. S.

A Copy

S/ John Beckley, C. H. Ds

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

The Heirs of Brigadier General Robert Lawson deceased claim the one sixth additional bounty lands promised to all officers who should be in the service in the actual or as supernumerary for every year over six years.

It appears from the Journals of the House of Delegates of November 1783 that Robert Lawson was in service with little intermission from 1775 until the cessation of hostilities and the Claimants believe that the resolution of the House of Delegates under which said Lawson drew bounty lands for three years confers on him or his heirs the same right to additional bounty lands as belonged to Officers of the same rank in the Continental Army. The resolution of the House of Delegates is here with presented

S/ G. H. Parker

Attorney-in-fact for the Heirs

Rejected December 1833

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Culpeper County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

The Memorial of Edward Stevens & Robert Lawson, –  
late Brigadier Generals in the Militia of this State, Humbly represents. – That when the contest between Great Britain and the United States of America commenced, they were early impressed with the justice of the American cause, & therefore took a decided part against Great Britain. At an early period of the War they had the honor to command each, a Regiment in the federal Army: for which important trust, they had the confidence to believe, they discharged the united duties of Soldier, & Citizen, being pressed by a variety of circumstances, which although of a private nature, were nevertheless so weighty with your Memorialists, as to constrain them to resign [paper damaged and several words rendered illegible] their command, which they had accepted with alacrity. But although they were thus impelled to leave the Continental Army, to pay some attention to their domestic matters, which were in such a train at that time as absolutely to require their immediate care, still they trust, that it is a fact well known, that they did not abandon the cause of their Country: – but on the contrary they sought the first opportunity that offered, of being employed in its defense, when invaded by the Enemy in 1779; and it is with the most lively gratitude, that they reflect, on the generous confidence of their Country, in calling them into its Service; & conferring on them, a higher degree of rank, than they had in the federal Army, or their merits would well entitle them to aspire to. This consideration alone, would have operated so powerfully upon their minds, as to shut, out every wish of seeking further reward, for their past Services, if they had been so happy as to render any, in the opinion, of their Countrymen, had they not observed, in a variety of instances, that the benefit, and liberal, disposition of this Honorable House, hath [one or more words rendered illegible] them to grant Lands to those of the Public Servants employed in the War, whose pretensions thereto, with diffidence they conceive, were not founded under longer, or more faithful Services to the Commonwealth, than your Memorialists.

The intent then of your Memorialists, in soliciting the attention of this Honorable House, is, that they will be pleased to take their case under consideration, & grant them such bounty in Lands, as you in your Justice, & generosity, shall think fit.

And your Memorialists,  
as in duty bound will ever pray &  
S Edw.d Stevens  
S/ Ro: Lawson

Novr 5<sup>th</sup> 1783

*Edw. d Stevens*  
*Ro. Lawson*

[reverse]

Stevens and Lawson  
their Petition  
November 5<sup>th</sup>: 1783  
referred to Propositions  
(reasonable)  
(reported)

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[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Richmond City Legislative Petitions

The Petition of several inhabitants of Richmond and other citizens of the Commonwealth to the General assembly humbly sheweth.

That General Robert Lawson now in this city is in the most distress being decrepit, unable to walk without crutches, and quite destitute of the means of subsistence otherwise than as they are derived from the voluntary contribution of persons unconnected with him, who are prompted to make such contributions, by a respect for his former services and character in the Commonwealth. Your petitioners beg leave to represent that general Lawson was an early and active friend of our revolution, that he entered the Army in the commencement of that great contest and served with credit and honor to himself and his country several of the most dangerous and bloody campaigns to the northward, and was afterwards active in this state whenever danger called him to the field. It is well-known fact that he commanded a Regiment, and behaved with great gallantry in the battle of Trenton, in which the Hessians were taken prisoners, a victory which turned the fortune of the war and reversed the drooping Spirits of America; that he was in the battle of Princeton which immediately followed and afterwards in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. In the battle of Brandywine he rendered a Service of the utmost importance. The enemy having crossed the river and turned the right of our Army, two divisions were ordered by general Washington to oppose them who marched to take suitable ground for the purpose near Birmingham meeting house – in that occasion general Lawson was ordered by the commanding officer to take post with his Regiment at the meeting house and check the enemy while those divisions were forming. He executed that order to the satisfaction of everyone. He took the position with alacrity, commenced a fire on the front of a large column of the enemy, whose march he arrested for some time, the good office whereof was felt by those divisions informing. He then returned with his Regiment in good order and took his Station in the brigade to which he belonged. Your petitioners forebear to relate other particulars of general Lawson's military services; they think proper however to represent that he became at the close of the war, a member of our assembly, and afterwards a member of the Council of State, and a member of the convention which ratified the federal Constitution, and that in every trust with which he was honored by his country, he acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his constituents. But more lately, owing as we presume in the first instance to misfortune, for we have never heard any imputation of his character, he has experienced an entire reverse of circumstances, and become one of the most miserable of men. He has lost the energies of his mind and body; his family are dispersed; himself become decrepit and dependent on the acquaintance of his more early life and very manly career for the common and daily necessaries of life. Your Petitioners have thought proper to represent the case of this unfortunate fellow citizen to the general assembly, in the hope that some provision may be made for him, to save the residue of his life from want. They are persuaded that his case is not an ordinary one, as the time is rapidly approaching, which will deposit in the grave, the few revolutionary military characters which yet survive among us, who ought to be cherished: that not one who held such Stations and rendered such Services is likely to fall into so rigid a condition; that his services being of a general public nature give him a claim on the Society not on a particular County or district of a County: these considerations are submitted with profound respect to the general assembly, and whose decision on the prayer of their petition, your petitioners will be well Satisfied.

Samuel Coleman

James Wood

W. Claiborne

John Guenanty

Corlin Griffin  
Wm Fontaine  
John Archer  
John A Trent  
William Benton  
William Young  
Jacob J Cohen  
Samuel Myers  
Rueben George  
William Marshall  
Nathaniel Anderson  
Waller Ford  
Daniel L Hylton  
John Foster  
Joseph Scott  
George Fisher  
Al. McRae  
James Dean  
Robert Means  
Samuel Greenhouse  
Andrew Dunscombe  
Thomas Elliott  
Philip Norborne Nichols  
Samuel McCraw  
Ro Brook

Edm. Randolph  
Joseph Arllyers [?]  
Thomas Nelson  
John Minor  
Benjamin Day  
Wilson [last name illegible]  
Wilshire W Lewis  
Thomas Norvell  
William Dandridge  
[illegible]  
Samuel Overton  
George Pickett  
David Lambert  
William DuVal

Sam. Coleman. James Wood. W. Claiborne  
 John Guernsey. Colen Griffin Edm: Raads  
 Wm. Fontaine Joseph. Arllyps  
 John Fisher Wm. Nelson  
 John. Trent John Minor  
 Wm. Ginton James. Day  
 Wm. Young  
 Jacob. Cohen William. Johnson  
 Samuel. Myers William. Lewis  
 Andrew. George Thos. Norvell  
 Wm. Mansfield Wm. Dandridge  
 Nathl. Anderson Wm. Johnson  
 Waller Ford  
 Daniel. Lefflyton Saml. Overton  
 In Foster  
 Joseph. Scott Geo. Pettit  
 Geo. Fisher David Lambert  
 Wm. Dugal  
 Edm. Rae  
 James. Dean  
 Robert. Means  
 Saml. Greenhoe  
 Geo. Duncombe  
 Thos. Elliott  
 Philip. Arbane. Nichols  
 Saml. M. Casu  
 Robt. Brooks

[Reverse]

Lawson petition  
 rejected  
 December 23 1801