

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

Pension Application of Edward Travis R103                      VA Sea Service/ VA Half Pay  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 April 2022.

Memorandum in Capt Edwd Travis Case

[Illegible word]. He was appointed Lt in Capt R Meades Company [Richard Kidder Meade VAS625] of the 2nd Va State Regt on 24th octo 1775, See Washington papers in the State department Vol. [illegible]. That on 31st of Jany 1776 he was transfered to the Naval Service and appointed a Lt. That he was captured by the enemy [see endnote] and kept in captivity for a long time was afterwards liberated on Parole of honor and was a prisoner of war thus not exchanged and further a supernumerary officer of the Va State Navy – As all officers of the Va State Navy were [illegible word] The, determination of their command or services unless it was the officers of the lookout boat Liberty – Capt Travis being a man of wealth neither drew any pay or received any depreciation pay or [illegible word] settled his account having died early after the Revolution to wit on the 28th of March 1784, he is therefore entitled to half pay from the 7th of June 1779 to the 28th March 1784 the day of his death — He will be found to be one of the paroled officers Returned by the board of officers in 1784 as a supernumerary Capt entitled to half pay and then dead —

Accompanying the papers will be found a certified copy of Capt. Travis will Also the Deposition of Honbl. Litle Waller Tazwill [sic: Littleton Waller Tazewell] late senator in Congress and governor of Virginia and the Nephew of Capt. Travis proving the services & Identity of Capt Travis Further evidence is wholly unnecessary particularly as to who are the heirs of Capt. Travis. This a subject not pertaining to the province of the Commr of Pensions as to who are the heirs or whether any. The 3rd section of the act of 5th July 1832 under which those claims are paid Expressly declares that they shall be audited and paid “According to the principles of the division of the Superior[?] Court of Appeals of Virginia” This Court has ever and at all times considered this half pay assets of the state and payable to the legal representatives to wit Ex[ecut]or Admin. And the attorney general of the United states on an appeal or referince to him has twice settled this principle to wit 1st in the case of the admin in the claim of Capt John Bailey and again in the case of the claim of the admin of Capt Chariles Firear [probably Charles Fearer, pension application R22811] —

It is respectfully asked that this claim may be taken up and passed on as early as practicable  
Henry Northrup Admin

Pension Office  
April 23 1847

I certify that I have examine the claim of the administrator of Edward Travis, deceased, under the act of July 5, 1832, and I find that he served as a Captain in the Virginia State navy until the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1779; that he is reported by the Board of Officers who sat at Richmond in 1784 as entitled to half-pay. The case is therefore embraced by the above mentioned act of July 5, 1832; and I certify that his administrator Henry Northrup is entitled to half-pay at the rate of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Ninety Three Cents per annum from the seventh of June seventeen hundred and seventy nine to the twenty eighth of March seventeen hundred and eighty four, when he died.                      commissioner of Pensions  
Approved/ Secretary of War

[The file contains a document similar to the above dated 14 Feb 1850.]

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

Williamsburg, Feby. 20<sup>th</sup> 1784.

I do hereby certify that Captain Edward Travis was chosen a Captain in the Navy of this Commonwealth early in the Spring of 1776 in which Capacity he served until the End of the late War. In

all the arrangements which took place in the Navy, Captain Travis was constantly continued in service.  
Jas Innes [James Innes VAS1344]



To the Governor & Council of Virginia.

The heirs of Edward Travis respectfully represent that their ancestor was a Captain of the State Navy of Va in the revolutionary war, and entered the service early in the spring of the year 1776, and continued in the service to the very end of the War.

Your memorialists further represent that their said ancestor has rec'd only 4000 acres, whereas all other captains of the navy have rec'd 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres, the amount to which a captain of the navy is really entitled. They respectfully ask this additional allowances.

They further represent that their said ancestor is entitled to an additional allowance for service over six years: to wit, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, say, 1776, to the close of the war which is one year and seven months & upwards, over six years. They, therefore, ask this additional allowance for service over six years. For the proof of his service, see certificate of Colo. James Innes, a distinguished officer of the Revolution, filed with his original application for bounty land. Shimuel Godwin for Heirs of E. Travis

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). Some documents are not legible enough for transcription.]

D'r Capt Edward Travis

1776

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. To Cash, advanced you pr fitting your Galley £1000.0.0  
C'r By balance due, carried to list of Balances. Folio 132\_100.0.0  
Extracted from Accounts of Committee of Safety page 93.

Saturday the 13th day of July 1776

Ordered that a Warrant issue to James Russell for thirteen pounds eighteen shillings and nine pence for medicines furnished Capt. Travis for the use of the Manley Galley. From page 10.

Monday the 8th day of February 1779.

Ordered that the keeper of the Public Store deliver Capt Travis a Barrell of Rum for the use of the ships Tarter and Dragon. From page 546.

The foregoing two extracts are from the Naval Journal.

List of Officers of the State Navy, agreeable to the arrangement next preceeding the fall Session of Assembly in 1781.

James Barron	Commissioned	July 3, 1780	
Richard Barron	Capt. Do	January 6, 1776	
Thomas Lilly	Capt Do	January 14, 1776	
Richard Taylor	Do	When Commissioned	not known.
Celey Saunders	Do	Do	Since dead
Edward Travis	Do	Do	Same

Then follows sundry other Officers  
In Council May 27th 1784

J W Murdaugh for Hutchings & Joseph Travis sons & heirs of Captain Edward Travis decd. respectfully

represents that Captain Travis had command (as Captain) of the Galley Manley, as early as the month of July 1776 (See Executive Journal July 13 1776) and was in service as he has every reason to believe several months previous to that time and he served in the State Navy up to the end of the war in 1783 (See Report of Board of officer in 1784) a period of seven years for which he became entitled to a bounty of 7777 $\frac{2}{3}$  acres & of that quantity has recd. Warrant No2653 for 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres leaving a balance of 2444 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres now due, which he pray may be allowed

4<sup>th</sup> June 1834 Rejected

To the Governor of Va.

Your petitioners Jos. H Travis & Edward Travis respectfully state, that their father entered the service of his Country at a very early period of the Revolution viz prior to the 23<sup>d</sup> Apl '76 and served to the end of the war, as appears by the report of the Board of war which sat in 1784, April 1784 and rec'd land for 3 years service only.

Your petitioners respectfully ask the allowance of the 1 years additional bounty land to which they consider themselves entitled in right of their fathers service over six years.

Thos Green for Petitioner

1834 July 2 Rejected

To the Hon'bl the Govenor & Council of Virginia

Your memorialist humbly represents that his father Edw'd Travis was a Capt of the Navy in the war of the Revolution and Served from April 1776 to the end of the war which was seven years, your memorialist has drawn the land Bounty due to him on account of his father; for three years services but as he is entitled to the addition of one year as will be seen by examining the accompaneing documents herto filed he hopes your Hom'ble Body may make Such addition as in your judgement he is entitled.

Oct'r 8<sup>th</sup> 1836

[signed] Joseph H. Travis

City of Richmond

1837 March Rejected

It is clear that the full bounty due to Capt Travis has been granted. Add'l bounty is only due for actual service beyond 6 years. Not only is there no proof of such actual service but it might be easily shown that none such even rendered Rejected Wy. Robertson [Gov. Wyndham Robertson]

I Littleton Waller Tazewell [Governor of Virginia, 31 March 1834 to 30 April 1836] of the Borough of Norfolk and State of Virginia do hereby certify, that I am now in my Sixty Seventh year of age; and that during my boyhood I was well acquainted with Edward Travis now dead, who had married a near relation of mine, an Aunt with whom I spent much of my leisure time. That although I cannot speak of the facts as of my own knowledge, yet I have no doubt of its truth, that the said Edward Travis enter'd the naval service of the State of Virginia at an early period of the Revolutionary War, as a Lieutenant – while a sea Lieutenant in that service he was taken prisoner by the British, and after some time was parolled. upon his return to Virginia he was promoted to the rank of a Captain in the said service. I have often heard him speak of his adventures in this service, and he was always called Captain Travis while I knew him.

I do further certify, that the said Edward Travis died sometime in the year 1784, while he was on his way to the Virginia Springs for the benefit of his health. at his death he left a widow, my aunt, and one son who was called Joseph Hutchins Travis – but Captain Travis had posthumous son born a short time after his father's death, who was called Edward Travis, after his deceased father, His widow intermarried with Mordecai Booth esq. some years after the death of Captain Travis her first husband, and died many years ago. But both the sons of Captain Travis are still living, as I believe.

Joseph H. Travis I saw a few years since. He then resided and still resides I believe on his estate in the County of Brunswick in Virginia but he usually passes much of his time in the County of King William, where he holds another estate. His brother Edward Travis formerly resided in the County of Mecklenburg in Virginia, but he afterwards removed to the State of Tennessee, where he still dwells, as I have heard.

Captain Edward Travis was a native of the state of Virginia, as I always understood, and believe. I have seen his father and know his brothers well. They all resided in the vicinity of the City of Williamsburg. After I became acquainted with Captain Travis he dwelt first in the City of Williamsburg and afterward on the Island of Jamestown in the County of James City in Virginia.

Norfolk May 25<sup>th</sup> 1841.

[signed] Litt'n W Tazewell

Captain Edward Travis entered the service on the 24 of October 1775, as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. in Captain R. K. Meads Company of the 2<sup>d</sup> State Regiment, and continued to serve in that capacity in the same Regiment after it was transferred to the continental establishment until the 31 Jany 1776 when he was promoted to 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. in the Navey (see Certificates from Washington papers herewith exhibited) He was afterwards Captain of the Brig Rollee [sic: *Raleigh*], and was captured and taken to New York and retained in captivity for some time. He was then liberated on parol, and remained so until the end of the War, being also a supernumerary officer as all naval officers were, who did not resign. (See the papers upon which his original bounty was allowed.) He was reported by the board of officers in 1784 as a supernumerary Captain and then dead, but entitled to halp pay. He drew a warrant for 5333 acres of land, the quantity due to all captains in the navy who served three years. His heirs now claim land from the 24 of October 1775 when he entered the service until the 3<sup>d</sup> of November 1783 when the war ended deducting therefrom the quantity heretofore received.

H. L. Brooke, Counsel for Memorialist.

1841 Aug 17 Rejected

[The following are from Virginia Half Pay records on fold3.com.]

Rec'd 15<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1850, of the 3<sup>d</sup> Aud'r Reg'n No. 506, dated this day, for Eleven thousand, three hundred & sixty three dollars & twenty one cents, in full of the within Account \$11,363.21 S Godwin Atty

NOTES:

Edward Travis was Captain of the brig *Raleigh* when it was captured by the frigate *Phoenix* in April 1777. (Sanchez-Saavedra, E. M. *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 1978.)

The half-pay file includes a copy of the last will and testament of Edward Travis, being "very weak and low," dated 28 March 1784 and naming as heirs his son and "the child my wife is now big with" if a son. He named as executors his brothers, Champion and John Travis. A document in the pension file states that the last will and testament was proved on 19 Sep 1846.

On 14 Sep 1846 Joseph H. Travis, on behalf of himself and his brother Edward Travis, acknowledged receipt of half pay for service by their father, Edward Travis. On the same day Joseph H. Travis assigned power of attorney to obtain other benefits.