

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Edward Woneycutt<sup>1</sup> R110

f49VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

10/11/11: rev'd 7/2/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3: On November 17, 1849 in the city of Richmond, Virginia, Robert Morrissett, administrator of the will of Captain Edward Woneycutt, deceased, filed a power of attorney appointing James Murdaugh of Portsmouth Virginia his attorney to pursue the half pay due the decedent for his service as a Captain in the Virginia State Navy under the act of Congress of July 5th, 1832. Morrissett states in the power of attorney that Murdaugh is to receive one third of the amount recovered pursuant to the power of attorney.



[p 6]

Pension Office July 30, 1845

I hereby certify that I have examined the claim of the administrator of Edward Woneycutt [sic], and I find that under the act of 5th of July 1832 entitled "an act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia," half pay was allowed as a Lieutenant of the Virginia State Navy at the rate of \$182.50 per annum from the 22nd of April 1783 to June 1, 1811; whereas the claim should have been allowed for the service of said Woneycutt as a Captain in the Virginia State Navy at the rate of \$250.93 per annum for the above mentioned period. The difference between the half pay as a Lieutenant and that of a Captain is now demanded, and my opinion is that the amount should be paid. I therefore certify that after deducting what has been already paid the administrator should be allowed a half pay at the rate of \$250.93 per annum from April 22nd 1783 to June 1, 1811, and it is requested by the administrator Robert Morrisset of Portsmouth, Virginia, that the money may be sent in a draft directed to the care of the cashier of the Exchange Bank of Virginia.

Approved  
Secretary of War

Commissioner of Pensions

[p 9: in a document dated August 16, 1834, there is a finding that James Morrison is an heir by right of his wife Mary Morrison – her relationship to the veteran is not stated.]

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<sup>1</sup> Va. Sea Service Va. Half Pay See N. A. Acc. No. 837—Virginia State Navy Edward Woneycutt, YS File Va. Half Pay

[p 17: copies of the Journal relating to the Brig *Greyhound*<sup>2</sup> showing Capt. Edward Woneycutt dated December 1778.

"Thursday 5 December 1776

Edward Woneycutt is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed Captain of the Brigg *Greyhound*, now building at Minzies Ferry.

Signed Thomas Whiting, 1<sup>st</sup> Com<sup>r</sup>."

[p 18]

"Wednesday March 27th 1775

Upon the recommendation of Captain Rd. Taylor<sup>3</sup> the following Officers are appointed on board the vessel of which he is appointed Captain viz. Edward Woneycutt 1<sup>st</sup> Mate, James Gray 2<sup>nd</sup> mate, James Bland midshipman, & Henry Lyburn pilot.

Signed Edmund Pendleton"

[p 19]

Edward Woneycutt was appointed Lieutenant on the 27th of March under Captain Taylor [Richard Taylor] of the Navy. In December 1776 Woneycutt was Captain of the *Hornet*<sup>4</sup> was afterwards Captain of the *Greyhound*<sup>5</sup> and continued as such (as appears by the accompanying extracts) as late as the 19th of December 1778, but how much later does not appear. By reference to the accounts of the Ship *Cornerant* [*Cormorant*]<sup>6</sup> in the Navy Journal lately found by Mr. Smith, and bound, under the dates of the 16th of April 1782 & 4th of May 1782 volume 2nd, Captain Maxwell [James Maxwell]<sup>7</sup> charged the state with payment to Woneycutt as commander of one of the State Vessels. J. W. Murdaugh on behalf of the heirs of Woneycutt asks that the proportion of land due to a Captain in the Navy may be allowed.

Richmond January 17th 1833

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The following brief biographical sketch is posted by Ken Kellow on his wonderful website dedicated to all matters of Naval history of the American Revolution:

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<sup>2</sup> "*Greyhound*. Coggins:102, ND10:728, VANavy:155, ND7:1263, Dandridge:186, brigantine of the VA Navy, Lt in Command, Edward Woneycutt, 1776-78, lost at sea, 1778."

Posted at <http://www.awiatsea.com/Other/Hough%20List%20G.html>

<sup>3</sup> Richard Taylor was Captain of the Schooner *Hornet*

<sup>4</sup> *Hornet*. Dandridge:186, VANavy:160, ND6:980, ND7:1177, schooner in VA Navy, Capt Richard Taylor, and Capt Walter Brooke, 1776-77, originally the sloop *Liberty*. It captured the British schooner *Speedwell* in 1776. Eller: 201, disposition unknown. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20H-I.html>

<sup>5</sup> *Greyhound*. Coggins:102, ND10:728, VANavy:155, ND7:1263, Dandridge:186, brigantine of the VA Navy, Lt in Command, Edward Woneycutt, 1776-78, lost at sea, 1778.

<https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20G.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Cormorant*. SchV:44, British vessel, 16 guns, Capt Rd.M'Evoy, captured in 1781 by the French off Charleston. Dandridge:187, VANavy:161, Ford1783:444n, Capt James Maxwell, taken from the British by the French and sold to the VA Navy. The vessel was used during the Yorktown operations as a transport, then was prepared in 1782 for protecting the Chesapeake. There is some indication this vessel was also known as the Rattlesnake was captured by the British Assurance in ?1782 on the American coast, taken back into the Royal Navy as the Cormarrant of 14 guns. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20C-D.html>

<sup>7</sup> James Maxwell was the Superintendent General of the shipyard of the Virginia Navy. See brief biographical sketch posted at <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20M.html>

WONICUTT [WONYCUTT, WOYNCUTT, WORRYCOTT], EDWARD  
VA  
Captain, Virginia Navy

Edward Wonicutt [Wonycutt, Woyncutt, Worrycott] was appointed as First Mate in the Virginia Navy under Captain Richard Taylor. He was commissioned on 5 December 1776 to command the Virginia Navy Brig *Greyhound*, being built at Mingles Ferry. [NOAR, 344] He is not listed in Stewart, *Virginia's Navy of the Revolution*. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Navy in 1777. He commanded the *Greyhound*. [NOAR, 342]

<http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20W.html> [viewed 7/2/23]

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

Addendum to Edward Woneycutt R110

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 1 July 2023.

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

Edward Woneycutt was appointed Lieutenant on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March under Capt. Taylor [Richard Taylor S25873] of the Navy. In December 1776 Woneycutt was Captain of the Hornet – was afterwards Captain of the Greyhound & continued as such (as appears by the accompanying extracts) as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec'r 1778. But how much later does not appear. By reference to the accounts of the ship Cormorant in the Navy Journal lately found by Mr Smith & bound, under dates of the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 1782 & 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1782 [undeciphered] Capt Maxwell [James Maxwell R73] charged the state with payments to Woneycutt as Commander of one of the State vessels. J. Murdaugh on behalf of the heirs of Woneycutt asks that the proportion of land due to a Captain in the Navy may be allowed Richmond January 17<sup>th</sup> 1833

1833 Apr 15 allowed as Lieut S N 3 yr

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 1776.

Edward Woneycutt is recommended to his Excellency the Governor, and the Hon'ble the Council as a proper person to be appointed Captain of the Brig Greyhound now building at Minzies Ferry [Minges Ferry on James River between Petersburg and Jamestown].

Signed, Thomas Whiting 1<sup>st</sup> Com'r [Commissioner of the Navy].

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 1777.

Ordered that Capt Woncott take the nine Inch Cables at the Capitol Landing, which was purchased of Mr. Moore for the use of the Greyhound.

Signed, John Hutchings 1<sup>st</sup> Com'r. [undeciphered]

The foregoing are true extracts from the Navy journal – an old book in this office. Given under my hand at the Auditors office this 18 May 1833. Jas. E. Heath aud

Wednesday March 27 1776.

Upon the recommendation of Captain R. Taylor the following Officers are appointed on board the Vessel of which he is app'd. Capt. Viz. Edward Woynicott 1<sup>st</sup> Mate – James Gray [R56.5] 2<sup>nd</sup> Mate – James Blans [sic] Midshipman & Henry Lyburn Pilot.

Signed Edm'd Pendleton

The foregoing is a true extract from the journal of the Committee of Safety – an old book in this office. Given under my Hand at the Auditors office 18 May 1833. Jas. E. Heath

Capt. Ed. Woneycutt/ Land Bounty for 6 years service in the State Navy/ 5333 $\frac{1}{3}$  Acres

This claim is suspended by on order to the Register to ascertain whether or not the Greyhound was a Vessel [undeciphered word] in the Navy or Board of Trade – if to the former, land bounty is due – if to the latter, no land is allowed. J. F. [Gov. John Floyd]

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). This file also includes copies of extracts in the Half-Pay records transcribed below.]

Richmond Augt 10 1836

To his Excellency Gov'r [Wyndham] Robertson

Sir On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1833 the Executive allowed Land bounty to the heirs of Edward Woneycutt as a Lieutenant in the State Navy. The application was made to be allowed the bounty of a Captain in the Navy, and I was at a loss to know why he was allowed only as a Lieutenant. I called on Gov'r. Floyd & he remarked that the Bounty to a navy Lieutenant, & to a Captain of a vessel of the size commanded by Capt. Woneycutt was the same, that it was unnecessary to alter the advice. I acquiesced & permitted the matter to rest – but since then (as I am informed by the Register) all Captains in the navy are allowed the same quantity of land without regard to the size of the vessel, & it is of some importance now that the advice should be corrected by which a warrant for 1333 $\frac{1}{3}$  acres will be due the heirs. I presented the claim to the U. S. Treasury Dept. for half Pay, & although the Dept was satisfied that Woneycutt was a Captain, yet as he had been allowed only a Lieutenant's bounty it was there decided to allow him only a Lieutenant's Half Pay. I have to request your Excellency to reexamine the case & that you will direct the additional allowance of Land to be made. I have the Honour to be yr Excellency's Ob Ser't.

J W Murdaugh

To His Excellency The Governour of Virginia

J W Murdaugh on behalf of the heirs of Captain Edward Woneycutt respectfully represents that Land bounty was allowed some years ago to Woneycutt as a Lieutenant in the State Navy. The evidence herewith inclosed proves that he was duly commissioned a Captain & was in the command of the armed State Brig Greyhound. The heirs now petitioned to be allowed the difference of land which is usually allowed to Lieutenants & Captains which will be 1333 acres. Woneycutt heirs receive From the Secretary of the Treasury Half Pay for service to the end of the War

Richmond Jan'y 24<sup>th</sup> 1838

To the Governor

Sir I find upon examination that Dr. Pell [Joseph Simon Pell R84] has been allowed all the land that he is entitled to. I therefore wish no action by the Executive on that claim

Feb'y 15<sup>th</sup> 1838

very respectfully/ J W Murdaugh

There is not among the papers filed in this case satisfactory evidence that Capt Wonicutt served in that capacity three years. Claim as Captain cannot be allowed DC [Gov. David Campbell]

1838 Mar 27 Rejected

Claim of Heirs of Edw Wonicutt for bounty land as Captain in State Navy

1838 March 31. This case has been again re-considered & examined. And the entries in the accounts of The Greyhound dated 16 Ap'l 1779 have been found & examined. If Wonicutt was a Captain, as it would appear he was, then his heirs have not made out a service for three years. The entries in the account of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Ap'l 1779 do not prove any thing. Claim rejected DC

1838 Mar 31 again Rejected

Presented Sept'r 17<sup>th</sup> '45 by Robt. Morrissett

Sept. 2 1847 Rejected R. T. Daniel L. Gov

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

Know all men by these presents that we James Morrison, Mary Morrison, Robert Morrissett executor of George R. Enslow dec. (only heir at law of Capt. Edward Woneycutt dec.) Guardian of David Enslow orphan of said George R. Enslow dec. administrator with the will annexed of Capt Edward Woneycutt and

in my own right as husband of one of the daughters of said George R Enslow dec & Ann Morissetts (which said Mary & Ann are daughters of said George R. Enslow dec.) Have constituted and appointed & by these presents do constitute & appoint Isaac Enslow one of the sons of said George R. Enslow our true and lawful Attorney for us and in our own rights & names & in the name of the said Robert Morrissett in his said several representative characters, to receive of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States all certificates of Military Scrip issued or to be issued to Capt. Edward Wonicutts heirs for his services in the Virginia State Navy and to assign & transfer the same as fully & effectually as we could do ourselves in our own proper persons – and also to receive of the said secretary all sums of money that may be due us for Half Pay as the heirs and representatives of the said Capt. Ed. Woneycutt and we do furthermore authorise our said Attorney & vest him with full power to grant receipts in our names and to substitute under him an Attorney or Attorneys for the purpose of receiving the said Scrip & monies & for the assignment & transfer of said Scrip – Hereby confirming & ratifying whatsoever our said Attorney shall do or cause to be done by substitution in and about the premises

Witness our hands & seals this 26 day of May 1834

witness/ William T. Moriset  
[Norfolk County]

James Morrisson  
Robert Moriset

Mary herXmark Morison  
Ann herXmark Moriset

Williamsburg 8th April 1777

Brig Greyhound D  
pr Ord Hble D Jameson

To 10 Hs Sail Twine	@ <sup>3</sup> / <sub>6</sub>	1.15.0	
“ 9 P’s Russia Derek[?] No 1	@ <sup>15</sup> / <sub>’</sub>	135. 0.0	
“ 9 P D’o D’o No 3 D’o		135. 0.0	271.15.0

From page 91 Journal No 23.

The above deliv’d Capt Wonnycott  
June 2nd 177 [sic].

Brig Greyhound

To Capt Wonnycott for his own & Companies Wages from their Shipping to this day	275.4.4
Capt Edward Wonnycott D’r	

To Cash to balance. One hundred & forty two pounds Nine shillings & 4 <sup>d</sup> from page 169 same book as above.	142.9.4
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Williamsburg November 12th 1777

Brig Greyhound D’r

To Capt Wonnycott for amt of pay roll from 2nd June to this day	190.17.4
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To D’o for sundries Ca[?] for the use of the Vessell & Crew from the 15th July to 10 Oct pad[?]	112.19.0
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To D’o for his services & extraordinary expences in fitting out said Brig	15. 0.0
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Capt. Edward Wonnycott D’r	179. 0.0
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To Cash pr Receipt

The above four entries are from Day Book No 9,

The above entries are truly copied from the Books specified.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond, this 12th day of June 1845.

Jas E Heath Aud P Accts

Dr The Ship Cormorant for Disbursements

Dr Lieut. Edward Woneycott

1782 Virg’a curren[cy]

Feby 24 <sup>th</sup>	To cash advanced	6.6
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April 10 <sup>th</sup>	To cash advanced Lieut. Wonnycott	13.11.1
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Dr. The Ship Cormorant for Disbursements

1782

May 4<sup>th</sup> To cash paid Lieut. Wonicot for fish purchased  
for the use of the Ship 0.6.4

Auditors Office nov'r 1<sup>st</sup> 1833. the above extracts are taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> vol. of a Book labelled  
"Papers concerning the State Navy" "Executive Department." Jas E Heath aud

Extracts from sundry records shewing that Edward Woneycutt was a captain in the Virg'a. State  
Navy – which records are in the Auditor's office.

No 1

"Upon the recommendation of capt Rich'd Taylor Edward Woneycutt is appointed 1st mate on  
board of capt Taylor' vessel. See Journal of the committee of safety page 68 under date of the 27th of  
March 1776"

No 2

"Dr Ed. Woneycutt

1776

Dec'r 5<sup>th</sup> To want on the Treas'y £24.8.0

Cr By the schooner "Hornet" for wages from the 5<sup>th</sup> of Octo. to 5<sup>th</sup> inst. £24.8.0

See book entitled Navy Accts Ledger from 1776 to 1779 page 147.

No 3

1776

Octo. 12<sup>th</sup> Capt Richard Taylor of the Hornet

To sundries per journal £30.12.7

&c &c &c

See p 95 of "continental ledger no 1, W Ayle 11"

This extract & the one preceding shew that the Hornet was a navy vessel & that Taylor was the  
captain on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Octo. 1776 & that on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec'r Woneycutt is charged with the accts of the  
Hornet. Capt Taylor probably, was appointed to the Tartar about this time, between the 12<sup>th</sup> of Octo 1776  
& the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec'r 1776 & Wonecutt succeeded to the Hornet"

No 4

1777 Feby 4<sup>th</sup> "Brigantine Greyhound, capt Ed Woneycutt

"To 2 shroud housers 1122 Cts

&c &c &c a long acct."

See page 19 "Rope walk ledger 76, 77, 78, 79, 80"

No 5

Wmsburg February 18<sup>th</sup> 1777

Capt Edward Woneycutt of the Greyhound D'r

To 3 lb seine twine £00.10.6

1 doz sail needles 2.6

7 wrappers for rigging 17.6

See page 31 Journal to ledger B for the public stores 1776 & 1777 – an old book labelled "No 23"

No 6

Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> 1777 Ordered that capt Woneycutt deliver to capt Westcott an anchor weighing 900 lbs.

See navy journal of Ap 11 1777

No 7

1777 Brig Greyhound capt Woneycutt D'r

June 8<sup>th</sup> For his own & his crew' wages to this day £275.4.4

See 86<sup>th</sup> page of a book of accts entitled "B. Ayle 11 No 29" a long acct. of capt Woneycutt of the  
Greyhound commencing in Feby. 1777 & ending 26<sup>th</sup> of Nov'r. 1778 and see page 96 of same book  
another acct.

No 8

