

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Edwards R3258

f22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

[p 21]

State of Tennessee Jefferson County

12 August 1839

I John Edwards a citizen of Jefferson County Tennessee do hereby certify That I volunteered in the service of the US for Eighteen months in the year 1781 – at the muster ground of Capt. Crump – in Montgomery County North Carolina –; And about June of that year marched – with John Morris and William Morris to Saulsbury [Salisbury] – and thence in a couple of months to South Carolina – to a place called Ashley Hill where we were mustered into the service aforesaid – under Lieut. Campbell Capt. John Sharp [probably Anthony Sharpe] – in the North Carolina Regiment under General Green [Nathanael Greene] (then at that place) and I served under General Green in Capt. John Sharp's company there and at James Island – and Charleston – and back to James Island where I was Honorably discharged by Capt. Sharp and General Green in May or June 1782 – having served about twelve months – my Discharge I deposited with my father then residing in Montgomery County North Carolina – which I now cannot find – he having Deceased about 15 years ago – I am about 73 years of age – I have Resided in the United States ever since – I have never asked for or received a pension – I hope the record Evidence will be examined and if it appears that under any law – I am entitled to a pension I may be Enrolled accordingly, and if the proof lacks anything That I may be informed of it with directions as to the forms to be of served in making such proof.

I remain with due respect

S/ John Edwards<sup>1</sup>

[p2]

State of Tennessee, Jefferson County

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1840 personally appeared before me Hamilton Copeland a Justice for said County – John Edwards a resident of said County and State aged about seventy-three years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Acts of Congress granting pensions to persons who served the United States in the War of the Revolution being unable to appear in open Court. That he entered the Service of the United States in May or June of the year 1781 – at Salisbury North Carolina under the following circumstances and engagement – (i.e.) The Militia company of Captain Crump in Montgomery County North Carolina was called on to furnish for an Eighteen months tour one man for every twenty of their own number the company consisted of about sixty men & pursuant to this call the following man (viz.) Joseph Hurly, Brantly Harris, Richard Bell, \_\_\_ Bell, Asa Golihorn and \_\_\_ Baker agreed with this

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<sup>1</sup> this document does not bear the original signature of the veteran but rather is signed on his behalf by J C Turnley acting as his attorney – the handwriting of what purports to be the signature of the veteran is clearly in the hand writing of said attorney

Declarant's father Phillip Edwards then residing in Montgomery County North Carolina to give him Phillip One hundred pounds North Carolina money to furnish a Soldier for them according to said call whereupon and on learning which, he this Declarant then not quite fifteen years of age, insisted with his father to perform said tour, and accordingly with his father's consent he Declarant volunteered to serve said Eighteen months tour. He went to Salisbury with William Morris and John Morris who he believes were employed in the same way – by other parts of the said company under an officer of the United States Army – (a stranger whose name he cannot Remember). They remained at Salisbury some two months or more and was marched to Ashley Hill in South Carolina some miles below Bacons Bridge on Ashley River – taking two or three hundred British prisoners to be exchanged, and there he was placed under Captain John Sharp [sic, probably Anthony Sharpe] Lieutenant Campbell – Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle], and General Green [Nathanael Greene], Commanded the Regiment designated the North Carolina Regiment – to distinguish it from the Pennsylvania, Virginia and other Regiments them there under General Greene, The British prisoners were sent on towards Charleston S. C.

Declarant Remained at Ashley Hill till white frost – then was marched under the said Officers and John Loller Orderly Sergeant – in Captain John Sharp's Company – and Drum Major Philip Mason, to James Island, made by a sluice of Cooper River running into Ashley [River] called Wappoo Cut<sup>2</sup> – Remained encamped on said Island without any engagement except a night attack of some Negroes of the Black Corps upon a forage guard of about thirty soldiers (of which Declarant was one) and in which the Negroes lost two killed that declarant saw by moonlight--; About coming of Spring in 1782 Declarant was detached as one of a fatigue party marched to Charleston South Carolina some miles distant under strange officers whose names he cannot Remember. They remained in Charleston some four or six weeks and saw three British vessels set sail with the British troops Declarant was then marched back to the encampment on James Island Joined his company under Captain Sharp again and about May or June 1782 was honorably discharged by Captain John Sharp. Declarant is illiterate but he was told the names of Captain John Sharp and General Greene were both signed to his discharge.

He then returned home and gave his discharge to his father and was not quite 16 years of age and had served about one year – or a little over.

In a few months afterwards he married then removed to Rutherford County North Carolina – where he resided for some years and served a volunteer tour of twelve months against the Indians as a pioneer cutting the road from Nashville in Tennessee to White's Station where Knoxville now stands – under Captain Hadley of the United States Army now Dead. He then returned to his family and from Rutherford North Carolina moved to Tennessee to Sullivan County in two years moved to Hawkins County Tennessee and two years went to Powell's Valley Lee County Virginia Staid one year and moved to Madison County Kentucky raised five crops there moved to Cany [?] fork of Cumberland in Tennessee raised three crops there moved to Morgan County Alabama and there raised 12 crops and lost his wife and about that time hearing of pensions being given by Congress to Soldiers of the Revolution Declarant went to North Carolina Montgomery County to get his discharge, and there found that his father Philip Edwards had been dead some eight or 10 years – and could not find his discharge, and but few of his acquaintances – he despaired of getting a pension-- and being Ignorant of the Regulations of the War department said no more Started back to Alabama and in about 1832 stopped in Jefferson County Tennessee where he has lived ever since.

He knows of no one by whom he can prove his personal services as his acquaintances of that day are mostly dead or removed out of his knowledge. Declarant knew nothing of the pension law of 1832 ~lately he has been induced to believe his case is embraced and therefore he applies at this late period and for no other cause. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state or territory.

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2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/wappoocreek.htm>

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before me  
S/ Hamilton Copeland, JP

S/ John Edwards, X his mark

The Justice propounded the following interrogatories to the above Declarant and to which he made the answers annexed being on oath

Question 1<sup>st</sup> When and in what year were you born?

Answer by the Declarant: I was born in the State of Virginia I do not know what County My father removing from Virginia before my remembrance to North Carolina I suppose I was born in the year 1766 about the 17<sup>th</sup> of August

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have none my father had a record of the age of himself his wife and each of his children my mother was his second wife I was her first child, I have heard him read that record from a recollection of which I state the time of my birth & I believe I am not mistaken

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Montgomery County North Carolina on the waters of the Adkin River [Yadkin River]. I have stated particularly in the foregoing Declaration where I have lived since and where I now live to which I beg you to refer for an answer

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I have stated in the foregoing Declaration particularly How I was a substitute and for whom to which I beg you to refer for answer

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – Attached to the Regiment in which I served was Captain Hall, Captain John Sharp he was wounded in his right hand losing two fingers by the stroke of a Dragoon Sword as I was informed Healed up however before I saw him and Captain Hadley I Rather think Thomas Hadley and Captain Alexander Brevard (alias) Pevard and Lieutenant Campbell – over me and Lieutenant Pasters [might be either John Pasteur or Thomas Pasteur, both of whom served in the North Carolina Continental line] between whom and a lieutenant from Pennsylvania a dispute arose – one day (when I was on duty) while reviewing the guard detached for duty – which Resulted the same day in a duel – in which Lieutenant Pasters was not hurt but the other (name not remembered) was wounded mortally of which he died same evening – and was buried with the honors of war I saw the duel from my post.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I did receive a discharge in 1782 from Captain Sharp I believe it was signed by Captain Sharp and General Greene both at James Island – in South Carolina I gave it into the care of my father in Montgomery County North Carolina soon after I got it I cannot find it he being dead many years

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I would expect Parson William B. Helm and George Turnley Esq. would be able to give an opinion – on that subject.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the date above.

S/ Hamilton Copeland, JP

S/ John Edwards, X his mark

[William B. Helm, a clergyman, and George Turnley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Raleigh North Carolina Secretary of State's Office 29<sup>th</sup> June 1840

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> instant asking information of the services of John Edwards a revolutionary Soldier, I regret that I have to say, it appears from the rolls in this office, that he entered the service in Capt. Sharp's Company of the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the year 1782 for 18 months and that he deserted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1783.

Very respectfully  
your obedient servant

S/ Wm Hill [NC Secretary of State]

James L Edwards, Esq.  
Commissioner of Pensions, Washington