

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Elliott R3307

Sarah Elliott

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia, County of King William. SS.

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1846, before the subscriber, a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid County and State, personally appeared, Sarah Elliott a resident of the aforesaid County of King William aged Eighty five years who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress of 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1838 entitled "an Act granting half pay, and Pensions to certain widows:" That she is the Widow of William Elliott, who was a Corporal in Capt Thomas Baylor's [sic: Thomas Baytop's; see endnote] Company of artillery in the Revolutionary War. That her husband the said William Elliott served as she always understood and believed three years in said War, and that after he was discharged from the Regular Service he was drafted and had to serve in the Militia one, or two tours. That she does not know at what period of the war her husband entered or left the service, nor does she know the number of the Regiment to which he belonged. All she knows about it she gathered from himself before his death, and only recollects of being informed by him that he was a Corporal in Capt. Baylors Company as before stated and in a Regiment Commanded by one Col. [Charles] Harrison. That she has no record of his services, nor does she know of any person now living, who can testify to his services. She further states that she was married to the said William Elliott on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1786 (seventeen hundred and Eighty six) and that her husband the aforesaid William Elliott died on the Fifteenth day of December 1814. That she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place in the aforesaid County of King William prior to the first day of January 1794, towit at the time above stated. She further declares that she is unable from bodily infirmity from attending Court for the purpose of making her Declaration and that the reason of her not having made application sooner for a Pension is that she since the passage of the act of July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 engaged the services of one Ro. B Gaines to prosecute her claim, and had support untill lately otherwise advised that he had presented and had her claim examined & reported upon.

Sarah X(her mark) Elliott

I do hereby certify and declare that I am the Daughter of Sarah and William Elliott deceased of the County of King William & State of Va that my father died about the year 1803, and that my mother died during the past winter, about the 23<sup>d</sup> day of January. That I know nothing of my own knowledge of his Revolutionary Services but I do know that he was reputed and believed to have been one of the Regular Soldiers of what was called the Virginia Continental line during that war, and that he always said to the day of his death that he had served as a Corporal, and I have also heard Captain Yancy Lipscomb [pension file 874-050103], who I believe was an officer in the war, say that my Father was one of the regular soldiers, and served in the capacity of Corporal, I also recollect that my Father said that he was under one Col Harrison who I think he said commanded the Regiment, and in Capt Baytops Company. I think it probable that Capt Lipscomb and my Father were in the same Regiment together as I often heard them speaking of their services but I cannot now recollect whether they were or not. I cannot now recollect whether my Father ever said he had received his Land bounty or not and if he did, what disposition he made of it. It has been a great many years since his death, and being then quite young say between 15 & 20 – I may have forgotten; I think it however probable that he did receive it, as he was generally pretty close to his interest. I do further declare that I have no knowledge of any person now living who was in service with my Father, nor do I know of any persons of high standing in the neighborhood in which he lived and died who know any thing of his services – old Mr James Whitlock [pension application S11742] was the only person that I know of besides Capt. Lipscomb, who knew any thing of his services and he died some time before my mother.

Given under my hand this first day of July 1847 in the City of Richmond.

[signed] Ann Boshier

The deposition of Polly Madison of the County of King William and State of Virginia, taken at the House of Robert Burke in said County on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1847 before Fendall Gregory a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid County.

This deponent being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath depose and state that she is now about Eighty one years of age That she was born and raised in the aforesaid County in the neighbourhood of William Elliott deceased, the late husband of Mrs Sarah Elliott, and this deponent knows of her own knowledge, that the said William Elliott was one of the Regular Soldiers of the Revolution. that he enlisted in one of the State lines, went into service, and was gone for three years. This deponent remembers when he went into service & when he came out of service, but this deponent cannot give the precise dates. This deponent remembers however that it was not long before the close of the war that the said Elliott got back from the service, and she distinctly recollects (for it made a deep impression on her at the time) that when the said Elliott enlisted and was about starting into service, his family were greatly distressed at his going, and this deponents Father laugh'd. at them and told them not to mind it. This deponent does not know, or if she ever did, she does not now remember, what officers he enlisted under, but this deponent well re[memb]ers that a man by the name of Daniel Lipscomb [VAS945], who was an officer and who was killed while in service by our own men went out about the same time, and this deponent remembers also that a man by the name of John Houtchings Enlisted and went out about the same time, but this deponent cannot say whether they all went together. This deponent does not know whether William Elliott was a Commissioned Officer or not, but this deponent well remembers of hearing it said that he was a Corporal  
Polly herXmark Madison

I hereby Certify that I was present during the last illness of Old Mr James Whitlock [S11742] of this County who was a Revolutionary Pensioner, when the question was asked him if he knew any thing of the Revolutionary services of William Elliott deceased, the husband of Sarah Elliott and he stated in reply that he knew that the said William Elliott enlisted some time during the war, but could not say positively when – (thought however it was about the year 1778) for three years in the artillery, but could not say under what officer he enlisted He was then asked if he knew what Rank the said Elliot held, he stated that he had always understood that he was a Corporal These questions were asked for the purpose of obtaining information from said Whitlock to establish a Pension Claim for the Widow of said William Elliott but before his testimony could be taken before a Magistrate the Old man died. Given under my hand this 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1847  
William C. Ellett  
[Frances Whitlock, widow of James Whitlock, verified the above statement.]

This is to certify that I am a revolutionary pensioner going on eighty-six years of age, and that I was aquainted with a man of the name of William Elliott from the County of King William in this state – the said Elliott was a corporal in in Capt. [William L] Pierce's Company of Artillery in Col. Harrison's regiment and served three years. Given under my hand this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 1848.  
State of Virginia Benjamin hisXmark Truslow [Benjamin Trusloe (Truslow) S7757]  
Stafford County

[The following two discharges are from [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#). They may be for different soldiers named William Elliott, as discussed in the endnotes. Correspondence in the federal file indicates that they could not be found at the time of Sarah Elliott's application, but a copy was later found and provided by the Executive Department in Richmond to the Pension Office on 13 May 1847.]

William Elliott a Corporal of Capt Pierce's company of Artillery Commanded by Col. Harrison having serv'd. the Term of his Enlistment is hereby discharged from the service of the United States, his behaviour as a good soldier merrits the respect & Esteem of all men fr[ien]ds to their Country. Given under my hand the 20<sup>th</sup> of december 1779 [month and year unclear] Camp in Morristown [NJ]  
Ed. Carrington DC [Edward Carrington]

Con. L. [illegible abbreviation]

This is to Certify that William Elliott serv'd in the said Reg't. the Term of three years.  
A Copy Auditors Office Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1783                      Thos. Baytop Capt. Artly  
Cha. Jones Clk

NOTES:

On 17 May 1847 the agent who transcribed the declaration of Sarah Elliott wrote to the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, that either she misstated the name of her husband's Captain, or he "misunderstood her to say Baylor, when perhaps she said Baytop (for I am now getting very deaf)."

The file contains a copy of a bond signed on 31 Jan 1786 by William Elliott and Ann Lipscomb for the marriage of Elliott to Sarah Lipscomb, daughter of James Lipscomb, deceased.

On 3 June 1847 Mary L. Hilliard stated that she was a daughter of William and Sarah Elliott, but that she was too young at her father's death to remember anything he said about his service.

The error in the name of the Captain and the failure to locate Elliott's discharge may be the reasons for the initial rejection of the claim by the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, although Edwards does not appear to have given a specific reason for rejecting the claim. Even after the defects in the claim were corrected and agents handling the claim appealed, Edwards refused to change his decision. Richard Burgess, one of the agents for Sarah Elliott wrote: "The effect of the rules of your Office, absolutely preclude me from preparing [an appeal]; I am not permitted to take the papers out of the office; you have no spare desk or table at which I could write to take such notes from the testimony in the case, as I might deem necessary to maintain my views.— How am I to prepare an Argument? Nor have you even stated to me the reasons for your decision." Burgess also accused Edwards of being dismissive of evidence provided by Polly Madison and other women. "The exception taken to the testimony of females, is not tenable. The Law recognizes no distinction of that kind, between the sexes. The inferences deduced from such exception, has no justification, & would not be sanctioned by any Court of law, in the absence of any just ground for suspicion, or doubt as to the truth of the statements."

Burgess and other agents pointed out that the pension act required only sufficient proof of William Elliott's service and of Sarah Elliott having been his widow, and that such proof had been provided. In reply the Pension Commissioner merely repeated that after again carefully examining the evidence "I am constrained to adhere to the decision heretofore communicated to her several agents. We cannot grant a pension to Mrs. Elliott upon the proof now before the Department."

The reason for Edwards's refusal to grant a pension to Sarah Elliott may be that he had already awarded pensions (W7097) to another soldier named William Elliott and to his widow, Elizabeth Elliott, based on claims of service virtually identical to those made by Sarah Elliott. I believe, however, that Sarah Elliott was a rightful claimant to a pension, and that one or both of the above discharges were for her deceased husband. My reasons are 1) the other William Elliott stated that he was a Bombardier rather than a Corporal; 2) Sarah Elliott apparently made her claim without access to the discharges; and 3) several witnesses testified to the service of her deceased husband as a Corporal.