

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Edwards S17401

PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The State of Ohio, Adams County Ss.

Court of Common Pleas of the Term of October, 1832.

On this 25th day of October, 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before said Court of Common Pleas of Adams County, Ohio, now sitting, Jesse Edwards, a resident of Jefferson Township, in the County of Adams aforesaid, aged seventy six 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 Act of Congress, passed June 7 1832.

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He was first drafted as a militia man for a two months tour in Bucks County, State of Pennsylvania, about the first of May 1776, as well as he recollects; and was marched to Amboy or Perth Amboy in the State of New Jersey, under his immediate Commanders, Captain William McCalla, & Lieutenant William Hart [pension application R4695]. He cannot recollect who were the higher officers, during his services as a drafted Militia man. At the expiration of his two months tour, without returning home and without quitting the Camp and his post at Amboy, he enlisted for a six months tour in the flying Camp – his Captain, Thomas Craig, his Lieutenant, John Craig, Colonel Baxter. While stationed at Amboy, he volunteered in an expedition over to Staten Island against the Hessians. After marching about four miles, we surprized a Hessian guard, and after a short skirmish brought off nineteen prisoners. The time of this volunteer expedition and skirmish he cannot recollect; nor can he recollect the name of the Captain who commanded the expedition. It was after he enlisted in the flying Camp. Captain Craig's was a rifle Company. He was next marched up to Fort Lee under Captain Craig. While he was at Fort Lee, the Chevaux de frix [sic: chevaux de frise] across the Hudson was forced by two British vessels – the larger of the two vessels on the second attempt breaking the chain. From Fort Lee, he was marched across to Fort Washington. He remained at Fort Washington, Commanded by Colonel McGaw [Robert Magaw]. He was stationed and remained at Fort Washington until the 16th of November 1776. On that day, early in the morning a redoubt was attacked by the Hessians. After a severe engagement which lasted till about four O'clock in the afternoon, the fort surrendered, and the prisoners, this applicant one, were marched off to New York. He remained a prisoner at New York till the last of January or first of February 1777. He does not distinctly recollect whether Colonel McGaw or Colonel Cadwallader [sic: Lambert Cadwalader] commanded at Fort Washington on the 16th Nov. 1776; but Colonel McGaw was the officer generally in command. About the first of February 1777, he was released, on parol of honor but on pain of death not to serv against the King of England during that war. Shortly after his return to Bucks County Pennsylvania, he removed to Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Virginia. During his residence in Loudon, he was again drafted for a two months tour in the militia, in 1781. This time, in 1781, he was marched under his Captain Beavers to Fredericksburg Virginia. During this tour he was pretty generally on the march to avoid the British, not being in a condition and number to fight them; but Fredericksburg was his station. At the expiration of the two months he was discharged, and was not again called into service. He has no written discharge or documentary evidence of his service. He served upwards of ten months, having been kept a prisoner after his second tour for a month. He thinks it is probable that Nathaniel Foster [S16803] & Thomas Rogers may be able to prove some of the foregoing statements. He was well acquainted with Col. Baxter, who fell in the engagement at Fort Washington on the 16th Nov. 1776. He was able to recognize and distinguish, by sight, Colonel McGaw and Colonel Cadwallader.– but he was not intimately acquainted with them.–nor was he acquainted with any other regular officers. From Loudon County Virginia, he removed to Bourbon, Kentucky, many years ago. From Kentucky he removed to what is now the County of Adams, State of Ohio, but before Ohio was admitted as one of the States of the Union. About the year 1822, he removed from the said County of Adams to the State of Indiana. In 1824, he again removed back to said County of Adams where he has Continued to reside to the present time.

He hereby relinquished 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. And the said applicant Jesse Edwards, being further interrogated by the Court, made the subjoined answers, viz:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Bucks County, State of Pennsylvania on the 4th day of March 1756, as I have always understood and believed.

2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

I have no record of my age. At the age of about four years, I was apprenticed out to Thomas Rackman, farmer, and taken to Hunterdon County, New Jersey, where I resided till I was about nineteen. I then went back to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

3 Where were you living when called into the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live.

When first called into the service, in 1776, I resided in Bucks County Pa. After the Revolutionary War, I removed to Bourbon County, Kentucky, where I remained a few years. I then, many years ago, removed to the neighborhood of my present residence. In 1822, I removed to the State of Indiana; but in 1824, I again removed to Adams County, Ohio, where I have continued to reside to the present time.

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute; and if substitute, for whom?

I was drafted twice; each time for a two months militia tour; and I was once enlisted for a six months tour in the flying Camp, as already fully stated in my general declaration.

5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

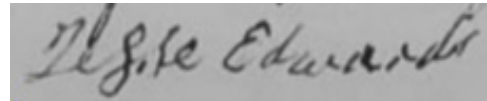
My acquaintance with Colonels Baxter, McGaw and Cadwallader I have already stated; except them, I do not claim to have been acquaintance with the officers in command; nor can I say that I was acquainted with the different Regiments or any of them. I do not recollect the number of Colonel Baxter's Regiment. In my first tour I was employed in the fortifying of Amboy, entrenching, and standing guard along the River, and sometimes back from the River. The nature of my services in my second and third tours, I have already stated – my marching as a volunteer over to Staten Island – surprizing the Hessian guard and taking nineteen prisoners – my marching up to Fort Lee, and across to Fort Washington – the surrender of Fort Washington – my being marched prisoner to New York, where the prisoners suffered much – my services in and about Fredericksburg &c. I have stated as fully as generally and particularly as I am able to state them.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I have no recollection of ever having received a written discharge.

7 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 of your Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Nathaniel Foster has some personal knowledge of my services – so has Thomas Rogers, of Brown County Ohio. As to my general character & neighborhood belief, I will refer to John Prather, Joseph Freeman Esq. John Wykoff, Peter Wykoff, James Williams Esq. Isaac Smalley, Joseph Collier, Thomas Burkitt, Simon Fields, William Wamsley, Christopher Wamsley, Jonathan Wamsley, William Wykoff. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Edwards".

NOTE: On 12 Oct 1855 when Jesse Edwards applied for bounty land he was living in Scioto County OH and signed with his mark, witnessed by John M. Edwards.