

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Lawrence Howdershell S19341  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia                } S.S.  
County of Rockingham       }

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Rockingham now sitting, Lawrence Howdershell, a resident in the County of Rockingham, and State of Virginia, aged eighty two 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:

He was born in the State of New Jersey on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1751 - his age is recorded in his Father's Bible now in his possession. He left New Jersey when a boy, about the year 1760, and moved to Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County Va. and lived in that County twenty-five years; he then removed to Shenandoah County Va. & resided there until the year 1800 when he removed to this County where he has resided since. In the year 1776 he marched from Loudon as a volunteer under Capt Coxe [probably Samuel Cox], and Lieut McLane [possibly McClain] of the Loudon Militia, and served a tour of three months at Alexandria; where he was employed in erecting batteries &c. and was in no engagement with the enemy during this tour. The troops at Alexandria, were under the command of Col. [Josias] Clapham and Major [James] Coleman of the Virginia Militia. He got no written discharge for this tour of service.

In the same year he marched from Loudon as a volunteer under Capt. Radigan to Frankstown in Pennsylvania against the Indians. It had been reported that a man named Houser had been killed in that quarter by the Indians. They scouted about in the neighbourhood to protect the inhabitants from the Indians, but had no engagement with them. There were two companies in the detachment, and he has forgotten the other Captain's name. He served three months and got no written discharge. He has no documentary evidence of his services, and never received any commission. 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 any agency in any state.

Lawrence hisXmark Howdershell

J. L. Edwards Esqr

Mount Crawford August 28<sup>th</sup> 1850

Dr Sir                                On yesterday a Mr Michael Houdershell, son of Lawrence Houdershell a Revolutionary Soldier, and at this time drawing a pension from the government, came to my office, and made complaint that he was not able to support his Father. That he was quite old and infirm, & he Michael Houdershell was very poor, scarsely able to support his own family, wishes to know if you will grant him more pension than he is now drawing. He states that Mr Allen C Bryan Attorney at Law, in Harrisonburg & in this county, is his Fathers agent. he Bryan has been paying to his Father only 18\$ pr year, and states that is all he receives from goverment for him [see note below]. That you will readily perceive is not near sufficient to support him. You will please inform me at your earliest convenience what amt. of money Mr Bryan draws pr year for Lawrence Houdershell, and what length of time he has drawn money for him; And if its only 18\$ pr year you have been paying. If you will increase his pay &c. It seems hard my Dear Sir now to see a man who has served his Country faithfull, as this man doubtless has done now in his last days, you may say, taken to the poor house. I have always been under the impression that all Revolutionary soldiers were paid 90\$ pr year. And I cannot for the life of me see how this man Houdershell only gets 18\$ a year.

You will confer a lasting favour on me, by giving me the necessary information &c. Please answer me as soon as you can.

Very Respectfully

To Hon J. L. Edwards   Com. Pensions  
Washington D.C.

W. D. Catlett M.D.

Mt Crawford   Rockingham Co   Virginia

NOTE: Howdershell's pension certificate shows that he was awarded \$20 per year. Under the 1832 act, Privates who served at least two years in the Revolutionary War were given full pay, usually \$96 per year. Soldiers who served less were given proportionately smaller pensions.