

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Edwards S31662

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Georgia } SS

Meriwether County }

On this nineteenth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me Walter T. Colquitt Judge of the Superior Court of the county & state aforesaid now sitting, John Edwards, a resident of Meriwether County & State of Georgia, aged seventy three (73.) years & upwards 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. —

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, & served as herein stated. He resided in Brunswick county Virginia where he was born entered service there sometime in the Spring of the year 1780 as a private volunteer militia Infantry under Captain Edmund Wilkins marched toward Norfolk against the British discharged at Raccoon meeting house Sussex county Virginia, discharge lost, service then about fifteen days, say half a month. —

2^{ndly} – Next entered & served as a private drafted militia soldier Infantry, resided at the same place, under Captain John Clayton, his Colonel Richard Ellett [sic: Richard Elliott]; served with & under them six months, entered the Spring or Summer of the year 1780, the first three months stationed principally at Cabin point, Virginia [on James River in Surry County]. —

3rd – Entered & served the Spring of the year 1781 three months & a half including part of the winter month in that year, was a private militia Infantry, served under Turner Bynum Captain [see endnote], Richard Lowman major, & Raleigh P. Downman colonel, was stationed principally about Portsmouth & Suffolk county Virginia.

4th – Entered (& served) May 1781 under James Harrison captain, two brothers named Duvall were major & Colonel [possibly Maj. Samuel DuVal and Col. Daniel DuVal]; this service performed in the general defence of lower Virginia ranging, scouting & reconnoitering. – this service three months. – Served as a private of Infantry. —

5th – Entered, served & continued in service under Captain John Clayton, Thomas Edmunds major & Richard Ellett Colonel, was a private militia Infantry, stationed at Surry Court House & Swans point above York, Virginia [sic: Swanns Point on James River 15 mi W of Yorktown], this in the Fall of the year 1781, from thence marched to the Seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] in which he was & he fought. – His regiment was called Elletts Virginia regiment & he recollects Howell Eldridge who was one of its Captains. This service was three months, was discharged at Swans point Virginia after the surrender of Earl Cornwallis by Colonel Ellett who gave him a discharge which he has lost & all other Revolutionary documentary evidence, discharged immediately after the battle of York in the Fall of the year 1781 —

He knows of no person whose testimony he could procure who could testify to his service except one person, Isham Rainey, who could testify to his services in part, but who resides about one hundred & fifty miles from him, he is very old, infirm & poor, to attempt to procure it would subject him to great inconvenience & delay, &c.

Summary of service –	1 st ½ month	}
	2 nd 6 months	}
	3 3½ ditto	} making 16 months service in all
	4 5 ditto	}
	5 3 ditto	}

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State. [signed] John Edwards

NOTES:

"Jno. Edwards" is on the 8 April 1781 roster of Capt. Turner Bynum's company. See transcribed roster B73.

On 25 Feb 1834 Isham Rainey, Sr., "a man of great respectability," deposed that he had lived within two miles of John Edwards and knew that he had been absent frequently in service during the Revolutionary War.

Sterling Edwards, son of John Edwards, deposed that his father died "of Dropsy & old age" on 22 March 1833 at the home of Sterling Edwards. He stated that his father left no widow but the following surviving children: Sterling Edwards of Meriwether County GA; Miss Martha Edwards of Brunswick County VA, never married; Palmela Rainey, wife of John Rainey, of Jasper County GA; and Mary Crowder, wife of George Crowder, of Henry County GA.