

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Ambrose Lewis S36041

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The first deposition is from a printed form with handwritten entries shown in italics.]

District of *Columbia*, SS.

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of *April* 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for the said district, personally appears *Ambrose Lewis* aged *about 60* years, resident in *Alexandria* in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he the said *Ambrose Lewis* enlisted in *Frederick County* in the state of *Virginia* in the year *1777* as a *seaman on board[?] the Pearl Galley* and transferd to the ship of war *Dragon* ~~in the company~~ commanded by Captain *Elisha Callender* of the *Navy of the United States*; that he continued to serve in the said ~~corps~~ *ship*, or in the service of the United States ~~until the~~ *nearly three years*, when he was discharged from service in *James River* in the state of *Virginia*, that he was in ~~the~~ *a battles with a privateer called the Lord How [Howe], in which the Dragon lost one man killed, and eight men[?] wounded Commodore Taylor was wounded in the thigh in attempting to board the Lord How* and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services., *except the certificates herein enclosed*

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid: [signed] W. Cranch

I do hereby Curtify that Charles Lewis was a Solder in Capt. John Holliday's Company of Militia from Spotsylvania County & that he was in Genl. Gates's Defeat at Camden in South Carolina, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1780 and that he was a Brother to Ambrose Lewis — Benj'a. Alsop  
Spotsylvania Conty Jan'y 8, 1809[?]

I do hereby Curtify that [page torn here and at X; first letter appears to be A, probably Ambrose Lewis] Was a Sulder in the 2<sup>d</sup> Regm[X; probably Regiment] Commanded by Colo. Geo. Stu[X; Stubblefield; several more illegible words] of Virginia in said Reg't. in the year 1780 to South Carrol[X] and Was in Genl. Gates's defeat near Camden in South Carolina on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Aug[X] 1780 and taken Prisoner and I believe he was wounded in said defeat

Given under my hand this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 1809 Benj'a. Alsop

District of Columbia, County of Washington, Ss

Be it remembered that on this 24th day of January in the year 1821, before the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, for the County of Washington (being a Court of record established as such by the several acts of Congress concerning the District of Columbia) personally appeared in open Court, Ambrose Lewis aged Sixty eight years, resident in the County & District aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the revolutionary war as follows:

That on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1776 he entered into the naval service of virginia, on board the galley Sage, commanded by Capt. Markham; in which service he continued untill 30<sup>th</sup> March 1778. when he entered as a seaman into the naval service of the United States, on board the United States Ship Dragon commanded by Capt. Callender: in which service he continued until the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1779; when having compleated three years of service in the navy of the State & of the United States, he quitted that service & enlisted as a Common Soldier in Capt. Halliday's Company in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. George Stubblefield: served in that regiment untill August 1780, when he was severely wounded & taken prisoner at the battle of Cambden [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] & was detained as a prisoner till the end of the war, at Charleston S. C. where he was confined a part of the time in barracks and the residue of the time on board the prisonship: that he the said Ambrose Lewis was inscribed on the pension list roll of the

District of Columbia agency, under the act of 27th April, 1810, at the rate of \$2.50 per month, to commence on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1809; which pension was successively increased to \$3.75 per month, to commence on the 19th March, 1811, under the act of 5 July 1812; to six dollars per month to commence from the passage of the act of 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1816; & lastly to eight Dollars per month to commence on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1818; for all which he received pension-certificates in due form; for the pension of \$2.50 per month, as a private in the army of the United States; under the act of 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1811, he has a duplicate pension-certificate dated on the 16<sup>th</sup> february, 1820 without number; upon which is stated all the other pensions, except the last of eight dollars per month, under the act of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818; for that last pension, granted to him as a private in the navy of the United States; he has a pension-certificate dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 1818, & numbered, as he believes (272). The said Ambrose Lewis then in open court as aforesaid took & subscribed, in due form, pursuant to the act of Congress in such case provided, & passed on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1820, the following oath, and produced and exhibited the schedule thereto annexed, & by him subscribed to wit: I Ambrose Lewis do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March one thousand eight hundred & eighteen, & that I have not since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner whatever, disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the U. States, in the revolutionary war," passed on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred & eighteen; & that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts, or debts due to me, nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed.

Ambrose hisXmark Lewis

Sworn to in open Court this 24<sup>th</sup> Jany 1820 Test Wm Brent Ck

Schedule subscribed & exhibited by Ambrose Lewis containing his whole estate & income &c. I have no estate or property whatever, real personal or mixed; & am not even in a condition to except my necessary cloathing & bedding; for I have no bedding: & not as much cloathing as is necessary. I have no income whatever; except the pension or pensions to which I am may be entitled under the several acts of Congress before mentioned, or some or one of the same, & the casual contributions of the charitable, to which I have been compelled to resort since the payment of my pension has been suspended. I have no occupation, except occasionally that of a barber; and am not able to pursue any regular occupation for a livelihood, in consequence of my age & infirmity; & more especially of the anguish & disability of the wound in my leg received at the battle of Cambden which wound, the greater part of my time, breaks out into an open ulcer, & is always in a condition to render me a cripple in that leg. I have no family but a son about ten years of age, who is unable to contribute to my or his own support; the rest of my children are grown up & live to themselves.

Ambrose hisXmark Lewis.

NOTE: The 1830 federal census for Alexandria, District of Columbia, lists Ambrose Lewis as a "Free Colored Person" 55 -100 with a female 36 -55. Benjamin Alsop's pension application is S9269.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Addendum to Ambrose Lewis S36041

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I hereby Certifie that Ambrose Lewis entered in the Virginia Navy April 15<sup>th</sup> 1776 & discharged 15 April 1779 he having served his time James Markham [pension application R72]  
Copy

The Heirs of Ambrose Lewis, who was a sailor and soldier of the Revolution, respectfully present to the Executive of Virginia their claim for Land Bounty, founded on the services of their ancestor. They refer to the Auditors certificate, and the Report of Mr. Commissioner Smith No. 5. page 14 in support thereof

Petition for bounty land.

The Hrs of Ambrose Lewis – [undeciphered word] S. W.

Ambrose Lewis received £27.5.9 the bal. of his full pay as a Seaman, of the State Navy, (see auditors certificate.)

He was enroll'd among the men of the Ship Dragon in 1779 and appears to have been in service on board that vessel, as long as public documents give accounts of the Crew of that vessel. He probably served in the Dragon as long as she was in service.

In the printed list of officers [undeciphered word] of the Navy – No 5 – I have reported Ambrose Lewis entitled to bounty land for a service of three years.

Respectfully submitted  
John H Smith Com'r &c  
Augt 6<sup>th</sup> 1834

To Governor [Littleton Waller] Tazewell

Augt 15, 1834. Ordered that this claim be allowed for a service of three years as a seaman in the State Navy. Approved Augt 15, 1834 L.W.T

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ambrose Lewis VAS900

vsl 206VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/27/13

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

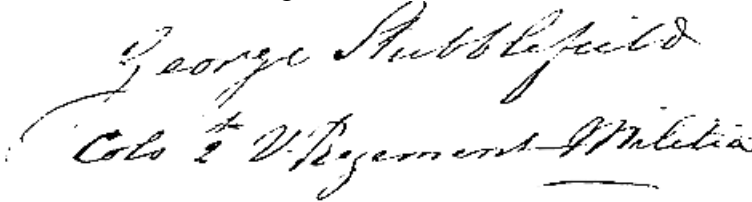
[p 3]

This is to Certify that Ambrose Lewis was a Soldier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> V. [Virginia] Regiment of Militia from this State and that he got wounded and made Prisoner at Gates Defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780].

Given under my hand at Richmond November 21, 1783

S/ George Stubblefield

Colo. 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Regiment Militia



George Stubblefield  
Colo. 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Regiment Militia

[p 4]

The Governor's Complements to Doctor Leiper & request he will be pleased to view & report on the case of the within Soldier

S/ P. Henry

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> 1785



P. Henry

[p 5]

Spotsylvania Court May 4<sup>th</sup> 1787

It is Ordered to be Certified that Ambrose Lewis a Soldier who was badly wounded in General Gates defeat near Camden in South Carolina appears to the Court to be a proper Object to receive a pension and that Indigency of Circumstances rendered the same necessary and It is further certified that the said Ambrose Lewis served in the second Regiment of Militia ordered from this State for the relief of South Carolina.

Teste: S/ Jno. Chew, Jr. Cl.

[p 6]

On Examination of the within mentioned Person, find a Ball has passed through the right thigh & done considerable injury to the free motion of the muscles, by unnatural adhesion to the bone. Two stabs of the Bayonet appeared to have passed through the left arm [paper damaged and text missing] not evidently very great. Two other stabs with the Bayonet in the left side which he complains much of & alleges that the Bayonet at one time passed from the left to the right side and formed a scar which appears thereon – this may have been a fact as the direction would miss the Heart, & if the Bayonet did pass through I have no doubt but all his Complaints, such as difficulty of Breathing at times & violent pain on any brisk exertion, are real & if so, he is greatly disabled from obtaining a support by hard labor.

S/ W. Foushee  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1787

*On Examination of the within mentioned Person, find a Ball has passed through the right thigh & done considerable injury to the free motion of the muscles, by <sup>unnatural</sup> adhesion to the bone. Two stabs of the Bayonet appeared to have passed thro' the left arm, ~~the~~ not evidently very great. Two other stabs with the Bayonet in the left side which he complains much of & alleges that the Bayonet at one time passed from the left to the right side & formed a scar which appears thereon. This may have been a fact as the direction would miss the Heart, & if the Bayonet did pass through I have no doubt but all his Complaints, such as difficulty of Breathing at times & violent pain on any brisk exertion, are real. If so, he is greatly disabled from obtaining a support by hard labour.*

*Witnessed  
J. Foushee  
Am. Lewis  
Col. G. S.  
May 19. 87*

*W. Foushee  
May 18<sup>th</sup> 1787*

[p 7]

I do with advice of the Council hereby Certify that Ambrose Lewis aged about 26 years, late a Private in a Regiment of the Virginia Militia commanded by Colonel George Stubblefield and whose pay whilst in service was at the rate of £24 per annum, was disabled in the service of the United States, by five wounds received in his arms, thighs & body; And that he is allowed the sum of Eight Pounds yearly, from the first day of January 1786.

Given under my hand as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the Governor being absent) at Richmond this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1787

S/ T. Meriwether

S/ Beverly Randolph

[Note: the bulk of the documents in this file relate to the annual administration of the pension paid the veteran up to August 26, 1833, when he died. His estate was administered by Thomas Burns.]