

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Leonard Helms (Ellems) S38021 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 Nov 2014.

Virginia, to wit,

At a Court held for the County of Botetourt the 12th day of May 1818

Leonard Helms an inhabitant of this County and a citizen of the State of Virginia appeared before this court, being a Court of record, and made oath, that he served a soldier in the army of the United States in the war of the revolution for upwards of four years, that he Enlisted with Capt. John Gilkeson who belonged to the Virginia line, on Continental establishment – that part of the afores'd period, he thinks, he was in the 4th Virg'a Regiment commanded by Colo. [Thomas] Gaskins, which Regiment he thinks was under the command of Baron Stuben [sic: Baron von Steuben] – That the last of his services was perform'd at New London [now in Campbell County] in Virginia in the character of a Soldier guarding a Magazine at that place, and that he never received a Discharge and finally that from his reduced circumstances in life he needs the assistance of his Country.

James Breckinridge personally appeared in court and made oath, that he has known the aforesaid Leonard Helms many years, he now lives on his land in a most helpless & precipitous condition– He is blind & otherwise very infirm

Peter Batchelor [pension application S37704] also made oath, that about the close of the war of the revolution, say in the spring of the year 1783 he met with the aforesaid Leonard Helms in the service of the United States at New London in the State of Virginia – the said Batchelor being then in the same service, acting in the capacity of a Sergeant commanding & Guarding of a Magazine at that place, that he said Batchelor knew said Helms to be in the afores'd service from the spring of the afores'd year till the month of September he thinks, of that year when the Guard was discharged. he understood then from said Helms that he had then been in s'd service for some time.

Virginia Botetourt County, to wit,

On this 11th day of September 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record – which proceeds according to the course of the common Law, keeping a records of its proceedings, and having a discretionary power of fine & imprisonment– Leonard Helms, aged 62 years, resident of this County, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare, that he enlisted (at what time he cannot now recollect) under a Captain Gilkison of the 4th Regiment Virginia line on Continental Establishment– that he served four years & some months in said Company & Service — And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States of America on the 18th March 1818 – and that I have not since that time, by Gift, Sale, or in any other manner disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with an intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 entitled an act for the provision of certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States of America during the revolutionary war and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any Property Securities Contracts or Debts due to me, nor have I any income other than is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me Subscribed
Schedule — One Cow Six Shoats & 2 small sows Six old chairs One table One Doz. Plates 6 knives & forks Six Cups & Saucers 2 pots & 1 oven — That he is utterly incapable of working & entirely blind, that he has a wife 45 years of age, no Children living with him & requires the aid of his Country for his support
Leonard Helms

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

The bearer hereof Leonard Ellems a Soldier in the Virg'a. Line having done Duty in the Military Stores Department at New London since July 1782 by order Gen'l. Muhlinburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] his is

hereby dismiss'd from said Duty & has leave to take his Arms & acoutrements with him by order of
Maj'r. Gen'l. Linkhorn [sic: Benjamin Lincoln] Secretary at War.

Nath'l. Irish DCMS [Nathaniel Irish BLWt1133-300]
Sept'r 15th 1783

Frederick [illegible abbreviation] Leonard Ellems was enlisted from the Militia of this County the first
Day of April 1781 to serve during the War. given under my hand the 24th day of March 1785

John Smith County Lt. [of Frederick County Militia]

This is to Certify that Leonard Ellems enlisted Ap'l 1st 1781 for the War and served till the 15 Sept'r
1783 given under my hand the 15th day of Ap'l. 1785

Ph'l Mallory [Philip Mallory]
Capt. 4th V. Reg't.

Gent. Aud'r. settle and send what is due me by Capt Nath Asby [Nathaniel Asby]. both my Land Warrant
& Certificate and oblige yr. obt S't Leonard Ellems

Copy/ Ph'p Southall

Ap'l. 10th 1785

NOTES: The surname is spelled variously as Helms, Helm, Elm, Ellem, and Ellam. A typed summary in
the federal file gives the date of death as 23 Dec 1824.