

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Ely S39493

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia towit:

On this thirty first day of Marh in the year 1819, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia allotted by law to the 13<sup>th</sup> circuit, which comprehends the County of Lee, personally appeared William Ely, aged sixty six years, resident in the County of Lee aforesaid in the State aforesaid, 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 act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the United States in the revolutionary war." that he the said William Ely enlisted, in the county of Bedford, in the State of Virginia, with Captain Thomas Helms, then a recruiting officers for the continental service; that he repaired immediately to New London, in the said county of Bedford [now in Campbell County], the place of rendezvous for recruits, and was placed under the command of Captain Hugh Woodson [sic: Hughes Woodson], with whom he marched to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg], in Virginia, and joined the regiment commanded by Colonel Abraham Buford, of the Virginia line, on continental establishment - he enlisted on the fifteenth day of February, in the year 1779, and after remaining at Petersburg the succeeding winter, he marched, with the regiment to join the Southern Army commanded by General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln, then under siege at Charleston SC]. Colonel Buford did not effect the object [having learned of the surrender of Charleston on 12 May], and marched no farther than Lanew's ferry [Leneud's Ferry] on the Santee river, from which place he retreated northwardly, and was attacked, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May in the year 1780, by Colo. Tarlton at a place called the Hanging Rock [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton near Waxhaws SC, 12 mi N of Hanging Rock], where the applicant was severely wounded by a sabre, on the head and shoulder, the scars of which wounds now remain. That this is the only battle at which he was ever present, and was then taken prisoner by the enemy - that he did not recover from his wounds untill after the term of his service had expired and was permitted by the enemy to go home, on his parole [promise not to return to service until exchanged], nor does he know that he ever was exchanged - he is certain that he was not afterwards required to join his regiment, altho' his officers knew where he was, nor did he ever apply for nor did he receive a discharge. The said applicant also proved by a credible witness, who gave evidence before me on oath, That he the said witness, whose name is John Ely, now recollects the enlistment of the said applicant with Captain Thomas Helms, for eighteen months, or two years - that he accompanied him a part of the way, when he marched from New London, and that after an absence of more than one year, he returned home, severely wounded on the head and shoulders, and possessed of a paper which the witness understood to be a parole from the British Colonel Tarlton. The said applicant also declared before me, on oath as aforesaid, that from his reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support.

Sworn to and declared before me, on the day and year first above written.

Peter Johnston

Virginia Lee County towit,

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record & quarter Sessions established for said County by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, William Ely aged sixty seven years the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March last, resident in said County, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth, on his Oath, declare that he served in the revolutionary war a follows, to wit. That he enlisted as a private soldier in the Continental Army under Captain Thomas Helms and was put under Captain Hughes Woodson at New London in Virginia who commanded a Company in the regiment commanded by Colonel Abraham Bluford. That he was stationed in Petersburg Virginia for several months & then marched to the south under Captain Hughes Woodson, and then fell into the company commanded by Captain [Claiborne W.] Lawson, Captain Woodson having been promoted to a Major. That his term of enlistment was for two

years and served about eighteen months when, at Blufords defeat in the south, he was wounded with a sword on the Head & Shoulder, and taken prisoner by the British. That being badly wounded, he was in a few days parolled by the British Commander, and permitted to return home till exchanged; And was never exchanged, or called upon untill the close of the War, which took place not long after [sic]. That in consequence of being taken prisoner & parolled, he never procured a discharge. - That for the said services he made his declaration before the Honorable Peter Johnston Esquire, Judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Virginia, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 1819 to entitle him to the provisions of the law of the United States of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818, and obtained from the Secretary of War, a pension Certificate dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1819 Numbered 12,561. And I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it, as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818. And 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 and by me subscribed; towit.

Two Cows & three yearlings, one little mare, about twenty small hogs & mostly[?] pigs. One tract of land about seventy acres, & very thin & broken, & without water, with a small improvement of about fifteen acres of cleared land. One old shovel plough. Two old weeding hoes, one pair of gears. Two axes, one old flax wheel, one pot, one oven & one skillet, one sett knives & forks, two pewter dishes & six pewter plates. One old smoothing Iron. One genseng hoe, One Iron wedge, one old frough, & two bottles.

William hisXmark Ely

The said William Ely also upon his oath declared that he has no occupation but that of a farmer. And that from age & infirmities he is unable to do any work on a farm of any consequence. That he has entirely lost the use of his left hand, probably from the wound he received in the shoulder in the war, having his shoulder blade split entirely open with a sword. That his wife is about eighty years of age. And that he has no other family but one son with him, who is about eighteen years of age, whose name is John. That he purchased his little farm since he obtained his pension Certificate, in order to have a house of his own in his old age, and expected to pay for it out of the savings of his pension. That he owes for it at this time about seventy two dollars - besides other debts which he owes of about \$85.00 and which he will be unable to pay if his Country withholds from him, her support. And that he is in such reduced circumstances in life, as to stand in need of the assistance of his Country for his support.

Sworn to and declared on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1820 before the Court of Lee County.