

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Cottrill S39597

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 28 Jan 2019.

Virginia At a Court held for the County of Harrison on the 17th day of January 1825 being a Court of record established by an act of the General assembly of this Commonwealth. Personally appeared in Open Court John Cottrill resident in said County aged 62 years who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820 that he the said John Cottrill enlisted for the term of two years the day and year not recollected but it was between three and four years before the Capture of Cornwallis at York Town in the year of 1781 [19 Oct] in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain William Johnson the regiment & the Commander [illegible word] forgotten in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment that he continued to serve the said Corps untill his time expired. and again enlisted for the term of two years on the — day of — in the year of 1780 in the State of South Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain William McGuire in the regiment commanded by Colo Harrison in the line of the State of Virginia on the Contenental establishment [see endnote] that he continued to serve in said Corps nineteen months until the end of the Revolutionary war when he was discharged from the service in york Town in the State of Virginia that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any state except — and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension that I owned a small farm & 2 horses and some cattle, the health of my wife & myself were good considering our age we were able to support ourselves and I felt too much pride and abition to apply for a pention untill all my property was sold to pay security debts and I was compelled to surrender my affects and take the oath of insolvency. That and the afflictions of myself & wife and advancing age, and encreasing infirmities has compelled me to ask for the gratuity & support of my Country which in more prosperous times I declined to do And in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th 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 and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war” passed on the 18th 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.

I own no property whatever either real or personal except as below stated. I have 2 chopping axes, 3 corn hoes, and a few other farming utentials of a minor kind. The residue of our house hold furniture is loaned us by John McCullough a neighbour and connexion.

John Cottrill

I am by occupation a farmer and occasionally have shoe maker, but from old age, Rheumatism am unable to follow the latter or pursue the former with advantage. I have in family eight persons with myself my wife 52 years of age, John 17, Polly 18, Elisha 14, Barbary 12, William 10, and an Orphan grand child Marshall 2 years old. Their joint labour does not give us comfortable support. That since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property. On the 18th day of March 1818 I owned a small farm of 99³/₄ acres, Two horses, 12 or 14 head of Cattle, a considerable number of hogs & sheep for a small farmer, and a reasonable supply of household furniture for a plain farmers family. The land, the horses and cattle were sold to satisfy executions as will more fully appear by the accompanying affidavit & Copies of Records. The hogs and the sheep have been used in the family. The household property with 2 cows & 2 heifers were sold to John McCullough. The property by a bill of sale duly recorded in the Clerks Office but which the said McCullough deemed of doubtful validity, and was again some time last fall resold to him with the Cattle & possession delivered in the presence of witnesses. The

property was sold for thirty or thirty two dollars to go in payment of a debt due him by my son Jackson Cottrill and myself the debt was contracted three or four years ago, for the purchase of property at a vendue[?] sale and I was security for the said Jackson Cottrill

Harrison County Virginia SS

Personally appeared before me Thomas Haymond a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Anna Williams who is certified to as credible as to character, and of full age, who being duly sworn states that she formerly lived in Hampshire county and state aforesaid and was a neighbour to John Cottrill and as well as this affiant recollects it was about three years and nine months before the capture of Cornwallis at the Battle of York, the said John Cottrill enlisted in the continental line in Captain Wm. Johnson's company as well as she can recollect. The said Cottrill returned to his home and friends after the capture of Cornwallis, having been absent as she was informed all that time in the continental service, and believes he was duly discharged. Given under my hand & seal this 19th day of January 1825

Tho. Haymond J.P.

Personally appeared before me Joseph Cheveront a justice of the peace in and for the county of Harrison and State of Virginia, Richard Cottrill of full age and credible as to character, who being duly sworn states, that some where about the year of 1777 or 1778 John Cottrill entered the continental establishment in Capt. Johnsons company, in which service he continued about three years and nine months and was after the battle at York Town Virginia (where CornWallis surrendered) discharged and returned home to Hampshire county in the state aforesaid. This affiant being young at that time, does not recollect further particulars. Given under my hand and seal this 24th day of January 1825

Joseph Cheveront J.P.

Harrison County Virginia SS.

Personally appeared before me Thomas Haymond a justice of the peace in and for said county, Jackson Cottrell of full age and credible as to character who being duly sworn states, that about three or four years ago he purchased a horse of John Cottrill, and gave a Wheat stack and a Rye stack for said horse. that the said John Cottrill as this affiant believes did not part with the horse fraudulently for the purpose of obtaining a pension, that the said horse was worth about thirty five dollars, and that the grain stacks aforesaid was made use of by the said John Cottrell for the support of his family. Given under my hand and seal this 24th day of January 1825.

Tho. Haymond

Harrison County To Wit

James Radcliff personally appeared before me the subscriber and made oath he has served as a Constable for a number of years and amongst others has had a number of executions against John Cottrill and about the year 1826 sold a sorrel mare for about \$15 fifteen dollars and believes at that time Cottrill was considerable indebted given under my hand this 29th day of January 1825

Joseph Morris JP

Harrison County Virginia SS

Personally appeared before me Thomas Haymond, a justice of the peace in & for said County, John McCullough, who is certified to be credible as to character and of full age, who being duly sworn states, that John Cottrill many years ago purchased of him the land on which he lived and the purchase money was not all paid, That the said John Cottrill was otherwise indebted to him, and was also Indebted as security for his son to one Jacob Israel & Co. in two sums amounting to upwards of \$100 which was transferred to some merchants in Baltimore. that suits were instituted & Judgments obtained on the same. To secure the payments of which, and also to secure to this affiant the sum of \$301.75 the said John Cottrill did convey in Trust the land aforesaid to William Ball, with authority if the said debts were not paid to sell the land after due notice & publication, which was accordingly done on the third monday of

September 1822, and this affiant having bid the sum of \$120— which was the highest bid, became the purchaser & received a conveyance therefor, which is duly recorded in the clerks office of this county aforesaid This affiant further states that Colo James Pendall attorney at Law of Clarksburg of the County aforesaid was the agent of the said Baltimore merchants viz Calhoun, and Aldridge and Higdon – that being so their agent and attorney received this affiant's Bond for the payment of the said debts due those respective merchants. and credited Cottrill for the said \$120. on the said judgements against him & his son This affiant further states that the said John Cottrill, many years ago, the time not recollected gave him a Bill of sale on his personal goods & chattels & household furniture, to secure him in part the debts due him, also gave up two cows, six sheep, one heifer & some potmetal to secure a debt of about thirty five dollars as will appear by the subjoined certificate of Joseph Morriss one of the Justices in & for the county aforesaid This affiant states that all the debts aforesaid are, as far as he knows & believes bone fide, were contracted honestly, that the sales, conveyances, & delivery of property referred to were made and done in good faith, and not with any view to come within the provisions of the acts of Congress for the relief of Indigent revolutionary soldiers Given under my hand this 31st day of January 1825

Tho. Haymond JP

I do hereby Certify that the judgment given by me in favour of John McCullough against John Cottrill, for which Cottrill has given property in security & payment is to the amount of \$35 debt interest and cost and it was in good faith and without fraud given under my hand January 19th 1825

John Morris JP

Harrison County Virginia SS

Personally appeared before me Thomas Haymond a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, William Bell who is certified to be credible as to character and of full age, who being duly sworn states that John Cottrill on the 6th day of August 1821 conveyed to him, a tract of Land on waters of Elk Creek in Harrison county the same on which the said John Cottrill resided, containing as it was said ninety nine acres & three fourths of an acre; In trust, to secure sundry debts therein more particularly mentioned viz one debt of \$64.18b cts due James Calhoun, \$76.58b cts due Andrew Aldridge and Benjamin Downing Higdon, and the further sum of \$301.75 cts due John McCullough

That the said debts remaining unpaid, he the said Bell as Trustee, after having duly advertised the land for sale, did on the third Monday of September 1822 sell the land for the sum of \$120— to John McCullough who was the highest bidder, and since that, has regularly conveyed the said tract of Land to the said John McCullough and the money arising from the sale thereof was duly applied in part payment & discharge of the said debts – or what was tantamount to the same, James Pindall the attorney of the said Calhoun, and of the said Aldridge & Higdon took McCullough's [illegible word] for the money as this affiant was informed and released [the said] Cottrill to the amount of the proceeds of the sale of the said Land

This affiant further states from his knowledge and belief of the transactions & the parties, that the two first named debts were bonafide debts, and that the debt due McCullough was in part for the purchase money of the said land conveyed by, & sold under the Deed of Trust. And that the debts, trust, conveyance, & sale of the land was founded and conducted upon correct principles and not with any view to commit fraud or for the said Cottrill to bring himself within the provision of the Pension acts for Revolutionary services

Given under my hand this 31st day of January 1825

Tho. Haymond J.P.

Harrison County to wit

James Pendall maketh oath before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for said County that he was the attorney of Mess'rs Aldridge & Higdon and James Calhoun – assignees of Jacob Israel and obtained judgments in Harrison County court against John Cottrell for their debts which this affiant hath cause to believe and does believe were justly due from said Cottrel as principal or as security — that affiant brought suits in the Superior court of Chancery at Clarksburg for his said clients, for the purpose of

subjecting the land of said John Cottrel to sale to pay the judgments, and believes he would have obtained a [illegible word] for that purpose, but the said Cottrel compromised and gave John McCullough as surety for said debts, on said McCullough's requiring and obtaining a deed of trust, for his safety, on said land, that the land has been sold, and a part of said debts paid. that a balance of said debts are yet in arrear, for which there are one or more notes or single bills against said Cottrill & McCullough, which the said McCullough has acknowledged himself only to be liable for – that affiant has no hope or expectation of ever recovering a cent of said balance of said Cottrel, but of McCullough only – believing said Cottrel to be intirely insolvent. That affiant hath reason to believe and is convinced that the deed of trust and sale of the land were bone fide. Sworn to 1st february 1825 D Kincheloe J.P.

To the Honorable James Barbour

Your petitioner John McCullough, humbly represents, that John Cottrill, who is on the Pension list as a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, he believes has been placed thereon by misrepresentation and fraud, that the said John has for upwards of Thirty Years been his near neighbor, and the said John, has informed your petitioner, that he was only in said service for a short time, and that was as a substitute in the Militia, and that he never performed any other service in said War. Your petitioner further represents, that he has been informed that the said John, is not on the rolls of the Army, as a Regular; he further begs leave to represent, that the said John is not in such poverty or indigence as to need the assistance of the Government all of which foregoing statements can be abundantly proven by many respectable witnesses.

Your petitioner is aware that it is impossible for your department to prevent impositions of this sort from taking place, and is convinced it is the duty of all the Citizens of this Government to give aid and facility to its Officers to prevent impositions and frauds of this sort, he will suggest to you the propriety of appointing some person here that will take testimony, on giving said Cottrill notice thereof, in order that the same may be laid before our department; and if such testimony furnishes the proof your petitioner has stated can be had that the said John Cottrill may be stricken of the pension list

[signed] John McCullough

Virginia Harrison County To wit

John McCullough of said County personally appeared before me Benjamin J Brice a Justice of the Peace for said County and made oath that the foregoing petition is true Given under my hand this 23^d day of August 1826
B. J. Brice

Elias Cotterrill of full age and being first sworn Deposeth and saith

That he is about 32 years old that he has all wais heard his father say that he was inlisted in the servis of the united states and that his father had served several tours in the milisha he further states that his father the said John Cotterrill is old and poor that his pention was the only support left for the maintainance of himself and wife the ballance of the famaly being all able to Earn there living by there Labour the youngest is about fourteen years old his father is without a horse and but one cow his land has been sold and Deed of trust Given sum years since the said Cotterill is not in a situation to support himself and wife if his pention is taken from him

Sworn to before me this 18th day of Oct 1826

John Davisson JP

Jackson Cotteril of full age and being first sworn Deposeth and states that he allways heard John Cotterrill say that he was in the united States servis as a Regular soldier the said Cotterrill is old and very poor he has been maintained by his Children who is poor none of them owns Land the said Cotteril has no property within the Reach of Even a Constable if the united states should with hold there support the said Cotterill and wife must suffer

Sworn to before me a Justice of the peace for Harrison County and State of Virginia this 18th day Oct 1826
John Davisson JP

Edmon Cain of full age and being first sworn Deposeth and saith that he has been acquainted with John Cotterrill upwards of twenty years the said Cotterrill is very poor and needs the assistance of his Country his property has been sold to pay his Debt and he is left without the means to Support him self and wife booth being old and and not able to work but Litle Edmond Cain
the subscriber Edmon cain appeared before me a Justice of the peace and made oath the above
Deposition is Corret and true this 18 Oct 1826 John Davisson JP

Harrison County To Wit

Joseph Morris a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Came before me John Davisson and made oath that he has been acquainted with and a near neighbour to John Cottrill for about 30 years in former years he was in good or tolerable good Circumstances but now he is old and he believes him to be very poor and unable to work much and his wife in the same Circumstances in former years he was said to be industrious and his family also and appeared to have acquired some property but of late (if report be true) either from imprudence mismanagement or some other cause his property has left him and mostly passed into the hands of a certain John McCullough his neighbour and brother in law who is thought privately to be the means of stopping his pension in consequence of a quarrel between him and s'd. Cottrill

He further says he has often heard Cottrill say he was in the revolutionary war as a regular and further says not Joseph Morris
Sworn to before me this 20th day of October 1826 John Davisson JP

John Davisson Esqr being first sworn saith that he has been acquainted with John Cotterrill upwards of 30 years and and the the said Cotterrill has been in good Circumstance as a torable good liver but since the late war the said Cotterrell was in debt and in tirely broke up his land has been sold and a deed of trust given to pay a certain Jacob Israel and other \$400 Dollars the said Cotterrill and a certain John McCullough who bought said Land cald on me together with Major T Haymond and Seth a Hickman to make a final settlement of there accounts We gave McCullough 75 acres of the land and gave Cotterrill 25 as we supposed a corner of Rough hils which the said Cotterrill now Lives on, but McCullough has the Deed under the said on the deed of trust and Refuses to convey to said Cotterrill — Cotterrill is old and very poor has no means to support his famaly if his pention is taken away he has no horse but one Cow his sheep has been sold to pay his debts the charge of his being in good circumstances is utterly fals and unfounded as to his be in the united States servis this Deponent does not know he said he conversed with one Aderson Corbin [sic: Anderson Corbin, pension application W6739] he was in the servis with the said Cotterrill Corbin states Cotterrell was a good soldier and deserved his pention this deponent understood they served at the taken of Cornwallis Cotterrill on conversing with him states he was Returning from the south when Cornwallis was taken off his tour as a Regular Soldier this deponent further states that Cotterrell has no means of support if his pention is taken from him
Sworn to before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for Harrison County Virginia this 20 day of October 1826—
Joseph Morris JP

Nolley Davis being of full age and being duly Sworn deposeth and saith he has been acquainted with Richard Cotterrill for upwards of thirty years and have always Considered the said Richard a man of the strictest truth when on oath

The said davis further states he has been acquainted with Nancy Williams for the last twenty years or upwards The said Nancy has alwais during that time been a member of the Methodist Church and in good standing in the Church and Neighbourhood and Considered a Woman of truth when on oath
Novem 25th 1826 John Davisson JP

Personally appeared before me Joseph Morris and being Duly sworn Saith he has been acquainted with Richard Cotterrill for nearly thirty years and always Considered him a man of truth when on oath Sd Cotterrill has often before me as a witness since I have acted as a Justice of the peace and I have never had

the least cause to doubt his veracity I have been acquainted with Nancy Williams for twenty years or upwards the said Nancy has been in good standing in her Church and Neighbourhood and always considered a Woman of the strict truth when on oath and at any other time

J Morris

Sworn to before me a justice of the peace for Harrison County Virginia on this 25 day of Novem 1826
John Davisson JP

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the for Harrison County Virginia John Davisson Esqr and being duly sworn Saith he has been acquainted with Richard Cotterrill for about thirty five years and he has always considered the said Richard a man of truth when on oath and in his Common Carracter the said Davisson further saith that he has been a Neighbour to Nancy Williams for upwards of twenty years and the said Nancy has been in good standing amongst her Neighbours and Church and a woman of truth when on oath Novem 25th 1826
Jacob Coplin JP

Sir [J L Edwards Commissioner of Pensions] I am personally acquainted with John Davisson, Jacob Coplin, & Joseph Morris, before whome the within depositions purport to have been taken. They are acting Magistrates for the county of Harrison in the State of Virginia. I am also acquainted with their respective hand writing and have no doubt of the genuineness of their singnatures
Jan'y 16th 1827
Yours Respectfully Jos. Johnson

Department of War Pen Off Jan'y 29, 1836

Sir In reply to your enquiry respecting the claims of Peter Cogger [S10481] and Jno Cottrill, I have the honor to state, that the name of Mr. Cogger was dropped from the pension roll, upon the ground that he did not serve as he had alleged, his claim not being sustained by satisfactory proof. But as it appears that by the printed list of the soldiers names under Gen'l Clark [George Rogers Clark], that Mr Cogger is entitled to bounty land, the claim will be again opened for a revision. In order therefore to arrive at a satisfactory result in this case, the Department will in the first instance require a copy of the proof exhibited by Mr. Cogger, upon which he was adjudged to be entitled to bounty land.

The name of John Cottrell is not found upon the Va Continental roll, and the proof now filed in this Office is not satisfactory —

I return herewith the letter of Mr. Hayes and have the honor &c
Hon Jos Johnson H[ouse] of Rep[resentatives]

Harrison County, Va July 24 1837

Sir— In conformity to the acts of Congress May 1 1820 & March 1 1823 I was placed on the Pension roll as a revolutionary soldier, & a certificate issued to me, bearing date 14th Feby 1825. Under my certificate I have rec'd. my pension money untill a little upwards of two years ago — since which time I have not drawn any money, and have been informed that my name has been stricken from the roll. of this fact I have not been informed by you. Will you Sir, so far oblige an old soldier and an honest one (any statements made to you to the contrary notwithstanding) by giving me the reasons why I have been stricken off, & furnish me with copies of such documents on file in your office as led to the result— These things I feel solicitous to know for many reason you will readily imagine—

Yours with respect

John hisXmark Cotrell

Direct your communication to Clarksburg Va

War Dept Pension Off July 31, 1837

Sir [Mr. John Cottrill Clarksburg Va.], Your pension has been stopped, because it is believed from a late investigation of your claim, that you did not serve in the continental army, as alleged by you.

Harrison County Va Aug. 14th 1837

Mr J. L. Edwards Sir, I have received your letter of July 31st in which you say that from a late investigation of my claim it did not appear that I served in the continental army as alleged by me &c. I do not know what investigation you allude to, as I have never been investigated upon the subject by any officer of the Government; – I was told by a Mr. Jacob Coplin [see bounty-land application below] who is a Magistrate in this county that I was entitled to land bounty; and if I would give him one third of it, that he would get it for me; I agreed to do so, and I believe that he has stated something in that application which I am entirely ignorant of. – I have proved and can do it again that I was in the continental army as stated by me; and if Coplin has taken the advantage of my ignorance for the purpose of making something for himself, by making a false statement of my services; and then imposing them on me for my own I think the officers of the Government ought to look into it, and see that I am not defrauded out of my just rights — I was first placed on the pension roll in 1825 or thereabouts, and no person in this country doubts my services. Please let me know if I cannot be reinstated, and if I have been stricken from the pension list for the reasons which I have supposed &c.

This written by request of – John Cotril

Va Nov'r. 30th 1837 Harrison County Romines Mills

Mr. J. L. Edwards Pension Agent

Sir, After my respects To you as Agent for pensioners, by old age and infirmity, and poverty, I continue to pray to be restated on the pension role, as I have been cut off, and not knowing for what. I am justly deserving to draw. I spent upwards of four years in the Revolution war. And fought and toiled in Bloody conflicts for my Country. And now must linger out my old days in poverty and affliction with out simpathy or any Support from my Country. and many drawing for less services. and not in sutch want. by not being able at this age of the day to prove all of my servises must be cast off entirely and forgot. I think it is a hard case. I can proove upwards of two years yet by one of the most Respectable men in this county whose verasity can not be disputed in any way and I do not know any body living at this time that I can proove any serveses that I done in the Revolution war but him All is dead and gone where I soon must go. I have prooved by others when I drew a pension in under the old Law, but I was stricking of the pension role for what cause I now not. And those witnesseth is gone the way of all the world. My motives for writeing to you these line, is for you, if you will be so good to a poor old man & woman with out means of support, or any body to help to give me all the information in what way I may proseed to draw in under the new Law of 1831 [sic: 7 June 1832]. And give me that Information as soon a posable and I will take it as a Lasting favour confired apon one who is not able to help himself or able to imploy men that is able. write Harrison County Romines Mills post office

Yours verry Respectfully

John Cottrill

J. L. Edwards Pension Agent

Richmond Jan 14th 1839

Dear Sir [Col. J. L. Edwards] Mr. John Cottrill of Harrison County Va. gave me a memorandum when I left home for this City to get information why his pension was stoped. I called on Mr. Singleton [see endnote] for information, who was unable to give me any definite information, but refered me to you, and I will thank you If you will inform me why Mr. Cottrill's pension was Stoped, and what was the information filed in Your office which stoped it

If this information ask for is not incomptable with the duties of your office pleas write to me
Richmond Va.

Yours respectfully/ E. J. Armstrong

[The following letter is in the file of Thomas Cotteral (or Cottrell, pension application S8242), evidently by mistake:]

Washington City Jan. 21st 1846

Dr Sir [J. L. Edwards Com. Pensions] I have been requested by the friends of James (not Jonathan)

Wamsley [James Wamsley S6323; see endnote], as well as those of John Cottrell, both of whom were Pensioners under the act of 1832, and stricken from the list by Mr Singleton, to bring their cases before Congress Before I do so, will you please examine their cases and see if they cannot be reinstated If they cannot, let me know the whys and wherefore

Respectfully Yours &c./ Jos Johnson

Rec'd Sept 3rd

Grass Land, Barbour County Va August 2th 1848,

Mr. David J Bishop, General Agent for pentions, I see a card that you have put out inviting those that has not the means of [illegible word] Instruction and have been unable to obtain from government their pentions that you are willing and desirous to attend to the investigations and prosecution of their claims for revolutionary pentions with promptness.

there are two cases in my neighbourhood, which stands in need of such services as you are willing to tender to the ignorant and unlearned. One is and old man by the name of John Cottrill, a bout 88 years of age who drew a pention in under the old Law for Regulars he drew for 10 years \$76 dollars per year. in under some new Law of Congress and some investigation to his claims he was unable to proove that he served as a regular in the Revolution war, but he did proove by some as good then as in the Country that he did serve 3 or 4 times as a Militia soldier and was at the surrender of Cornwallace, that he did serve nearly through all the war as substitute and also drafted. I written to Edwards, the pention agent, some four or five years ago in relation to his pention and how he was stricing off. he wrote to me that he was not entitled to draw in under the old Law as a regular, but he was in under the Act of 31 or 2 that he had received some 9 or 10 years pay under the old pention Law, and it would amount to more than he was entitled to up to the time I wrote to him, but his [he] is yet living, And his wife, And is verry poor, lives on the charity of one of his sons, who is also poor. I think he has received some small pitence from this County, but that has been taking from him, with out he would be kept in the poor house which he objects too, if you will under take his case you will find all his papers at the pention office, if you will examin his papers and see for yourself, And write to me about the subject, if you can do any thing that will reinstate him in the pention list. you shall be hansomely remunerated for you services. It would be but a verry short time till the pay would be over he is verry old and has lost his site, intirely blind. he is Justly entitled to draw something And I wish that Justice could be meeted out to him. it was the intention of the Law, and it is a grate pity that an old poor soldier should be ronged out of it;

The other case is a man of the name of Peter Ambler, he served in the last war with England or the war of 1812... [the rest not transcribed] ...I will pay all nessary Expenche that it will require in the pursuit of Each case. if you write back on the subject, your address will be grass Land P. office Harrison County, I have nothing more at present, but hope I will here from you— John Patton

Virginia, At a County Court held for the County of Taylor on the 27th day of January 1851.

On this day it was proved to the satisfaction of said Court that John Cottrill was once a revolutionary soldier of the United States and drew a pension as such and that he said John died on the 9th day of July 1850 intestate [see endnote]: and that he left the following children and heirs at law towit: Watson Cottrill. Elisha Cottrill, Barbara Cottrill and William Cottrill living and Jackson Cottrill who was then dead; and that the said John Cottrill died intestate and thereupon on motion of the above named Elisha Cottrill he had leave to qualify as the administrator of the said John Cottrill deceased on giving bond and security according to law,

In testimony of the foregoing being a correct copy from the records of Taylor County Court I as clerk of said Court, do hereto subscribe my name as said Clerk (and there being no seal of office provided for or furnished me) and affix my private seal in Pruntytown in my said County of Taylor this Eighth day of February 1851.

C. W. Newlon Clerk {LS}

State of Virginia }
Taylor County } S.S.

On this 24th day of March 1851, personally appeared in open court Elisha Cottrill, the son and Administrator of John Cottrill deceased, a resident of Barbour County and State aforesaid, who lives near the line of his county, and makes this declaration in Taylor County because it is more convenient to do so than in his own county, and especially so to his agent & attorney, aged forty two years, who being first duly sworn according to law, before the County court of Taylor County in the State of Virginia, now in session, doth on his oath make the following declaration and statement in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That his Father, the said John Cottrill was pensioned under the act of March 18th 1818, and from an unjust suspicion of fraud, he, with many others, was stricken from the Pension roll. That his father, the said John Cottrill deceased, served as set forth in his declaration & other papers on file in this Pension office. That the said John Cottrill never was pensioned under the act of 7th June 1832, that the said John Cottrill when a pensioner lived in the County of Harrison in the State aforesaid, but that for some seven years before his death he resided in Barbour County aforesaid, where he died on the 9th day of July 1850.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension, except the present or the arrearage that may be due the said John Cottrill deceased; and he declares that the name of his father, the said John Cottrill, is not, nor was not upon the pension Roll of any Agency in any State whatever.

Elisha Cottrill Administrator & Son

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

State of Virginia } to wit
Harrison County }

On the 23^d day of December 1833 personally appeared before me Jacob Coplin a justice of the peace for the county and state aforesaid John Cottrill in the 72 year of his age who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain his Bounty Land from the State of Virginia and from the united States That he enlisted in a company of infantry commanded by Capt William Johnson of the 4th Virginia Regiment [see endnote] and served 2 years and again he enlisted during the war of the Revolution and is inscribed on the pension roll of the Virginia agency at the rate of Eight dollars per month he further states that he knows of no one living whos testimony he can adduce in support of his claim all of [those with] whome he served is either dead or their place of residence to him unnown. he would refer to the war department where his [undeciphered word] is on file at Wasington City this applicant further states that he has never sold or transferd to any person his Bounty Land



Sworn to this 23 day of December 1833

[signed] Jacob Coplin JP

Know all men by these presents that I, John Cottrill Late a Soldier in the army of the revolution have and by these presents do constitute and appoint Walldo P. Goff [Waldo P. Goff, state senator] esq of Harrison County state of Virginia my attorney for me and in my name to ask demand and receive from the government of Virginia and from the government of the united states my Land Bounty as a Soldier of the revolutionary army hereby ratifying and confirming whatsoever my said attorney Shall do or appoint any person to do in and about the primises as fully as though I had personally done the same witness my hand and seal this 23^d day of December 1833

Witness present

G Kayser

David C. Coplin

State of Virginia Harrison County To Wit

Be it known on the 23^d day of December 1833 before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the



County and state aforesaid personally appeared John Cottrill above named and acknowledged the above to be his act and Deed In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand the day and year aforesaid
[signed] Jacob Coplin JP

Waldo P Goff Esqr

Dear Sir I wish you to present this to the office and lett me know if any thing is rong and oblige yours &c
Resptfully your obt s't/ [signed] Jacob Coplin

I am well acquainted with the above named John Cottrill, and know that he is a pensioner of the United States, as above stated, under the act of 18th March 1818. W P Goff

NOTES:

“Colo Harrison in the line of the State of Virginia on the Contenental establishment” evidently refers to Col. Charles Harrison of the 1st Virginia Regiment of Continental Artillery. I could find no record of a Capt. William McGuire in that regiment, but there are references to two Lieutenants named William McGuire in the regiment. One Lt. William McGuire was captured at the Siege of Charleston on 12 May 1780, according to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the Revolutionary War*, and he would have remained a prisoner until the summer of 1781. The other Lt. William McGuire described his service in his application for bounty land (BLWt1522-200). Chapman Poindexter (W26327) stated that “William McGuire was lieutenant in [William] Bentley's company and after Captain Bentley and myself and others were taken prisoners it may be that McGuire was elected Captain.” Poindexter and Bentley were captured in the summer of 1781, however, after Cottrill said he enlisted under Capt. William McGuire.

The is no record of a Capt. William Johnson in the 4th Virginia Continental Regiment as claimed by Cottrill in his application for bounty land.

Davisson stated in his deposition of 20 Oct 1826 that Cottrill returned from service in the South and was taken into militia service before the Siege of Yorktown. Cottrill also stated in the pension application of Anderson Corbin (W6739) that he had served a militia tour with Corbin from April through October 1781. This claim cannot be reconciled with the claim that Cottrill was in the Continental army for the four years preceding the close of the war, which was formally in November 1783.

“Mr. Singleton” referred to in the letter of 14 Jan 1839 was Washington G. Singleton, a District Attorney who in 1834 investigated numerous fraudulent pension applications from Harrison, Lewis, and other counties. In many instances Jonathan Wamsley or another agent changed the declaration of service without the knowledge of the applicant. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth, S6111, for details. Jacob Coplin was one of those apparently involved in fraudulent claims.

The federal census of Barbour County dated 21 Sep 1850 (after John Cottrill was said to have died) lists the following household:

Elisha Cottrill	44	Farmer value of real estate \$1400 [wife and eight children listed]
John Cottrill	87	Farmer [nothing in column headed “Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.”]
Elizabeth	73	