

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Edmund Gatewood S6870

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia County of Caroline Sct

Edmund Gatewood a resident of the County of Caroline and state of Virginia came into open Court this day and being sworn according to Law doth upon his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Law of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 for the relief of the officers & soldiers of the Revolutionary War. That in the year 1779 he was drafted at the Bowling Green Caroline County by a regular draft upon the Militia of his County & was attached to the company commanded by Captain Anthony New to serve for three months. That he went from the Bowling Green directly to Williamsburg and marched up and down James River, Camped at Burwell's Ferry [near Carter's Grove], Returned then to Williamsburg where he remained until discharged. He was attached to the Regiment of Virginia Militia commanded by Col. [Anthony] Thornton. In the same year (1779) he was drafted again in the fall season & marched with the Company of Militia from Caroline County commanded by Capt Jamieson [or Jameson]. He marched to Port Royal with the intention of going on to the Potowmac [sic: Potomac River] but did not reach it, because the enemy had left it. This draft was for three months, but he does not exactly recollect how long he was out this time, but supposes at least sixty days. In the year 1780 he was again drafted in the Militia of his County and was attached to the company from his County commanded by Capt. James Sutton for a tour of three months. He marched first to Richmond where they joined that Regiment of Virginia Regulars commanded by Col Meriwether, Major Magill & McClumond [probably Christian Charles de Klauman]. They marched on from Richmond down the James River to Minses Ferry where they crossed over & stoped at Mackeys Mills where they camped & remained some time. the moved from thence up the James River to a place called Cabin point [in Surry County] where they staid some time. We went from thence to Petersburg where we were discharged having performed the whole tour of three months.

In the year 1781 he was again drafted from his County by a regular draft upon the Militia for another tour of three months and was attached to the company commanded by Capt Daniel Coleman They marched first to Williamsburg. They stoped at the place called the "Burnt Ormary" [sic: Burnt Ordinary 8 mi NW of Williamsburg] where they were joined by the Marquis La Fayette [Marquis de Lafayette] and the third Virginia Regiment commanded by Col. Matthews [Mathews]. General Phillips [British General William Phillips] was then lying in York river. He landed his forces & came to Williamsburg [20 Apr 1781], afterwards he went to old James Town. The Marquis Lafayette supposing he (Phillips) had crossed the James River sent down some troops to meet him & take his baggage, but he had not crossed the river. Our men met with the British Centinel who was killed. then the whole of the British army came out and formed a line for battle this side of James Town, and a slight engagement took place some three or four rounds being fired on each side. [see endnote] It was said 42 of our men were killed & wounded. We retreated then back to the "Burnt Ormary." In this engagement one of my old school mates who was near me was wounded, & his next man was killed. We moved from the "Burnt Ormary" to Savage old fields on the Chickahomini [sic: Chickahominy River] where we laid one night. We drew our provisions next morning and left it on the field, the enemy being so close upon us. We marched to Richmond & stoped on the Hill where the Capitol now stands. Whilst we here Corn Wallace [sic: Cornwallis] arrived from the South & stoped in Manchester & set the warehouses on fire & burnt them [see endnote]. He endeavored to cross over at Couth's ferry to Richmond. The Marquis Lafayette played upon them so powerfully with his cannon that he drove them back. He went down the James river with his army and crossed at four mile creek [Fourmile Creek in Henrico County] He was joined by General Phillips [sic] & the men under his command instead of coming up to meet us at Richmond they took the road to Hanover Town & went up as far as Hanover Court house the Marquis thought they were heading him and he moved with the American army on the road towards Hanover Court house about ten miles. Then he cut a road through the

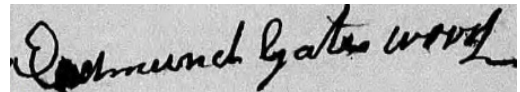
woods & entered into the river road next to James river which led to the Point of Fork [at present Columbia]. Then he took a right hand road to Ground Squirrel bridge [on South Anna River 20 mi NNW of Richmond]. Then he marched in to Negro foot [in Hanover County], and took the Orange road to Dandridges old field where we camped [21 mi from Richmond]. We went on from thence to Raccoon ford [on Rapidan River] in Orange County where we again camped until we were met by General Wayne with his army [Anthony Wayne, 10 June]. After we were reinforced by Gen'l Wayne and his army we turned upon the Enemy & pursued them by the same track we had been travelling. When we arrived at New Kent Court house we were so close upon the enemy that we routed them from their slaughter pen & pursued them down to Williamsburg. On several successive mornings we had slight engagements until the enemy retreated into little York [Yorktown, 1 Aug]. He will here state that when he was in orange he was transfered from the company of Capt Daniel Coleman to the company commanded by Capt Clarke, and was dischared with him this side of Williamsburg having gone through his whole tour of three months and more.

The field officers whom he knew were Marquis Lafayette Col Matthews Gen'l Wayne, Major Magill McClumond & Col Thornton.

I am well known to Wm. W Dickinson Henry C Coleman Col Fleming Terrill and Atwell C. Coleman of this County

I served in the Revolution with Benjamin Hurt Robert Wright [S6450] Wm Harris [William Harris possibly S6954], & Wm Southworth [William Southworth W6141] of this County who are now alive I am now more than 70 years of age by my register now in my possession. I was born in the County of Caroline on the 15th Sept 1762 and have lived in the same all my life except about ten years in which I was engaged in the regular service of my Country during & since the late war.

I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state and I do hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edmund Gates Wood". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

NOTES:

I could find no account of a skirmish near Jamestown between the time Lafayette arrived in Richmond from the north on 29 April 1781 and Gen. William Phillips's death from typhoid at Petersburg on 13 May. Gatewood may have been confused with the Battle of Green Springs Plantation on 6 July 1781.

Cornwallis passed near Richmond from the south in late May. The warehouses at Manchester had already been burned in late April.