

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Monongalia, Harrison, and other counties in present West Virginia. For details see my appendix in pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

William Ford. draws \$80—

Charles Shaw aged upwards of 70 has known Wm. Ford for many years. they were in the army together during the war of the Revolution – they went from Fauquir County to Richmond, WilliamsBerg & York town & were the Siege of York & surrender of Cornwallis and went on to Winchester with the Prissoners – this was a six months tour. – knows of no other service done by Ford – but has often heard him say years ago – that he served one other tour of two years – a nother of eighteen months and a nother of six months – in all four tours and he has no doubt of the fact because Ford did not like to work. he preferred being in the army –

Henry Ford of Monongalia County, Brother of William – a younger Brother (ten children between them) states that his Brother William done four tours of duty during the war of the revolution and one after the Whiskey boys [Whiskey Rebellion of 1794] –

I the undersigned William Ford at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my revolutionary services to Wit – I am seventy some odd years old – I was 17 or 18 yrs. old when Cornwallis surrendered – in the year in which Burgoins army was taken (cant tell the year) [sic: see endnote] I was drafted & marched under Capt. William Kinchelin [sic: William Kincheloe] from Fauquir cty to Nolens Ferry [sic: Nolands Ferry on Potomac River] and went from there to Albemarl as one of the guards of Burgoins Prissoners – was drafted for 3 mo. but remained in service for forty days at least before discharged. this service was done when I was in my fourteenth year of age, of this I am confident

In the succeeding spring (two years before Cornwallis was taken (cant say in what year) I volunteered in Fauquier county for six months and marched under Capt. William Jennings to Dumfreys – Joined the Regt. dont recollect the number of the Regt. nor the name of the Colonel. – Went to Richmond from thence to Williamsburg. thence to Wilsons Camp on the James River, thence back to Williamsburg, thence to Hampton, thence to Horn Point and back to Richmond and Williams Camp. near the latter place got my discharge. in all this time there was in but the one Regt Cant recollect the names of any other officers along except my captain – in this time I was not more than fifteen years old – in this matter I cant be mistaken –

directly after my return home I Enlisted under Capt Elias Edmonds of Fauquier for one year. Joined the Regt. at Dumfreys. Col. Frank Triplett [Francis Triplett] commanded the Regt. – the Regt went the same Rout detailed in the preceding tour. this was called the State Service. Served out the tour of 12 mos. and got my discharge at Williams Camp the same place mentioned in the last preceding touer – I immediately and on the spot Enlisted for six months & remained in that region of country, in this latter I was wounded in the Hip by a ball between Williamsburg & the James River I was also at the Battle of York town & surrender of Cornwallis marched from there with the Prissoners to Winchester.

this comprises my services. Col. Jos. Johnson [Joseph Johnson] wrote my Declaration. gave him the same statement I now give. he charged me \$20. & I paid it –

In testimony that the statement is true I hereto subscribe my name.

Witness G Smith

William hisXmark Ford

Note. this man may be Honest – his narative does not tell all and there was something (Hesitancy Stamerling &c) in his manner that induced me to doubt – I am inclined to think he performed only one tour of six months but this opinion was founded more upon his manner than his statement; a comparison with his Declaration will settle all doubts.

W. G Singleton Nov. 17, 1834

Since writing the preceeding note I have had additional information from which I am induced to change my opinion – he may be Entitled – & his name may be found on the rolls if he did serve as he alleges.

W. GS.

Knottsville Monongalia County Virginia May 8th 1835

Sir [James L. Edwards Esq'r, Commissioner of Pensions], I Rec'd. the Letter that you wrote T. P. Ray Esqr. [Thomas P. Ray, Clerk of the Monongalia Court] Informing me that my name was dropped from the pension Roll of the agency of Virginia in consequence of my name Not being found on the Rolls of the Virginia State troops. [See endnote.] I think it a Strange Thing that my name cannot be found on some Roll, for I did serve my country in the Revolution under fore different Capts. whose Names are as Followeth Capt. William Kinchloe, Elias Edmondson afterwards promoted to Coln, William Jennings (or Jenny) and William Bales the Last Named Capt. I Was under at the time Cornwallis was taken, & from Whom I Recd a discharge, But by Misfortune it was Destroyed by fire. I was in the ingagement when corn Wallis was taken. I can prove my being in the Revolution by men who is now drawing pensions. I can also prove that I had a discharge by Respectable Witnesses. I wish you to Examine the Rolls again and see If my name cannot be found. I do not with to be considered troublesome by making the Request, for I do know that under the Law My claim is Just. Perhaps The names of the officers is not spelt correctly But you can Discover who they are in the way I have given them. I hope you will Examine again & send me a Letter informing me of the Result. By so doing you will very much oblige one Who is Kneedy & your Humble serv't.

William Ford

[The following is in the file of Charles Shaw, undated.]

J. L. Edwards }
Comm'r of pensions }

Sir I am importuned day after day by the rejected pensioners in this region — I will now mention 2 cases of rejection which I most concieniously believe are entiteled to the full am't which they were drawing To wit Ch's Shaw of this County & Wm Ford of Monongalia County — I in person examined Shaw & reported his case to Mr. Shington [sic: Singleton] when I examined him, he gave me a clear and ful detail of his servises — Such an one as he could not given had he not done the service — he is a simple & honest old man. — you informed me that he states in his declaration that he was drafted for 6 months &c — he stated to me that he was a substitute for George Johnson &c — he has lately been to see me, I have againe examined him, he gives me the same narative he did before — I then asked him why he had stated in his declaration that he was drafted — he then said he was drafted to go for Johnson &c — the old man did not know the meaning of the Two terms — draft — substitue — That is he thought both words meant the same thing — he says his agent who got him on the pension roll asked him if he was drafted & he told him he was — did not tell him he had gone in the place of Johnson

Wm Ford I did not examine him, I recollect that Mr Singleton told me that Fords mind was much impairid, that he had not given him a satisfactory narative &c &c — I am told by many that it is notorious that Ford served a greater part of the war — that there is 2 or 3 persons now living who know him, & know of his service — It is said that he proved his service when he made his declaration — his friends have come over some 3 or 4 times from Mononglia to get me to go and examin witnesses in his Fords behalf, they say that the witnesses are to infirm to travel &c &c — or they would fetch them to this place — from what I hear, I doubt not in the least, but that Ford should be returned on the pension list — I hope you will reaviewing[?] the two above cases

Very Respectfully your obt svt Nathan Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg]

Harrison County Virginia

This 12th Day of January 1836 Personally appeared before me F Burdett a Justice of the peace in and for said County Charles Shaw and having been first sworn saith as follows to wit

That he was well acquainted with William Ford the man now applying for a Pention that him self and said Ford then Resided in Fauquir County Virginia say when cornwallis was taken at Little york Virginia he says he cant Recollect the Date but says he is certain that said Ford served a Tower of six months at the Siege of Little york or there and on the Road there to and from there Garding Prisoners to the Barracks at Wenchester Virginia. There he Ford Recd. a Discharge he also says that Ford served

under Colonel Elias Edmonds & Further this deponent saith not Charles hisXmark Shaw
[On the same day Elisha Ford, Sr., about 54, deposed that he had known William Ford for 40 years, had read three separate discharges, and believed they were burned in a house fire. On 22 Feb 1836 Henry Ford deposed that William Ford served “one six month tour of duty under Captain Jannings, & one other six months tour of duty under Capt. Bailess & three other tours of six months each. On 22 Mar 1836 Nathan Goff sent all these depositions to J. L. Edwards.]

Prunty Town 17th Jan’y 1838

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States

Your memorialist a citizen of the County of Harrison and State of Virginia humbly represent that he has been struck from the pension role of the United States. I therefore pray to be reinstated, on said role if found worthy, and further begs to refer your honours to the letters of Nathan Goff the District deputy Martial for this district and to proofs of several others all of which are lodged in the pension office at the City of Washington or Richmond V.A. and as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c
William hisXmark Ford

25th CONGRESS, 3d Session.Rep. No. 70.HO. OF REPS.

WILLIAM FORD.

{To accompany bill H. R. No. 948.}

JANUARY 2, 1839.

Mr. J. JOHNSON [the same Joseph Johnson who wrote Ford’s declartion], from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to which was referred the petition of William Ford, report:

That it appears from information derived from the Pension Office, that the petitioner was placed on the roll of revolutionary pensioners under the act of 1832, at the rate of eighty dollars per annum; that he was afterwards stricken therefrom in consequence of his name not appearing on the roll of revolutionary soldiers.

The following is the substance of the testimony adduced in support of the claim: James Woodyard states, on oath, that he has seen and read a discharge in the possession of the applicant, discharging him from the service under Colonel Edmonds; that since that time, the house and effects of the applicant have been burnt; and he understood that all his papers were destroyed at the same time.

Charles Shaw and George Ford testify that they were soldiers in the revolutionary war; that they served in company with the applicant, under the command of Colonel Edmonds, who was discharged in the fall of 1781.

Elisha Ford states that he resided in the family of the applicant; has seen and heard read three separate discharges for distant tours of duty in the revolutionary war; and that the applicant had his house and effects destroyed by fire.

Henry Ford states that he is 72 years of age, and that he knows that William Ford, the applicant, served one six months’ tour under Captain Jannings, and one other six months’ tour under Captain Bailiss, and three other tours, commanded by officers whose names he does not recollect.

Mary Woodyard states that she is 80 years of age; that she was acquainted with William Ford during the war; and that he (Ford) served five different tours in the army; that he was at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown; that his house has since been destroyed by fire, together with his effects.

The above witnesses are certified to be credible persons, and the signature of the magistrate genuine.

The committee report a bill placing the name of the applicant on the pension-roll, at the rate of twenty dollars per annum.

War Department Pension Office Feb. 25, 1839

Sir [Hon. Thomas Morris Senate U. States], The papers in the cases of John Davis [probably pension application W8654] and William Ford are herewith returned.

My letter of the 29th of June 1836 to the Secretary of War, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, will shew why John Davis's pension has been reduced.

In the case of William Ford I have to inform you that he was pensioned upon the evidence contained in his own affidavit and the evidence required by the rules of 1832; but on reviewing the case in 1835, it was discovered that his name was not on the rolls of State Troops. Proof such as the enclosed rules direct (vide Note j in the printed sheet [see endnote]) was required, and such proof has not been produced. He also stated that he served in the militia in tours of six months each, but the allegation is discredited by the fact that no militia were drafted for so long a period. For these reasons his his pension has been stopped.

I have the honor to be Very respectfully your Obt. Servt. J. L. Edwards

State of Virginia

Harrison County to wit:

Personally came before me E J Armstrong a Justice of the Peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Nuton Ford, Wm. Warder, and John Warder who being duly sworn make the following statement, viz. That William Ford late of the County aforesaid died on the fourth day of July A.D. 1839 That they were acquainted with said Ford for a number of years previous to his death, and that the deceased had ten children, Elisha Ford, Elizabeth, who married Andrew Miller, Mary, wife of Lewis Woodyard, Lucy, wife of John Ford, Nancy, wife of James Williams, Sally wife of Isaac Trader, Catharine wife of Josiah Wilson, William Ford, Anna, wife of Solomon Husted, & Cynthia Ford, four of whom to wit, William, Lucy, Anna & Cynthia, many years ago, (perhaps fifteen), moved to the Western Country, and have not been heard from for ten years, or upwards, and that if they are still living it is in parts unknown to the affiants or to the connexions of said persons, – the rest of the children of the deceased, to wit Elisha, Elizabeth, Mary, Nancy, Sally & Catharine all reside in Harrison and Monongalia Counties in the state aforesaid

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 29 day of July A.D. 1839 E J Armstrong JP N.B. Elizabeth, who married Andrew Miller, has been Dec'd. about fifteen years, who has three Children. To wit Wm. James & Margaret.

I do Certify that the statement in relation to Elizabeth Miller was made before Sworn To
E J Armstrong

Pruntytown, February 26th 1851

S. Godwin Esqr.

Believing that my Father, William Ford, of Monongalia County, was many years ago, to wit about 1834, improperly stricken from the Pension Roll, this is to request & authorize you to prosecute the claim of his heirs to any balance that may have accrued against the day of his death and which may now be due his heirs.

The proof as to the day of his death &c. is herewith submitted, to be filed &c.

Test Very respectfully Your Obt Serv't
L S Johnson Elisha hisXmark Ford Adm[inistrato]r.

[The following are from [bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#) filed under Elijah (Elisha) Ford.]

I do Certify that Elijah Ford did Inlist in my Company in The Third Virginia Rig't. about the Seventh of March seventeen hundred and seventy six & Continued till about the first of Seventy seven & then Died.

Capt. John Ashby/ 3rd Virgi'a Regt



State of Virginia } To wit
Harrison County }

On this 25th day of December in the year A.D. 1834 before me J N Woodford a justice of the peace of the County aforesaid personally came William Ford aged between Seventy five & Eighty years and Henry Ford aged about Seventy or 75 years who being first duly sworn doth on theaer oaths depose and say that they ware well acquainted with Elisha Ford and Barrack Williams of the County of Fauquier & state aforesaid and know that they ware Regular Soldiers in the war of the Revolution and that they ware Regularly Enlisted in the aforesaid County of Fauquier under Capt John Ashby for three years in the year of 1777 deponents further state that the aforesaid soldiers Ford and Williams died in the service after serving two years & that theaer deaths took place within some short time of each other deponants further state that they ware well acquainted with George Ford a Soldier of the Revolution & that he enlisted under Capt West in the year [blank] for the whole term of the war and was killed in the sevice accidently in Alexandria Virginia by John Delap (by shooting). deponents further state that they ware also well acquainted with Henry Williams & that he also enlisted during the war to serve to the end of and was marched into North Carolina and was killed in Battle at General Gates Defeat [defeat of Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] deponents further state that said Henry Williams enlisted to serve to the end of the War in Berkley [sic: Berkeley] County Virginia & further these deponents sayeth not Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and year first above written [signatures cut off from online image]

Harrison County }
State of Virginia } To Wit

On this 25th day of Dec'r. in the year A.D. 1834 before me J N Woodford a justice of the peace of the County aforesaid personally came Mary Woodyard aged between Seventy & Seventy eight years as she has no record of her age who being first duly sworn doth on her Oath depose & say that she was personally acquainted with Elisha Ford & Barrack Williams of the County of Fauquier & State aforesaid and knew that they ware regular soldiers in the war of the Revolution and that they Ford & Williams enlisted under Capt John Ashby in the said County of Fauquier for three years & died in the service after serving upwards of two years deponent further states that she saw them swear in deponant further states that George Ford was an Enlisted Soldier in the war of the Revolution & served in the Virginia line deponant further states that further Henry Williams was also an enlisted soldier in the war of the Revolution further this deponant sayeth not Sworn to and subscribed before me this day & year first above written
Mary herXmark Woodyard

The State of Virginia
Harrison County to Wit

on this the 26th of December in the year AD 1834 Before Me J N Woodford a Justice of the peace in and For the County afore said personally came Elizabeth Yates who Being Duly Sworn doth on Her oath Depose and say that she deponant was well acquainted with a certain Elisha Ford of Fauquire County and State of Virginia and knows that he did Inlist in the Revolutionary War under Captain John Ashbey the deponant States that she has forgotten How Long he the said Ford Inlisted for or how long he served In the War for he Died In Servis She Deponant says at the time of the said Elisha Fords Inlistment she deponant was in her 16th or 17th year of age Further Deponant saith Not
Elizabeth herXmark Yates

State of Virginia }
Harrison County } To wit

Be it known that on the 24 day of January in the year A.D. 1835 personally appeared before me [F. Burdett J.P.] Henry Warder, William Ford & John C Woodyard Heirs at law of Elisha Ford & Barrack Williams who they believe from the depositions of the witnesses accompanying the memorial was Regular Soldiers of the war of the Revolution & enlisted under Capt. John Ashby in the County of Fauquier & that they are entitled to bounty land and pay from the Commonwealth of Virginia & they believe that there has never been any land drawn or pay for the services of the said Ford and Williams

We also heirs at Law of of George Ford and Henry Williams do believe from the accompanying deposition was Regularly enlisted Soldiers for and during the term of the war of the Revolution and that we believe the said Henry Williams enlisted in Berkley County Virginia and that we believe that we are entitled to bounty land and pay from the Commonwealth of Virginia & we further believe that the above named Soldiers never drew any land nor balance of pay for their services and we as the heirs of the said Soldiers never have drawn any land or balance of pay that may be dew for the services of the aforesaid Soldiers in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & affixed our seals this day & year first above written William hisXmark Ford [signed] John C woodyard Henry hisXmark Warder

NOTES:

Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered his troops at Saratoga on 17 Sep 1777, but the prisoners were not brought to Albemarle Barracks in Virginia until early in 1779.

Requiring that the names of applicants appear on muster or payrolls was contrary to the Pension Office's own procedures, which recognized that such rolls were seldom kept except for Continental troops. All that was required as proof for militia, volunteers, and state troops were witnesses or the sworn statements of two neighbors that the applicant was honest and believed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier of the Revolution. The officers named by William Ford were generally from the Fauquier County Militia.

Note j of the regulations reads as follows: "In a case where the name of the applicant is not found on the records of the Department, he must prove his services by two credible witnesses who are required to set forth in their affidavits the time of the claimant's entering the service, and the time and manner of his leaving the same, as well as the regiment, company, and line to which he belonged. The magistrate who may administer the oaths must certify to the credibility of the witnesses... **The proof required by rule in note [j] applies to continental troops only.**" [Emphasis added.]

Edwards was also incorrect in asserting that militia tours were always for three months each.

William Ford, Henry Warder, and John C Woodyard appointed their state Senator, Waldo P. Goff, to be their attorney in the application for state bounty land.

On 4 Feb 1833 Jesse Ford (S31035) successfully applied for a federal pension stating that his Captain, John Ashby, always called him Elisha Ford. The circumstances suggest fraud by either Jesse Ford in pretending to be Elisha Ford, or by the supposed heirs of Elisha or Elijah Ford.