

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Northcraft S8920

MD [VA]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Maryland Ss }
Allegany County to wit } on this 14th of December 1835, personally appeared before Walter Bevans a justice of the peace of said county Edward Northcraft aged near 78 years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of congress passed June 7, 1832

That he entered the service of the United States about the first of May 1776 in the flying camp in the company under Capt. Benj'n Speaker in Col Charles Griffiths Shyock 2^d Col. regiment Gen Beal's Brigade [sic: Capt. Benjamin Spyker in Col. Charles Griffith's regiment, Henry Shryock Lt. Col., in Gen. Reazin Beall's Brigade] & served in it to the 10th of Dec'r. following when he was discharged at Philadelphia. He was during this tour 1st Sergeant.

He then volunteered and went back to Washington's army on the Delaware and joined Captain Henry Gaither's company of the Maryland line, under Col. Stone [John Hoskins Stone], was at the Battle of Trenton about the 25 Dec'r [26 Dec 1776] also at the affair near Princeton [probably skirmish at Assumpink Creek, 2 Jan 1777] and afterwards went with the army to Morristown. Here he left Captain Gaither's company who were musket men and joined a rifle company, as he had brought a rifle with him from Fredericktown [Frederick] Md. He was in a brush at Springfield and a wethersfield, in the former he was shot in the leg. About August or September 1777 left the jerseys went to Philadelphia then to Newport, after engaged the enemy near Chadds ford on the Brandywine and were defeated [Battle of Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777]; then retreated, had a skirmish on the Skippack road, and there was wounded in the right thigh by a spent ball, he then went with the army to near Germantown, where our army was again defeated about the 4th October [4 Oct 1777] and to Valley Forge. Thus ended the campaign of 1777 Applicant remained in the army and was mostly on scouting – foraging Expeditions till the British army left Philadelphia [18 Jun 1778] and then continued still in the army till the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] where his was again shot just above the right ankle and disabled, and remained lame till in August when he was discharged and returned home

In May 1781 when Cornwallis was advancing through Virginia applicant Volunteered in the Md. militia went to Georgetown, but soon left the company for [undeciphered word] in his absence Jno. Nicholas capt [John Nicholas, pension application S46397] & his Uncle Thomas Lieutenant [Thomas Nicholas]. He immediately crossed in Va joined a volunteer company on their march to Williamsburg, where they arrived about the middle of June to the best of his memory. not a great way from Green Spring [6 mi SW of Williamsburg] he joined the army under Lafayette. He continued in the army under Lafayette Governor [Thomas] Nelson General Weeden [sic: George Weedon] in its various operations till Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown about the 17th or 18th October [sic: 19 Oct 1781] Applicant here again volunteered to go as a guard over the prisoners to Frederick town Md and in this last tour he served six months; he was first Sergeant but did the duty of Lieutenant; he was promised a commission but never got it. In his service in the Summer of 1777 he acted about two months as Insign [sic: Ensign] but had no commission. at all other times he was first sergeant He hereby relinquis every claim to a pension except the presence and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

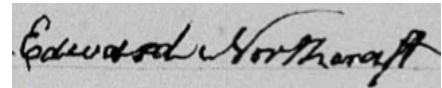
Walter Bevans

Questions by the justice

1st where and what year were you born?

Ans. In Montgomery county Md. 18th August 1758. I have a record of my have at my own home

Qu. 2^d where were you living when called into the service where have you lived since the revolution, and where do you now live?



An. When called into service I was living in Montgomery Md. I remained there till 1794, then removed to Sharpsburg lived there about nine years, then lived five years in Pennsylvania then moved to where I now which is on the line between Washington & Allegany counties Md. about 40 west of Hagerstown

Qu. 3^d How were you called into service.

An. I always volunteered except the time I joined the flying camp. that was called an enlistment.

Qu. 4th did you ever receive a discharge if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

An. I had a regular discharge for each term; they were I think each signed by my col. I threw away long since

Qu. 5. State the names of some of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution

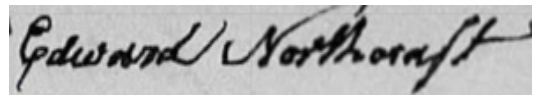
Ans. George Rizer and Charles Norris

Qu. 6. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served: such continental or Militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service

I well remember Gen'ls Washington, Putnam, Wayne, Smallwood, Lee & Stephens Green &c [George Washington, Israel Putnam, Anthony Wayne, William Smallwood, Charles Lee, Nathanael Greene]. The first campaign I served mostly about New York the white Plains & in New Jersey; the other I have stated in detail

Swon to and subscribed the above date

Walter Bevans JP

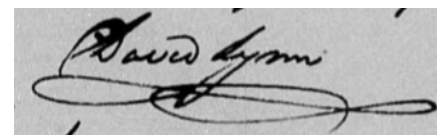


Edward Northcraft who represents himself to have been a Soldier of the revolution has applied to me for a Certificate of his services, he states that he served in the Maryland flying camp in the year 1776 as a Sergeant in Capt. Spykers Comp'y. that Greenberry Gaither [W8840] & Rich'd Anderson [Richard Anderson S10059] were Lieuts. in the same Compny & that the Reg't. was Com'd. by Col Charles G Griffith & Lieut. Col Shryock. that the Comp'y was raised & rendezoused at the house of the Capt. in Montgomery County then marched to Fred. through Lancaster to Phil'a. where the Reg't. was formed they then march to the City of New York & joined Gen'l. Washingtons Army & was on the Island when the Brititsh Army took possession of the City [21 Nov 1776], that the Maryland flying Camp was stationed some weeks near Fort Washington & then marched to the White Plains & was in the field the day of the battle [28 Oct 1776], at that place, & then marched with the Army in the retreat through Jersey into Pensyl'a.

The above I know to be a correct statement, I was an officer from Mont'y County in the same Reg't. & say these services were so performed & tho I have no recollection of the person of Edw'd Northcraft at this time I must believe he was with the army during the Campaign of 1776 or it would have been impossible for him to have given so correct a statement. The officers in the flying Camp was appointed in April or May 1776 each to enlist a certain No of men & the dates of their Commissions depended on when the recruits were raised, but each Soldier may claim from the day he enlisted.

David Lynn [W9151]

June 20, 1834



Berkeley Springs Morgan county Va. 6 Jan'y 1836

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

Enclosed is the declaration of old Mr Northcraft for a pension with an accompanying paper.

His statement is pretty much in detail, but if I had written all he told of his services, it would have taken sheets of paper. He was very minute about the incidents at Trenton, the creek Senapink (I think he called it) the affair at Princeton, where they took 300 prisoners, "but (to use his own words) "suffered but

little, except we lost the brave General Mercer” [Hugh Mercer, Battle of Princeton NJ, 3 Jan 1777]

His details in the other parts of his campaigns were equally minute, and I thought too prolix to be inserted verbatim; he told of a wound in the elbow got near Valley forge; made me feel the indent caused by a shot in his thigh; he offered before the Magistrate to show the scars of his other wounds; he went very minutely to describe his campaign thro’ Virginia, named the counties he marched thro’, Gloucester point; where they opened the trenches upon Cornwallis at York &&.

I thought it unnecessary to be some minute; I found from his statement, that it corresponded with matters of fact, and when he was in error as to a day or two (such as the battle at Trenton and the surrender of Cornwallis) I did not correct him, thinking it improper to meddle with his own statement more than to condense it & put it in form.

Mr. Northcraft was advised to apply to me to frame his declaration: He lives in another state, but about equidistant between Hagerstown and Cumberland, a distance each of about 40 miles, yet not further than 12 miles from this place. I was the nearest professional man he could send for, besides our neighbors know that I have frequently done business of this kind and am acquainted with the forms.

With one more remark I am done. In turning the paper I nearly tore the sheet in two. The justice Col. Bevans who was in attendance said he could not wait to have it copied, as he had left his wife very sick; so necessity obliged us to put up with the present ill looking paper.

When you have had time to pass upon the matter, Please let me know the result.

Yours Respectfully/ Henry A. Byrne

Land Office, Annapolis, February 15th 1836;

I hereby Certify, that it appears by the Returns of the “Flying Camp,” remaining in this office, That the name of Edward Northcraft, appears upon the muster roll of Captain Spykers Company to have served, or been enrolled in said Company in the “Flying Camp,” in 1776,

George G. Brewer
Reg’t. L’d. Off. W. S. Md.

War Department/ Pension Office/ Feb. 18, 1836

Sir [Henry A. Byrne, Esq’r], The papers in the case of Edward Northcraft, of Maryland, have been examined. The Flying Camp did not serve more than six months. There is evidence of his having served in said corps, but his rank does not appear. Unless proof of his having been appointed a Sergeant, and of his service as such, can be exhibited, he cannot be allowed a pension for said service at a higher rate than that of a private. His services in 1777 and 1778 cannot be allowed without such proof as is required in note j [see endnote] in the enclosed printed sheet. The militia served in tours of short duration, not more than three months actual service can be recognized as having been performed in 1781. He can therefore be allowed a pension on the papers now on file, for nine months service, at the rate of a private’s pay.

I am respectfully/ Your Obt. Servt./ J L Edwards

NOTES:

Note j of the regulations for administering the Pension Act of 1832 requires that where service as a Continental soldier is claimed but his name is not found on a roster, he must provide testimony of the time of his service from two witnesses.

On 29 March 1836 Northcraft was issued a certificate for a pension of \$30 per year for nine months service as a Private.