

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Holdcraft Norvell S9441 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 9 Dec 2020.

Commonwealth of Virginia Campbell County Sct.

On this 18th day do April 1818 before me the subscriber one of the Judges of the General Court, and Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit including the County of Campbell in the Commonwealth aforesaid personally appears Henry Holdcraft Norvell and being by me first sworn according to Law, upon his Oath makes the following statement in order that he may receive the provision made by the late act of Congress for certain personas who were engaged in the land & naval service of the United States during the revolutionary War – That in the year 1775 he enlisted for one year in the service aforesaid under Capt John Fleming [BLWt409-400] of the 1st Virginia Regiment – that before the expiration of the year, he enlisted with the same captain for three years in the Continental service. That Captain Fleming being killed in the battle at Princetown [Princeton NJ, 3 Jan 1777], Callohill Minnis [BLWt1507-300] succeeded to the Command of the Company – that he served the term for which he enlisted & was regularly discharged at Clove Camp in New Jersey [probably Smiths Clove Camp in Orange County NY] about the first of August 1779 – being at the time of his discharge a Serjeant in the said Captain Minnis' Company – That he is now in reduced circumstances, about sixty years old, resident of the town of Lynchburg in the County aforesaid, and needs the assistance of his Country for support, and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, except a copy of an order of Council of the State of Virginia whereby he is recognized as a serjeant of the Virginia Continental line for three years – That he was at the Battles of German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] – Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Stony Point [16 Jul 1779] and several other skirmishes —

State of Virginia Corporation of Lynchburg sct:

On this 9th day of June 1829, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record expressly declared to be such by the laws of the State, Henry H. Norvell, aged sixty one years & five months about the 1st of this month (June) residing in the corporation of Lynchburg who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. viz. In the latter end of the year 1775 he enlisted in Virginia under Capt. John Fleming belonging to the first Regiment (he supposes to be of the Virginia line) for one year, and in the August following enlisted for three years under the same Captain and in same Regiment in 1775 when he first enlisted Patrick Henry was Colonel of the Regiment, but before the expiration of the year of enlistment, the said Colo. Henry received some appointment in the State of Virginia [Governor, 6 Jul 1776] and was succeeded in command by Colonel Reid [sic: Isaac Read], under whom the Declarant marched for the Northern States. The Declarant never received any pension from any state, or from the Gen'l Government untill the pension granted by the Secretary of War on 16th October 1818. That the particular service and number of battles in which the declarant was engaged is particularly set forth in his original Declaration filed in the War Department and made on the 18th day of April 1818 and that the number of his pension Certificate is 3.649 – and the said Declarant further states that he is by trade a Carpenter, but being infirm, with the natural want of sight, and unable to employ assistants, he has been obliged to seek for small jobs of work to maintain his family, which consists of a wife very infirm, aged fifty nine years and eight months and named Mary – and three daughters Polly - Mary Ann and Eliza aged twenty two years 8 months, eighteen years 11 months - & sixteen years — And the Henry H. Norvell doth further solemnly swear that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or

securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed.

Schedule of real and personal estate.

One half acre lot in the South west part of the Town of Lynchburg with a framed house thereon 18 by 18 feet, neither lathed or plaistered ½ doz common windsor chairs ½ doz split bottom d[itt]o. 1 old maple bureau – 2 pine tables – 1 walnut case. 1 pine chest. – 1 pine & walnut press – candle stand – wash stand – all made by myself – 1 Iron pot. 2 ovens. 1 d’o without lid – about 1 doz. plates – 10 cups & saucers common kind – common tea pot – sugar dish and coffee mill – ½ doz common knives and forks – about 1 doz vols of books consisting of Bible Hymn books & other religious works – axe and his carpenters tools 1 old writing desk – 2 small pitchers – 2 old spinning wheels – pair of cotton cards & wool cards, eight common tea spoons

Henry H. Norvell

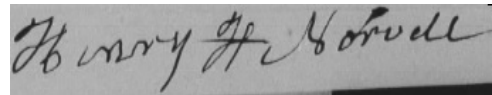
Sworn to and declared this 9th day of June 1820 before the Hustings Court for the corporation of Lynchburg then in session Teste. W. W. Norvell Clk

To the Honorable The Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

The Petition of Henry Norvell of the Town of Lynchburg and state of Virginia respectfully sheweth

That your Petitioner is one of the few surviving soldiers of the War which terminated in the Independence of these states and for the particulars, and duration of his services in that capacity he begs leave to refer your Honorable Bodies to the accompanying declaration on oath: which declaration is a copy of one which was heretofore [1829] made by him with the view of obtaining some pecuniary aid from the Government of the United States under a General act of Congress passed some years ago in reference to such subjects, but having wholly failed in that attempt, your petitioner has determined to throw himself upon the Justice, and Benevolence of your Honorable Bodies.

Your Petitioner is now in the Seventy Second year of his age possessed of no other estate or income than what is specified in the schedule annexed to the declaration before refered to and in addition to his own support has to provide for a helpless family consisting of four females. He has heretofore by a course of honest industry, and the most rigid economy been enabled to procure the common necessaries of life for himself, and his family, but now enfeebled by age (unless aided by his Country) he will in future be dependant for support on private charity, or the provisions made by the laws of his State for Paupers, either of which alternatives is equally Abhorrent to his feelings. He views with particular exultation the prosperity of his beloved Country, nor is that feeling qualified, or embittered by his own comparative poverty on the contrary he is emboldened to hope that out of the abundance with which his country is blessed, by a bountiful providence, your Honorable bodies as representing that Country, will contribute some small sum annually to cheer, and support him in his desolation, and distress, which he humbly prays, and as in duty bound &c.



[The petition is signed by approximately 150 citizens of Lynchburg.]

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

This is to Certify that Henry Holdcraft Norvell Sergeant of the [illegible] Virginia Reg't has faithfully servied the full Terme of his Inlistment in the Army of the united States of America which commenced on the first of Aug't 1776 and Ended on the first Day of Aug't 1779 being three yeares Service.

Given under my hand this 1st day of Aug Anno Domini 1779

P Muhlengberg BG [sic: Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850]

The original lodged in the auditors office P Mark

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Norvell, Holdcraft. The file also includes a power of attorney dated 13 April 1842 to Washington Norvell of Prince William County signed by Winfield Norvell as heir of Holdcraft H. Norvell and George Norvell. There are also papers from the federal Pension Office summarizing the claims of Henry Holdcraft Norvell (S9441) and George Norvell (S38267).]

State of Virginia Albemarle County towit

Personally appeared before me, the subscriber, a Justice of the peace for said County, Elizabeth Wingfield, who being duly qualified according to law, declared on oath, that to the best of her belief and knowledge, that Holdercraft H Norvell did serve in the war of the revolution, in the Virginia line, in continental service – that she has heard her parents say he did serve in said war (at what time she does not recollect) but she recollect when Tarlton came to Hanover [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, early June 1781], on his way to take the members of Legislature, at Charlottesville that said Holdercraft H Norvell was absent from home, and was said to be in the war – and so was his son George Norville in the war of the revolution at the same time, and in the same continental ranks with said Holdercraft H Norville. She knows that said Holdercraft H Norville was Father to Wingfield Norville, George Norville, John Norville, William Norville, Elizabeth Norville, Nancy Norville, and Mary Norville, all of who except said Wingfield Norville are dead long since, That George Norville died without issue, that Nancy also died without issue – that Elizabeth Norville married William Nimbo, whether he be dead or whether she left issue she does not know, that William Norville was married but she does not know of any issue, that John Norville was married and had issue, but she does not know their names, or whether any of them are now living. That Mary Norville had issue, Polly, Mary, and Eliza, but does not know whether any of them are now living. That said Wingfield Norville is the only living child of the said Holdercraft H Norville
Given from under the hand of the said Elizabeth Wingfield this day of 15th July 1842.

[signed] Elizabeth Wingfield

It appears from the papers herewith filed that Geo. Novel has received all that he was entitled to. Therefore the application is rejected. [Gov.] Jn. M. Gregory/ Dec'r 30th 1842

NOTE: On 25 June 1855 William Norvell, 48, of Bedford County, applied for the pension that would have been available to his father under the act of 1832 up to his death on 29 Dec 1846. Norvell stated that his father left no widow and only himself as child. John Adams and William Hewitt deposed that as militiamen they were in the military procession at William Norvell's funeral and burial on 30 Dec 1846.