

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Edward Houchins W11318 Nancy Houchins VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 May 2015.

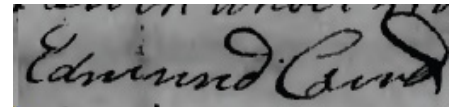
[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Goochland County]

To the Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of Edward Houchins respectfully Sheweth That in the Campaign of 1780 your petitioner was a Soldier in Capt. Edmund Curd's Company of Goochland Militia detached to join the Southern army and in the memorable action in which General [Horatio] Gates was defeated near Camden in South Carolina on the 16th of August rec'd a wound in his arm which so much disabled him that he could not return home til the 15th Nov'r. in the same year. That ever since that period he has been unable in consequence of said wound to procure a subsistence by means of labor with his own hands. Your petitioner being apprized of the provision which the liberality of his Country had afforded in favor of its Citizen Soldiers disabled by wounds rec'd in fighting her Battles did in the year 1787 procure the necessary vouchers to establish his claim to the publick bounty & put them into the hands of General John Guerrant who was at that time a representative from the County of Goochland for the purpose of supporting a petition then intended to be presented to the Legislature. That some time afterwards upon enquiry he was informed by Gen'l. Guerrant that the Vouchers alluded to were either lost or mislaid so that no step had been taken therein, and the officers by whome said vouchers were signed having shortly afterward removed to the state of Kentucky it was not in the power of your petitioner to obtain from them another certificate of his situation and his claim for a pension has consequently lain dormant. But Gen'l. Guerrant having lately found the Original Vouchers and your petitioner still remaining in the same disabled state and having in vain expended considerable sums of money to diferent Doctors & at diferent times to effect a cure and is now advanced to old age with a wife & Children dependent on his exertions for support Begs leave to appeal [to] your Hon'ble Body and relying on that liberality and Justice so often evinced by the Legislature of his Country in favor of disabled Soldiers in similar circumstances and as the cause of your petitioners delay in making application was occasioned by accident not within his control prays that your Hon'ble house will now take his case into consideration and grant him such allowance for the past and future time as to you may seem Just & reasonable, and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

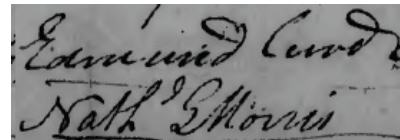
December 1805

I do Certify that Ed'wd Houchins was a Soldier in my Company of Militia from Goochl'd to the S'Ward in Gen'l [Edward] Stevens Brigade & was wounded in the Action of G'l. Gates's Defeat. Given under my hand this 21st May 87 Edmund Curd Capt



I also further Certify that he did not return home (being detain'd by his Wounds) untill the 15th Nov've 80.

Edmund Curd Capt
Nath'l G Morris [Nathaniel G. Morris S36178]
Maj'r 4 Regt [undeciphered abbreviation]



Goochl'd. Sc.

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County afores'd. Aaron Parrish who made Oath that he was a Soldier in the Virginia Militia under Capt. Edm'd. Curd from the County of Goochland and that Edward Houchins of the s'd. County was also a Soldier in s'd. Company and that in Gen'l. Gates's defeat in S. Carolina he and said Edw'd. were right & left hand men during which time

said Aaron's Attention was particularly drawn by the following Expression from said Edward "The lord have mercy upon me I am wounded, or my arm is broke" and as we retreated which was nearly together said Aron recollects to have seen his arm bleeding and swinging about in such a manner as to induce him to believe that it really was broke by the wound he had rec'd.

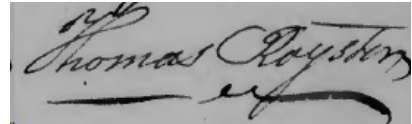
Sworn to before me this 17th day of December 1803. John Underwood

I do Hereby Certify that in the year 1788 & 1789 I was present many times when Doct'r. Wm. Insley attended on Edward Houchins in the Case of a wound that was in his arm which by Information was occasioned by a ball that he Received at General Geatses Deffeat at the south by which the said Houchens Lost severall pieces of Bone and one of the Sinews from his arm and was a running sore at Times from the above, stedy to the present which Renders him in Capable of any Hard Labour Given Under my Hand 28th Nov'r. 1805 Wm. Morrow

I do hereby certify that Edward Houchens, was a soldier in Capt Edward Curds Company of Virginia Militia that he marched from Goochland Courthouse in the month of June 1780 and perhaps was seen by me every day until the 16th of August in the same year that he was in the line of march on that day & was a faithfull good soldier, perhaps as any in Gen'l Stephens Brigade, he was reported missing and said to have been wounded, in the action calld Gates Defeat.

Given under my hand this 3^d day Dec'r. 1805

Thomas Royster



Many years ago perhaps in the year 1787 or shortly thereafter Mr Edward Houchis put into my hands a certificate signed by Capt. Edmund Curd and Maj'r Nath'l G Morris the former stating that said Houshis was a soldier in his company and wounded in Gates's defeat and both that he did not return home (being detained by his wounds) until the 15th Nov'r. 1780 with a request, as he says and of which I entertain no doubt) that I would present a petition to the Gen'l Assembly to have him placed with an allowance for his support, on the list of Pensioners, the Certificate having been some how mislaid remained with a Bundle of dead papers undiscovered, tho' often searched for, till some time last winter when on further search it was found, Mr. Houchins during the lapse of time frequently applied to me for said certificate and seemed confident that he had committed it to my hands but the circumstance had escaped my memory occasioned (as it is presumed) from it having been early misplaced and my not being reminded of it for several years, nor was it recollected by me 'till found.

Given under my hand this fifth day of Dec'r 1805

John Guerrant



I do certify that I have been acquainted with Edward Houchins from soon after Gates's defeat that I have seen a wound in his arm which said Houchins informed me was occasioned by a Ball in said action, that in the year 1789 Doctor Wm. S. Insley boarded in my house & that said Houchins did frequently in the course of the year call on the Doctor to dress the wound which gave me an opportunity of seeing it which was at that time very bad & that for some time the Doctor was apprehensive said Houchins must loose his arm during which time several pieces of bone worked out as I was informed; that s'd Houchins did pay to said Doctor corn oats & money at diferent times & that I have been informed & do believe he has p'd. considerable sums to other doctors, I have generally hired a neighbour to said Houchins from that time til about Eleven months past & have frequently seen his arm running from the same wound & that I do not believe he could at that time, nor at any other since he received said wound have got a subsistance by means of hard labour with his own hands, Given under my hand this 8th day Dec'r. 1805

Stephen Sampson jr

To Claims Ref'd Dec'r 10th 1805/ Reasonable/ reported/ Bill drawn 21st Dec'r. 1805

To the General Assembly of Virginia, the petition of Edward Houchins respectfully represents, that during our Revolutionary War, he was severely wounded in [illegible word] of his arms at Gates's defeat, by reason whereof its use has been very much impaired, and in consequence of which he has for several years been allowed a pension of \$40 per annum by the state of Virginia, in whose service he was fighting when the wound was received All which will more fully appear by a reference to the petition & accompanying documents heretofore presented to your honorable body by the petitioner, when the said pension was allowed him. Your petitioner further states that during the last summer his wounded arm became unusually painful, & proceeded to inflame & suppurate when the ball which occasioned the wound, with a small portion of the bone to which it had adhered came away. Your petitioners arm now remains very feeble; He is old & poor & unable to support a large family by his labor & the small pittance heretofore allowed him by the bounty of his country; he therefore hopes that your honorable body will grant him some addition to the pension which he now receives, & your petitioner will ever pray &c

Dec'r 10th 1818 ref'd to Claims/ Reas'le. Dcr. 14th/ Reported Dec'r. 15th/ Bill drawn Dec'r. 16th

Ed. Houchins Dec 15th 1818

The affidavit of Rich'd Sandridge & the bullet referred to therein have been given to Mr Kennedy for his exhibition case.

T. E. Nimms

May 13, 1904

[The following is from [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#). The online image is cut off at the top and bottom, but it appears to be dated 4 Feb 1806. The file includes similar powers of attorney, signed annually, the last dated 24 Jan 1846 and signed by Edward Houchins with his mark rather than signature. On 7 Feb 1820 he granted power of attorney to James C. Houchins.]

...has passed during the present Session granting to me three hundred dollars for present relief, and placing me on the pension list with an allowance of forty dollars pr year during life. I do hereby appoint you my true and Lawfull attorney in fact in my name to demand and receive the aforesaid sum of three hundred dollars & in my name to grant a rec't. therefor which shall be equally binding on me as tho I had rec'd the am't. & granted a rec't. in my own proper person, as witness my hand & seal the day & year aforsaid...

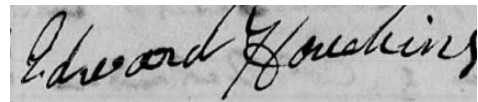
[The following is from the federal pension file.]

State of Kentucky }

Mercer County viz }

On this 1st day of October 1832 Personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Circuit court of Mercer County now sitting Edward Houchins aged 73 years who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the late act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832. And I Edward Houchins on my oath do solemnly declare that I am now in the 73^d year of my age That I was born in the county of Goochland and state of Virginia in which I resided when the war of the revolution commenced, and I was called into the service of my country as follows. viz. In the month of August 1778 [sic: see endnote] I was drafted for two months in Leut James Allen company, who marched us to Albemarle Barracks from Goochland county, where we were placed under the command of Col [Francis] Taylor who had charge of the Prisoners confined there as well as I now recollect and I then was engaged guarding the British prisoners until my time expired and I was honorably discharged, and again in the month of January 1779 [sic]. I was again Drafted for two months in Capt Wm. A Millers [William A. Miller's] company and we were again marched to Albemarle Barracks as a guard for the British prisoners under the same Col

Taylor – where I again faithfully performed another tour two months service and was honorably discharged and again in the month of April 1780 I was Drafted in the 4th Regiment of the Virginia militia for six months in Capt Edward Curd Company, my colonels were Col [James] Lucas & Col Richardson [Holt Richeson]. I cannot recollect which was the Lieut Col of the two [Richardson]. we rendezvoused at Goochland court house and march from there to Hillsborough [NC] where I believe we were under Gen'l. Stephens, and from there we marched to deep river & was stationed there near two weeks and from there we marched to Camden [SC] In the month of August 1780, and I was engaged in the Battle of Camden under Gen'l Gates, when we were beat and I was badly wounded in my left arm, and I was left on the ground until after the battle was over and I then made my escape and got to a Mrs Narramon where I stayed until my wound was cured, and I then returned to Goochland Court house about the 1st of January[?] next year and was honorably discharged about the 1st of April 1781 – having been confined on account of my wound until late in december before I could leave the place. I farther state that I have no documentary evidence to prove my services, I farther state that I hereby relinquish all claim to any other pension from the united states except the present and my claim to the pension from the state of Virginia as an invalid on account of my wound. I further state that I am not on the pension roll of the united states or of any state except the State of Virginia on whose pension roll I am now as an invalid pensioner on account of my wound – After the revolutionary war I lived in the State of Virginia until the year 1821. when I removed to the state of Kentucky & county of Mercer where I now live, witness my hand this 1st day of october 1832 –



NOTES:

Albemarle Barracks were completed in Jan 1779, and the first prisoners arrived in the same month. The prisoners were from Burgoyne's army captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777.

Claibourn (Claburn) Bradshaw (pension application W8394) and Capt. George Robards (S31339) certified that they had served two tours with Houchins at Albemarle Barracks, and that Houchins had served under Robards when he was a Lieutenant at the Battle of Camden.

On 23 June 1847 Nancy Houchins, 80, applied for a pension stating that she married Edward Houchins on 27 Oct 1785, and he died 14 Apr 1846. With her application is a copy of a bond signed by Edward Houchins and Jesse Clements on 23 Oct 1785 in Goochland County for the marriage of Houchins to Nancy Clements. The application also includes a copy of a family register certified by Agnes O. Terhune, daughter of Edward and Nancy Houchins, and transcribed below. For additional family information see the endnotes in the pension application W8394 of Claibourn (Claburn) Bradshaw.

Register

Edward Houchins son of Francis and Joice Houchins was born feby the 29th 1760

Nancy Clements Daughter of James and mary Clements was born march the 13th 1766

James C. Houchins, son of Edward & Nancy Houchins was born September 8th 1786

Jane their Daughter was born June 17th 1789

Abner their son was born August 4th 1790

Mary O. their Daughter was born June 7th 1793

Edward their Son was born Decem'r 28th 1795

Elizabeth their Daughter was born Feb'y. 11th 1798

Agness O their Daughter was born June 21st 1800

Thomas J. their son was born July 28th 1803

Jesse F. their son was born May 28th 1806