

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Edwin Hull W14316

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Fauquier county. } S.S.

On this 19 day of March 1837 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace, Mrs. Ann Blackwell a resident of said county. Aged 76 years the 12th January last who being duly sworn according to Law doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the acts of congress passed the 4 July 1836 & 3rd of March 1837. That she is the widow of captain Edwin Hull of the continental line of Virginia who was killed while in the Line of his duty Septemb in the year 1780 at Northumberland Court House Virginia She further states that she was married to Cap Edwin Hull on the 18th day of February 1779 and that she remained a widow about four years & 4 months & then married Capt Joseph Blackwell. that he died on the 8th day of October 1826 & that she is now a widow & has remained a widow since the death of said Blackwell affirmed and subscribed this _ day & year above written

[signed] Ann Blackwell

[Ann Blackwell also applied for a pension as the widow of Joseph Blackwell (pension application W1191).]

[Copy certified 21 Jan 1837]

I hereby certify that Capt. Edwin Hull late of the Continental Army of the Revolutionary war I believed entered the service in the nine additional Battalions as Captain in the fifteen Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. James Innis [sic: James Innes] in the spring of 1777 – I knew the said Captain Hull very well as we were born in the same County and neighbourhood. That he was sent from the Army to Northumberland to receive recruits & also to recruit, in September 1780. I was in ten feet of him, when he miserably fell, in supporting the laws of his country in repelling the force of 150 insurgents opposed to the draft of one 15th man under the then existing laws [see endnote].

Given under my hand this 15th Feby. 1809

John Heath

Member of the Council of State

[The following copies were certified on 4 June 1833 and apparently placed in the file to elucidate the status of Edwin Hull as a supernumerary officer: i.e. one who had too few men under his command to constitute a full company. According to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*, Hull became supernumerary on 30 Sep 1778. The first letter was probably written in response to the invasion of Virginia by Gen. Benedict Arnold in late Dec 1780.]

General [Thomas] Nelson/ Richmond January 2, 1781

We mean to appoint the field officers on the same plan as in the former invasion from the resigned and supernumerary preserving the ranks of those gentlemen accurately, as among themselves

I am with great respect Sir/ Your most Obd Serv

T. J. [Gov. Thomas Jefferson]

Baron Steuben/ Richmond April 27, 1781

Sir When we desired the resigned and supernumerary officers to come into Command, we took the liberty after establishing the rules by which they should be given to ask the favor of you to arrange the Command accordingly. As the Gentlemen are likely to be exposed in action with the enemy, and if taken would have no commissions to produce circumstances which give them uneasiness. I will ask the favor of you to inform me of the command you have given or you may now think proper to give them on

receipt of which commissions shall issue

I am Sir/ Tho Jefferson

Fauquier County }
Sct.
State of Virginia }

This the 20th day of July 1837 Personally appeared before William R. Smith a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Mrs. Ann Blackwell, who was the widow of Capt Edwin Hull, after being sworn declares that Cap Capt Hull, had been in service some time, and returned home for reasons which she cannot now positively state; that they Capt Hull and herself were then married, as stated in her former declaration, and he Capt. Hull remained at home until 1780, when himself and Col. Thomas Gaskins were called out, to superintend a draft to replenish the Regular Army, when at a meeting of the county at the court house of Northumberland for this purpose a mutiny took place and Capt Hull was killed in Suppressing the same, and this is what was meant, in her former decaration, by stating that Capt Hull, was kil'd. while in service: She further states that Capt Hull, was marred in his Regimentals and not because he was unable to buy other clothes for he was quite independant.

[signed] Ann Blackwell

Fauquier County }
Virginia }
Sct

This the 25th day of July 1837 personally appeared before me Charles Hunton a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Digges, who being duly sworn, made the following statement, explanatory to her former testimony in the case of Mrs. Ann Blackwell late Ann Hull the wife of Capt. Edwin Hull of the Virginia Continental line in the Revolution. She stated in her former testimony that Hull was killed in service of the line of his duty, and now adds that Capt. Hull and her Brother Col. Thomas Gaskins returned from the northern Army together, that Capt. Hull married Ann Eustace, her relation of Stafford County, that she was present and saw them married and dressed the head of Capt. Hull – Capt. Hull then remained at home for some time and from information received from others at the time, which I firmly believe; Capt Hull was ordered out to enforce a draft to replenish the Northern Army, at Northumberland Court House, where a mutiny and resistance occurred; in suppressing which Capt. Hull was killed. this is what I meant in my former testimony, in saying that Capt. Hull was in service when he was killed. Such I then understood as being in service, and I yet understand it so. And further that Mrs. Ann Blackwell the present claimant was the wife of the identical Capt. Edwin Hull – that he was the only Edwin Hull I ever knew, and his name is derived from his mothers side the Conway's, and both him and Ann his wife were my relations, and he was raised and resided in the County of Northumberland in this state

[signed] Elizabeth Digges

This is to certify that Edwin Hull, who lived in the county of Northumberland, Virginia, during the time of the Revolutionary War, was a Captain in the 15th Virginia Continental Regiment, commanded by Col'n. David Mason – I was a Lieutenant in the same Reg't. and belonged to the company commanded by said Hull. There was to be a draft to fill the broken Regiments of the Continental Army at Northumberland Court House – and after notice was given of said draft, a considerable body of men collected together at the said Court House, and the Jail of said County, & threatened that they would prevent the said draft being made. These rioters had formed themselves in a regular body, and were armed. Under these circumstances it was deemed necessary by the officers who were to conduct the said draft, to subdue, or allay the said mob & for that purpose the said Captain Edwin Hull and myself were detailed, and sent with a flag to treat with them. We did so, and brought them on terms. but after they had marched to the ground where our soldiers were, there was one of them (that is of said rioters) who passed with his firelock on his shoulder, when Captain Hull ordered him to ground his fire arms – to which the man replied “you ground your firearms” both of them levelled their pieces (the said Hull having a musket in

his hand) at each other, at the same instant, and fired. Hull fell and died immediately [but see below]. the other man survived some time, but I believe died likewise. His name was Pitman as well as I now remember. The said Captain Edwin Hull was in actual service in the Reg't. and Line above stated at that time. I was within a few feet of Cap Hull when he fell. Given under my hand this 8th of January 1838 —
[signed] Geo. Eskridge [George Eskridge, pension application S8428]

During the revolutionary war by an act of Congress each state in the Union had to furnish a certain number of soldiers either by enlistment or draft. Finding that the quota of men to be furnished by the County of Northumberland in the State of Virginia of which county I was a resident could not be enlisted, it was necessary to resort to draft. The day on which the draft was to take place at Northumberland Court House a party was organised to prevent the same, Edwin Hull then an officer in the American Army, on furlough and was to take command of the drafted men, as I understand, was at the Court House, and being extremely anxious that the opponents of the draft should desert, and let the draft go on, and furnish the number of men required, which he urged, was fired at by one of the opponents and killed, This took place some time I think in the year 1780. I was at that time too young to be enrolled in the militia, consequently was not at the Court House, but received the above statement from those who were present, and have no doubt it was correct. Indeed the sensation caused by the manner in which E Hull fell left a lasting impression on my mind. Given under my hand this 12 day of April 1838. And I do further state that I never heard of any other Edwin Hull being in the american army.

[signed] Newton Keene

State of Virginia }
Fauquier County } Ss.

On this 30th day of August 1838 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid, Ann Blackwell, (formerly Ann Hull) a resident of said County aged seventy seven last January, who, first making affirmation according to law, doth on her affirmation, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she was the widow of Edwin Hull (previous to her marriage with her late husband Joseph Blackwell) who was a Captain in the War of the Revolution, and whose rank in the army, length of service &c, is set forth in her declaration for a pension for his service under the Act of Congress passed march 3rd 1837, and now on file in the pension office in the City of Washington. She further affirms that she was married to the said Edwin Hull on the Eighteenth of February One thousand seven hundred and seventy nine in the County of Stafford, State of Virginia, by the Rev. Mr. Bucker, that her husband, the said Edwin Hull died in the month of September one thousand seven hundred and eighty of a gunshot wound received by a mob at Northumberland Courthouse in Virginia; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, (as decided by the commission of pensions on her application as above stated) but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety four, Viz: at the time above stated.

[signed] Ann Blackwell

[The following memoranda were certified on 30 August 1838 as having been found by the son of Mrs. Ann Blackwell, James Black (sic), among her papers.]

January 4th 1781 Memorandum of the Words that Capt. John Thomas of the County of Northumberlan Heard Capt Edwin Hull Declare at the Court House of the s'd. County on the 15th of September being Mortally Wounded on that Day. First That the s'd Capt Hull Desired that his Dear Wife should have every thing that he had. Given under my Hand the day & year above Writen
Test. Walker Jones esqr John Thomas

January 4th 1781 Memorandum of the Words that Mr William Hughlett of Northumberland Heard Capt. Edwin Hull of the s'd. County Declare at the Court House of the s'd County on 15th of September being Mortally Wounded on that day Vizt. That every thing that He the s'd. Hull was Worth he gave to his Wife — Given under my Hand this day and day above written Wm. Hughlett
Test. Jno Cottrell

[Some time after her pension was rejected, the following petition was filed.]
To the Hon'e. Senate and House of Repre's. of the U.S.

The petition of Ann Blackwell, of Fauq'r. County Virginia. Respectfully States, That she was, prior to her intermarriage with the late Jos. Blackwell, the widow of Cap. Edwin Hull of Northumberland County, who was a captain in the Virg'a. Continental Line of the Revo'y. War. That her said former Husband (Edwin Hull) was either furloughed, or retired as a sup'y. officer, a short time after their marriage & being in Virg'a. was called on to manage the draft to fill the Continental Regiments of the Northern Army, and whilst actually engaged in that service he was shot by a tory who with others had organised themselves & with arms determined to resist said draft. She respectfully states that she conceives herself to be entitled to a pension under the acts of 1836 & 7 – first because she was married to said officer before he became Sup'y & whilst he was in actual service – and secondly because her said husband was engaged in active performance of military duty when he was killed, & therefore was in actual service so as to entitle her to the provisions of said acts. She begs leave to refer to her Declaration & the papers now on file in the pension office, where her application has been rejected – and she will ever pray —
Ann Blackwell by Thos. Hord her atty in fact.

NOTES:

Under a Virginia law enacted in May 1780, each county whose militia was not already engaged had to recruit or draft one militiaman out of each 15 over age 18 to serve in the Continental army until the end of 1781.

The file includes an original letter written in July 1779 by Agatha Eustace to her daughter, Nancy, stating that her brother would be married to her cousin Molly Eustace in the fall and that “we all long much to see you and Capt. Hull.”

“Northumberland County Court 8th January 1810

Ordered that it be certified that it appears to the satisfaction of the Court, that John Hull Thomas G Hull, Brodie G Hull, and Elizabeth who intermarried with Dabney Herndon are the only Heirs of the late Colonel John Hull deceased, and that the said Colonel John Hull was the Heir at law of Edwin Hull, late of Northumberland County, deceased.”

A document in the file indicates that on 18 Jan 1810 John Hull received warrants for 4000 acres of bounty land on behalf of the above heirs.

On 20 March 1837 Mrs. Elizabeth Digges, 81, stated that she was “nearly related” to both Edwin Hull and Ann Eustace and was “at their wedding at the House of Mr. Isaac Eustace in Stafford County Virginia, her Uncle.”

“Virginia/ At a quarterly Court held for Henrico County at the Courthouse on Monday the 4th day of August one thousand eight hundred and forty five.
On the motion of Henry Northop it was proved in open Court to the satisfaction of the Court by the affidavit of witnesses and record testimony that John Hull, Thomas G. Hull, Brodie L. Hull and Elizabeth wife of Dabney Herndon, were the children and only heirs at Law of Col. Jno. Hull of the County of Northumberland now deceased who was the heir at Law of Edwin Hull deceased a Captain of the

Virginia line of the Revolution and it was further satisfactorily proved by the testimony of two witnesses that Paul Hull now living and John Hull deceased and Peter Hull deceased were the children and only heirs of John Hull deceased one of the before named heirs of Col. Jno. Hull deceased. and that John R. and Sarah E. Hull of Baltimore Md. are the children and only heirs at Law of John Hull deceased grandson of said Col. John Hull. and that Martha G., Frances T., Brodie P., Margaret C. and Peter are the children and only heirs of Peter Hull deceased a grandson of the said Col. John Hull deceased and that John M. an infant is the only child and heir of John G. Hull deceased who was the son and only heir of Thomas G. Hull deceased one of the heirs of the said Col. Jno. Hull deceased. That Edward Hull, Anne wife of Charles Thomas, John Hull, Elizabeth wife of Wm. Crump, Jane wife of Dabney Minor, Dabney Hull Isaac Hull William Hull and Lucy M. Hull are the Children and only heirs at Law of Brodie T. Hull deceased another son of the said Col John Hull deceased. And that John M. Herndon, Brodie T. Herndon, Ann H. wife of M. F. Maury, William Lewis, Dabney, Mary S. and Charles Herndon are the children and only heirs at Law of Elizabeth Herndon deceased the last named heir of the said Col. Jno. Hull deceased the son and heir of the said Captain Edwin Hull deceased of the Virginia line of the Revolution. All of which is ordered to be certified and recorded upon the records of this Court."

A document in the file states that Ann Blackwell died in Fauquier County on 2 Dec 1840.