

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Rowland Estes W1740 Elisabeth M. Estes VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 16 Jan 2014.

At a Court of Monthly Session held for Fluvanna County on monday the 27th day of July 1818. This day Rowland Estes aged Fifty nine years resident of this County personally appeared in Court and made the following declaration on Oath. That he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier in the War of the Revolution some time in the month of February or March in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven that he belonged to a Company commanded by Captain Richard Stephens [sic: Richard Stevens] of the tenth Regiment commanded by Colonel Edward Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] of the Virginia line and Continental establishment, that he served as a soldier as aforesaid three years lacking a few months and quit the service in consequence of a discharge which discharge he believes is now filed in the Auditors Office in the City of Richmond, that he is in reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his Country for support and that he has no other evidence of his said services. [Certification by court not transcribed.]

State of Virginia Fluvanna County to wit:

On the twenty third day of June one thousand eight hundred and twenty three personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the said County... proceeding according to the course of the common Law with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount keeping a record of its proceedings and expressly made a Court of record by the Laws of the said state Rowland Estes aged sixty four years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his Oath declare [The declaration of services is identical to the one above.]

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons 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 I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed to wit: Thirty four & a half acres of Land lying in said county, two watches one old Horse one axe and a parcel of Books. The said Declarant further states that he is by occupation a farmer and that he is in a great degree incapable of following his occupation from an injury done to his back – and that his family consists of a wife about fifty one years of age, & four daughters, one aged about sixteen years another about fourteen years a third about twelve years and the other about ten years, who are all (except his wife, who is crippled and thereby rendered unable to perform ordinary labour) as capable as usual to contribute to their support. And the said declarant further states that the number of his original Certificate is Six thousand seven hundred & eighty four
Rowland hisXmark Estes

At a Court of Quarterly Sessions held for Fluvanna county on monday the 25th day of August 1823.

Rowland Estes of this county who claims a pension under the Laws of the United States came into court and in support of such claim made the following statement on oath. That he has disposed of no property since the 18th of March 1818 except some articles of small value, which was applied towards the support of himself and family the particulars of he which he cannot now recollect – that the reason why he did not exhibit a Schedule of his property until since the passage of the Law of the 1st of March 1823 (alluded to in a letter to him from the War department under date of the 14th July 1823, the existance of which Law he was not apprised of, until he received said Letter, and of the provisions of which Law he is not yet apprised) was that he had found it so troublesome to comply with the requisites of Law and had been called upon so repeatedly to swear as he thought uselessly, that he had concluded to endeavour to

support his family and himself, as he had done before, without being dependant on his country, but the fact is that he has experienced of late the effects of age increasing upon him so fast, and being sorely pressed for some debts by suit he has lately found himself under the necessity of renewing his application for said pension; and in corroboration of this fact it will appear by reference to the records of this court that since he exhibited his schedule of property he has been compelled to surrender the same property in taking the Oath of an insolvent debtor in order to release his body from prison under an execution and Judgment obtained against him for a horse which he purchased in order to try to make bread for his family, but which from age and unsoundness proved useless to him after the purchase.

Sir [Peter B Porter, Secretary of War]

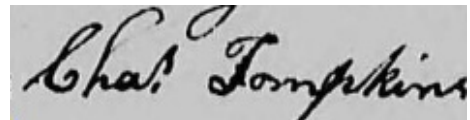
Fluvanna July 14th 1828

I am a very near Neighbor to a man by the name of Rowland Estis who draws a pension very unjustly of \$96 for his services in the revolutionary war. This RE has property worth \$4000. he has near 700 Acres of land on which he resides 600 in Ohio three young likely negroes to work in the field 15 or 20 head of horn'd cattle sheep & hogs. Now sir if I mistake not the act of congress gives this pension to no man that is worth \$200 it was several years after the act took place before he attempted to try for it we were togther one day & I ask'd him if he did not intend to claim it his reply was he had too much property that a man must be worth less than \$200 or he could no get it.

Now this man RE is a notorious drunkard & remarkably troublesome in his family & neighborhood he beats his wife & grown daughters & drives them off for a fortnight at a time this all arrives from the pension. \$96 enables him to buy more spirit his white family is a wife & four grown daughters his black is one likely man 25 years of age one young woman & child & one middle aged woman he has attempted to put this property out of the way by a gift to his children in order to obtain the pension of \$96 & has actually drawn it two or three years. This sir is robing the United States & beg of you to put a stop to it & never enable a Villian to act as he does every one that knows him are talking of this fraudulent act of his. There are several men near him who are as respectable as any in the state who will say the same words at any time that I have written to you.

Yours with the greatest respect

NB. This conveyance was made to avoid paying a very inconsiderable debt & to get the pension all of the above mention'd property is under his RE immediate directions at home with him



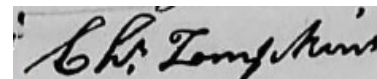
[The cover of the following letter bears the return address Union Mills Va and date November 6th 1828.]

Dear Sir [Peter B. Porter]

Fluvanna [ink blot] 8th 1828

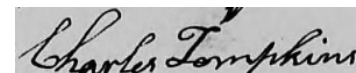
You will find every thing contained in this paper you requested to stop Rowland Estis's pension which he ought never to have had by the utmost invetigation that he shou'd have gone through. The reason I have delay'd the business my family has been very sick ever since I receivd your letter which was in July last & my living some distance from the office. When you get this you can then take every step required to put a stop to his Vilianous proceedings.

Yours with the greatest respect



The affidavit of Charles Tompkins a citizen of the County of Fluvanna and State of Virginia, of lawful age, given at Rowland Jones's, in the said County and state Afores'd. this affiant being first Sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God,

Saith that Rowland Estes a pensioner of s'd. County, has the following property in his possession and altogether under his controul, Viz between six and seven hun'd Acres of land, where he now resides, three Working Negroes, and one small one, not of size to labour, 15 or 20 head of horned Cattle, also a stock of sheep and hogs, and as he reports himself that he has 600 acres of land in the state of Ohio, which land he empowered a man to sell last year by the name of Sharp further this affiant saith not



War Department/ Pension Office/ November 8, 1828

Sir [Rowland Estes c/o Hon W. C. Rives] Your pension has been suspended in consequence of the receipt of the information contained in the affidavit of Mr. C. Tompkins, a copy of which is herewith enclosed. No further payment will be made to you, unless you can prove that Mr Tompkins's statement is without foundation. I am very respectfully Your Ob't. Serv't/ James L. Edwards

Fluvanna County to Wit

This is to Certify that this day Came before me, a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid Richard W. Wade and made oath that he herd Charles Tompkins Say that he Intended to Stop Rowland Estess from giting his pension, because he Charg'd him with stealing a Sheep, and further said that he Intended to go before a Justice and Make oath that Rowland Estess was in possession of a number of horned Cattle, with four likely negroes three of which was labouring negroes. I think him a man not to be depended on, he said that after he had been before a Justice he would go and have the County Seal fixt to the Magistrats Certificate and send it on and would cost him Nothing and I'll fix him before I go to the Western Country, before this stated that he had oft times offered friendship to him and he would not but would go about in all publick Companies saying that he had stold his Sheep and further saith not Given under my hand this 26th Jany 1829 R. Crewdson

Fluvanna County to Wit

This is to Certify that this day Came before me a Justice of the peace in the County aforesaid Michael C Wade and made oath that he herd Charles Tompkins say that Mr. Rowland Estess had from five to seven hundred acres of Land whear he now lives and he had a tract of land in the State of Ohio with a town on it he Authorisd a Mr. Sharp to sell it for him some time ago and that he had three working Slaves and that was unable to Labour, and from 15 to 20 head of horned Cattle with a stock of sheep and hogs, he said he would show old Rowland how tell people about his stealing sheep and further saith not, Given under my hand this 26th day of Jany 1829 R. Crewdson

Fluvanna County to wit This is to Certify that this day Came before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Coleman Estess and made oath that the property above named by Mr Tompkins is in my possion and has been Ever since the year 1818 and further saith not. Given under my hand this 26th day Jany 1829 R. Crewdson

[On 23 Feb 1850 Elisabeth M. Estis, 76, resident of Fluvanna County, applied for a pension stating that she married Rowland Estes in Caroline County VA on 23 Oct 1798, and he died on 17 Feb 1829.]

State of Virginia

County of Albemarle, towit

On this 3rd day of May 1868, personally appeared before me, Ira Garrett, Clerk of the Circuit & County Courts in said state and county, the same being a court of record, Marion L. Harlow, aged 24 years a resident of Murray Cty [sic: Maury County] in the State of Tennessee who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the son of Jennette Estes, who intermarried with Ransom Harlow, that his mother Jennette Estes was one of the three children of Rowland and Elizabeth Estes, that Rowland Estes was a Revolutionary Pensioner inscribed on the Pension Rolls of the United States at the rate of \$96 per annum. He further declares that the only two other children of Rowland & Elizabeth Estes, were Rebecca Estes who intermarried with Marcus Harlow, and Eliza W. Estes who intermarried with Wm Summerson. That Rowland Estes died about the year 1847, and that to the time of the death of his widow Elizabeth Estes which occurred on the 2nd October 1862, arrears of pension were due her by law; but that no pension was paid her from [blank] until the date of her death. Marion L. Harlow further declares that his object in making this petition is to obtain for Robert Woodfin, infant son 6 mos of age, of his sister Norella Harlow & Richard Woodfin who reside in Limestone County, Alabama, his mother's share of the unpaid arrears of pension due Elizabeth Estes at the time of her death. That Elizabeth Estes widow of Rowland Estes, Revolutionary Pensioner as aforesaid, was for several years preceding her

death and during the entire period of the [Civil] war, in a state of dotage, and of course entertained no political opinions. that Rowland Estes & Elizabeth Estes his wife were residents of Albemarle County, Virginia. That Ransom Harlow removed to the County of Limestone, State of Alabama after the death of his wife Jennette in Albemarle, Va. that Wm Summerson & Eliza W. his wife, as well as Marcus Harlow, and Rebecca are all resident of Albemarle Cty. Va.

This application is made for the purpose of securing a restoration of such of the heirs of Elizabeth Estes as may be entitled, to the pension rolls, and of obtaining a new pension certificate such as they may be entitled to under existing Laws, reference being made to the evidence heretofore filed in the Pension Office to substantiate their claim. Marion L. Harlow
[William Summerson, 60, of Albemarle County, made a similar application.]

[The following is from [Revolutionary bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Roland Estes soldier in the 6th Virg'a. Reg't. haveing Faithfully served three years the Term of his inlistment is hereby Discharged Given under my hand at Trentown [Trenton NJ]
23rd day of Dec'r 1780 Sam'l. Haws [sic: Samuel Hawes] Lt. Colo.
(Copy)/ Jno. Pendleton jr [illegible word] Colo. Comm'd.
Rec'd[?] G. Estes

NOTE:

The 1820 federal census for Fluvanna County list Rowland Estes over 45 with 2 white females under 10, 2 white females 10-15, 1 white female over 45, 1 male slave under 14, 1 female slave under 14, and 1 female slave over 45.

Court documents dated 6 April 1850 state that no record of the marriage of Rowland Estes and Elisabeth M. Durrett had survived a fire around 1800, and that Rowland Estes died on 17 Feb 1829. A note in the file states that Rowland Estes last collected his pension on 4 Sep 1828.

On 13 Nov 1845 Isaiah Stout stated that Rowland Estes had been in economically "distressed circumstances" in 1828 and died in the spring of 1829.

On 7 Feb 1849 Aquilla Goodloe of Caroline County stated that she was present when Rowland Estes and Elisabeth M. Durrett were married in the latter part of 1797 in Caroline County near the Spotsylvania line by Parson Boggs. She also stated that after their marriage they continued to live in Caroline County for about two years, then moved to Fluvanna County, where Rowland Estes died 12 or 14 years before.

In Feb 1850 Elisabeth M. Estes (as she signed) stated that Rowland Estes had lived in Fluvanna County for about 30 years before his death and previously in Caroline County.

As proof of marriage Elisabeth M. Estes sent to the Pension Office an Old Testament owned by her family since 1798 containing a copy of a family record made from one that was worn out. The record is not in the file. On 10 March 1880 the Pension Office made inquiries about descendants to whom the Bible should be returned, stating that Elisabeth M. Estes died in 1850. A reply from the Clerk of Albemarle County stated that the only known member of the family was Rebecca Harlow, wife of Marcus Harlow, living near Buck Island Creek near the Fluvanna line. He stated that one other daughter, Mrs. Summerson had died, and that another, Mrs. Ransom Harlow had moved West and then died.