

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Mitchell W23991 Ann Mitchell VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Aug 2014.

State of Illinois }
St. Clair County }

On this [17] day of January A.D. eighteen-hundred and thirty-five, personally appeared before me, John Hay, judge of the county probate of the said county of St. Clair, State aforesaid, at a special session, holden on the day and year aforesaid, Edward Mitchell, a resident of the said county and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the pensions made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832, That I was born in Hanover county state of Virginia on the 3^d day of August A.D. 1760 this date I copied from my father's Bible into my own many years ago, the original is now worn out, that in the year 1775 I joined a company of Volenteers, which was raised in said county, under captain Samuel Meredith. we mustered, three days [several illegible words; see endnote] the number of [illegible word] not less than three making nine days; the company was called to Williamsburg against Governor Dunmore who had robbed the magazine in that place [on 20 Apr 1775] and had fled on board an English vessel which lay in York river; there being no hopes of his coming on shore we were discharged. In this expedition I was in service six days. we all rode our own horses and bore our own expenses.

In the year 1775 or 1776 two companies of Volenteers were ordered to be raised in Hanover County aforesaid and were called minute men, perhaps the reason why they were called so was because the understanding was at the time of enlistment, that they should be ready to march at a day's warning. In this service I was appointed ensign, I believe under Capt. Dabney, the month, not recollected but the company not being raised in time it was not called into service, I then joined the same volunteer corps as a private under Capt. John Winsten [sic: John Winston] and acted as a corporal in a Batallion under Colonel Samuel Meredith and we marched in May 1776 from Hanover county Va. to Hampton in the same state. In October we were ordered to Portsmouth (Norfolk having previously burnt [by Lord Dunmore on 1 Jan 1776]) and the troops remained there I think until December when the troops were disbanded, that tour was at least, six months, this was also a volunteer service, no bounty was given nor no drafts had taken place at this time, but I [sic] wages were paid (I think every three months) in Continental paper, and I recollected that while at hampton I gave five continental dollars for four silver dollars. I recollect the following officers in the Batallion in which I served as above (for there were no troops at hampton but our Batallion) to wit, Col. Meredith, Capt. John Winsten, Capt. James Dabney, Lieut. Overton who was our adjutant ensign Kimbro[?] & I also knew the two captains Richard & James Barren [sic: Richard Barron, pension application R5, and James Barron, W12264] who then commanded two small schooners and were daily employed as look out Boats. While we remained at Hampton an U. S. vessel of War called a row galley came up and invited the officers & soldiers to come on board and take a cruise; Capt. Winsten and myself and several others went on board and remained there three days on a cruise. As this was the first vessel of war which I had seen, I recollect my impression, which was she could neither overtake an enemy or run away from them.

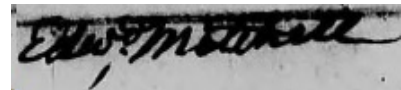
As I am now between 800 and a thousand miles from Hanover county where I performed the above service and it is now 56 years since I moved from there I do not believe I can procure a living witness to prove the above facts. I think at the time of the above transactions, the business of the state was conducted at Williamsburg by what was called a committee of safety, and business of the counties by county committees. My father moved to Botetourt county in Virginia in the year 1778. I was twice called out from this county after Indians: at one of these times the Indians had attacked Donallies fort [sic: Fort Donnally near present Frankford WV] in Greenbrier County Va. in this tour I served 6 days under Col. [George] Skillern, the other time a report came that the Indians were coming on our frontiers and myself and three other men were stationed 10 days at Col. William Christians as a guard. In the year 1781 I was

appointed Quartermaster to a Battalion of Volunteer Riflemen from Botetourt county Va. under Col. [Hugh] Crockett on the 25th of February 1781 [sic: see endnote] we fought Lord Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis] in which action he was near Allimance [sic: Alamance] creek in North Carolina; the Americans were commanded by Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene].

On the 6th of march we fought Cornwallace at Haw river [skirmish at Wetzel's Mill].

On the 11th of march 1781 the time of our service as a rifle corps expired, it having been raised for, time not recollected. [See note below.]

At this time Genl. Green sent Col. [Henry] Lee to inform us if we wished our discharge we should have it but said that he expected a reinforcement in a few days, that he (Genl. Green) would then certainly fight Cornwallace and would take it as a favor if we would remain a week longer; I remained with about one half of our troops, the other half went home, I was at the Battle of Guilford courthouse on the 15th of March 1781 when it was said our Riflemen rendered good service. At the commencement of the action I was ordered in the rear with the baggage; in a day or two I was discharged. I will recollect the following officers in the army in which I served as above, viz Gen. Green, Col. Lee, Col. [William] Washington, Col. Crockett, Capt. Rowland [possibly Maj. Thomas Rowland], Capt. [David] May. In this tour I served at least 65 days; in december of that year I went to Maryland to live and remained there 5 or 6 years in which time my discharge as well as my commission as Quarter Master was lost as I do not recollect ever to have seen either of them afterwards. I removed from Botetourt county Va. in the year 1818 and come to this state where I have remained ever since in the county of St. Clair state of Illinois, that during all and every tour of military service above stated I was exclusively engaged in the above serve and no other. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and I do declare that my name is not on any pension roll in any state.



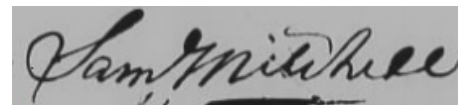
The State of Virginia Botetourt County to wit

This day [15 July 1834] Samuel Kennerly [sic: Samuel Kennerley, pension application S16900] an old and respectable citizen of the County aforesaid personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said county and made oath that he served a campaign under Captain Thomas Rowland in the Spring of 1781 in the state of North Carolina in the Army of General Green and was at the battle of Guilford and he recollects distinctly of seeing Mr. Edward Mitchell in the Army acting as a quarter Master at the Battle of Guilford and he knows that Mr. Edward Mitchell was a quarter Master and acted as such in the Army of General Green as long as this affiant remained in the army during said campaign which he thinks continued about three months. The said Mr. Edward Mitchell was a highly respectable man resided in the County of Botetourt for many years after the termination of the Revolutionary war and removed about 16 years ago to the County of St Clair & state of Illenois as this affiant has understood where he beleves he now resides

Being called on by the Revd. Edward Mitchell of St Clair county state of Illinois, to state what I know and remember of his services in the revolutionary war; I do hereby certify that I recollect his going into service as what was then called a minute man and that he was a considerable time from home, but cannot recollect the exact length of time being then only turned of 12 years of age. At that time my father lived in the county of Hanover state of Virginia, this was in the year 1776. In 1778 my father removed to the county of Botetourt in the same state and in the forepart of the year 1781, he served a tour in North Carolina about the time of the battle of Gilford between Genls Green & Cornwallace, but as to the time he left home I cannot say being at that time in the army myself and I always distinctly understood that in his tour to the south he acted as quartermaster.

[Samuel Mitchell, pension application R7283]

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court before me this 17th Jan'y 1835
John Hay Judge of Probate



NOTES:

The bottom of the first page of Edward Mitchell's declaration was torn at a fold and reattached incorrectly.

The engagement said to have occurred on 25 Feb 1781 was probably the skirmish between the Botetourt Riflemen attached to Lt. Col. Henry Lee and Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion at Clapp's Mill on 2 Mar 1781. Generals Nathanael Greene and Lord Cornwallis were commanders-in-chief of their respective armies in the South.

Most members of the Botetourt Riflemen went home before their terms expired, feeling they had been badly used at Wetzel's Mill. Those who left early were tried by court martial and acquitted. For an account of the Botetourt Riflemen see Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution, Vol 4, No 1, p 60 (<http://southerncampaign.org/newsletter/v4n123.pdf>).

On 8 June 1850 Nancy Mitchell, 85, applied for a pension stating that she married Edward Mitchell on 26 Aug 1784, and he died 3 Dec 1837. She signed her name "Ann Mitchell." On 23 July 1850 James Mitchell produced in court a family Bible with the following record in the handwriting of Edward Mitchell: "Edward Mitchell & Ann Haley were married 26th August 1784."

The file also contains the following two documents:

State of Wisconsin } Ss
Grant County }

In the summer of 1784 I visited my Brother Edward Mitchell who resided in Charlestown [MD] near the Head of the Chesapeake Bay, and in the month of August of that year I was present at his marriage with Nancy Haley in said Town his present Widow now residing in the State of Illinois; I do not recollect the name of the Minister who celebrated the nuptials but I was inform'd he was a minister of what was then Call'd The Church of England, and I know that my Brother Edward was sometime in the service of his Country during the Revolution [Samuel Mitchell]
Subscribed and Sworn to before me Bennet Atwood
a Justice of the Peace Plathville [Plattsville?] Oct 1st 1849



Reverend Edward Mitchell my Father resided at his death upon his farmed five miles east of this places.

He died 3^d December 1834.

My Mother his resided since the death of my Father upon the farm owned since the death of Father by Dr. Mitchell & with my Brother in law & Sister one mile distant.

The following is taken from my Fathers old family Bible by myself and copied into my own Bible.

Edward Mitchell was born 3^d August 1760

Nancy Haily was born 21 Octbr. 1763

Edward & Nancy Hailey were married 26 aug't. 1784

My Mother has been called by the family since my recollection Ann, and usually signed her name Ann, While the older members of the family called her Nancy. She is called and more familiarly known as Ann.

Belleville St. Clair County Ill

18 June 1850

J. Mitchell

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 19th day of June A.D. 1850

Wm H. Underwood/ Judge of St Clair Circuit Court, Illinois"