

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Sorrel (Sorrell) W26493 Dorcas Sorrell VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Northumberland } SS

On this 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of the County of Northumberland, & state of Virginia Edward Sorrel a resident in the county of Northumberland & State of Virginia aged Seventy nine years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1779 with Capt Thomas Downing a militia officer and served in the 2nd Regt of the Virginia line, under the following named Officers Gen'l [Horatio] Gates. Colo [Charles] Porterfield, Capts Drew [Thomas H. Drew, pension application R13852] & McGill [sic: Charles Magill] Lt. [David] Mann & Ensign Vaughan.

That he lived in the County of Northumberland & State of Virginia at the time he enlisted which was in the fall of the year 1779. He marched from the County to Williamsburg Virginia in February or March of the following year, with a recruiting officer by the name of Carvell, he there joined the Regt of Colo Porterfield. after a few days stay at Williamsburg he marched with the Regt. of Colo Porterfield for Charleston South Carolina.

The Regt marched through North Carolina by Sallsbury [sic: Salisbury], Hillsborough & Guilford court house. the Regt. arrived in one or two days march of Charleston before it heard of its surrender [12 May 1780; see endnote].

He was in frequent skirmishes with the british. He was at the battle of the Point of Forks [sic: Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] where Genl Gates was defeated. he there received musket ball in his right shoulder. Colo. Porterfield was their wounded. Seargent Booth to others & my self were carrying Colo Porterfield off after he was wounded but were so closely persued by the enemy that they had to leave him he was taken prisoner. The defeat of Genl Gates was in August 1780: after the defeat of Gen'l. Gates he with others collected at Hillsborough & with Maj. Marzard [sic: John Mazarett] marched to Richmond City Virginia, where he joined Capt Smith late in the fall & went with him to the western part of Virginia to obtain wagons & teams for the Army. they returned in the spring following [sic]. in a few days after their arrival at Richmond, he was ordered to Camden by Capt Smith for the purpose of attending Colo Porterfield to Virginia on parole. Colo Porterfield was confined a prisoner in Camden he went in company with Capt Singleton of the Maryland line to the neighbourhood of Camden he found Colo. Porterfield still a prisoner & being ill, he died [on 10 Jan 1781] in four or five days after he arrived in Camden. he immediately brought Colo. Porterfields baggage to Richmond City Virginia & delivered it to Capt Smith it was then in the fall of 1781. He then obtained for the first time his discharge from Capt. Smith (which has been lost) he served more that six months after his enlistment had expired (which was for 18 months) before he was discharged.

Immediately after returning home he volunteer'd in Northumberland County Virginia & went to York Town Virginia [presumably during the siege, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], he was put under Colo Ennis [sic: James Innes] command on Gloucester Point opposite York Town his whole service in the Militia was about six months

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid Edward hisXmark Sorrell

NOTES:

There was no battle at Point of Forks VA, but Gen. Baron von Steuben was driven from there by the British on 5 Jun 1781. The troops with whom Sorrel served certainly knew of the surrender of Charleston before they began marching south, because Gen. Horatio Gates had been appointed Commander of the Southern Army precisely because Gen. Benjamin Lincoln had surrendered at Charleston. They did not get close to Charleston but were dispersed at the Battle of Camden. Col. Porterfield died while traveling to Charleston to surrender as a prisoner of war. Compare the pension application of Guilford Dudley (W8681).

The 1810 federal census for Northumberland County VA lists Edward Sorrel as "a free mulatto."

On 21 Nov 1853 Darcis Sorrell, resident of Baltimore aged 62, applied for a pension stating that she married Edward Sorrel on 15 Dec 1814, and he died 7 July 1837. On 16 April 1855 Dorcas Sorrell filed an application for bounty land, which stated that as Dorcas Lewing she was married to Edward Sorrel by John Dorget, a Methodist preacher, on 15 Dec 1815, and that her husband died at Northumberland Courthouse on 7 July 1839. This application was witnessed by Walter Sorrell, as he signed. The file includes a copy of a minister's return for the marriage of Edward Sorrel and Darcis Lewin signed by John Doggett.