

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Edwards W7076 Martha Edwards VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following is partly illegible, because ink has bled through the paper. Some data are from other documents in the file.]

State of Virginia Buckingham County; to wit:

On this the 19th day of August 1841 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Martha Edwards a resident of said County and State aged 73 years, who being first 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 Act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an Act granting half pay and pensions to Certain Widows.

That she is the widow of Thomas Edwards late of the said County and State, who was a private in the Continental and Militia service of Virginia, in the war of the Revolution. She declares that she knew that he was draughted two or three times in the war and was absent a long time; that she knows nothing about the country through which he marched or the Battles in which he was engaged except from his own statements and that of others who served with him subsequent to the close of the war. He often stated to her in his life time that he was in actual service a considerable length of time, was engaged in many battles, two of which as well as she now recollect were the Battle at Guilford in North Carolina [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781] and at the Seige of Little York [Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and marched from there to Winchester Barracks in Virginia and I think I [illegible word] say that he was at one time stationed at Petersburg Virginia, but from bodily infirmity, old age and the consequent loss of memory she can not at this time state the particulars and therefore prefers to rely on the Public Records and the statements of those who served with him whose affidavits accompany her Declaration. That for similar reasons she can not state precisely how long he was in actual service altogether, but suppose he served at least two years for which length of time she claims a pension. She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Edwards on the 23rd day of July 1785, that her husband the aforesaid Thomas Edwards died on the 16th day of October 1794 That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place prior to the first day of January 1794 to with at the time above stated
Martha herXmark Edwards

[28 Oct 1841] The affidavit of Joseph Childers of the County of Buckingham and State of Va. who gave a former affidavit in the case of Martha Edwards, widow of the late Thomas Edwards who is claiming a pension under the act of congress of the United States passed 7th July 1838 granting pensions and half pay to certain widows for five years; this affiant states, Thomas Edwards marched from the county of Buckingham, as a drafted Militia man, to North Carolina and was in the Battle at Guilford, on a tour of three months he does not recollect the names of the officers, but believes it was Capt Winston who commanded the company, at another time marched from the same county as a drafted Militia man under Capt. Charles Patteson to Petersburg Va. from thence to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] and was discharged at McNely's Mills, this was a tour of three months; He then marched as a substitute under Capt John Anderson from the same County, to the Barracks in Albermarle County Va upon a tour of three months. He then marched from the county aforesaid under Capt. Thos. Drew [Thomas Drew] to Richmond Va. thence to Williamsburg & thence to Little York where he remained until after the Battle was fought between the American Army & the British at the time Corn Wallis [sic: Cornwallis] surrendered on a tour of three months; this affiant does not recollect the dates but thinks he entered the Revolution early in the year 177[~~last digit illegible~~] and remained therein after as a substitute or in his own turn until the end of the War with very little intermission. He also states that the said Martha Edwards and Thomas Edwards were married about the date of 1785 in the County of Buckingham at the Church of Tillotson Parish according to the then Rules of that Church by the Rev'd James Saunders Decd

that they lived together as man and wife until the death of her husband Thomas Edwards leaving four children bearing all the relations as such both morally and legally and the widow now holds her dower rights in a small piece of land upon which she has lived ever since the death of her late husband Thomas Edwards and that she has never married since her husbands death which was about 1794 or 5 – he served the last tour with his Brother John Childers and returned home with him and came to his fathers and staid a day or two before he left
Joseph hisXmark Childers

[24 Jan 1842] The affidavit of Joseph Childers of the County of Buckingham Virginia; retaken to explain the objections made by the Pension Office Department to a former affidavit filed in the Pension Claim of Mrs Martha Edwards, widow of the late Thomas Edwards – objection 1st “Mr. Childers testifies to several tours of duty performed in the Virginia Militia by said Edwards; What means he possessed to enable him to state so particularly Mr Edwards’ service does not appear.” In answer to that objection he say he was borned and raised in the same neighborhood, in which Edwards was, and in one mile of each other (and still lives there) he Edwards being one or two years older than this affiant, he was present when Edwards marched to the Barracks and one of his Brothers marched in the same Company – The tour to the South during which the Battle at Guilford was fought, this affiant was with him, his father being drafted this affiant took his place. The tour to Petersburg on to Cabin Point this affiant went in the same company as far as Petersburg there taken sick (having been out about two months) his Brother came down and took his place and he returned home. The tour to Richmond Va. on to York Town and in the Battle at that place, this affiant went on as far as Richmond with the company his Brother John Childers being drafted in the same company; this affiant merely went with his Brother not being drafted himself when Edwards and his Brother returned after the Battle at Little York, they came to his father’s together and Edwards remained there several days, and his father and family came over. objection 2nd “Neither is his age stated in his affidavit.” In answer to the second objection he says he is 79 Seventy nine years of age the 28th day of Feby next (should he live to see the time). He also states that both of his brothers who served with Edwards departed this life several years since

Joseph hisXmark Childers

NOTES:

On 11 Oct 1841 Capt. Stephen Hooper stated that Thomas Edwards was killed by accident while his children were young.

On 18 April 1843 Martha Edwards was said to be 74.