

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Ewell W9432 ¹

Maria D. Ewell

f103VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

3/2/10 supp'd 4/13/15 & 12/9/23

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 69-74]

To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of Charles Ewell of Prince William County respectfully sheweth; That your Petitioner in the year 1775 when only fifteen years of age enlisted as a volunteer in an independent company raised to support the cause of independence in which the American colonies were then engaged. He was shortly afterwards appointed a Lieutenant in the first Virginia State Regiment. In 1777 the Regiment to which he was attached joined the Main Continental Army at the North with which he continued in service until 1778 with the exception of two months during which time he was engaged in recruiting. In the year 1778 he was appointed and commissioned a "Captain in the first Battalion of regular forces raised for the defense and protection of this State and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof" [see the commission herewith]. Your Petitioner continued in service to the northward in the rank of Captain until 1780 when the term for which the men of his Regiment were enlisted expired. He reenlisted every man of his company to serve to the end of the war and in that year was marched into Virginia where he served in various volunteer detachments, in one of which he had the fortune to attack two British galleys in the Appomattox [River] and killed and wounded upwards of one hundred of the enemy with the injury only of two men wounded. He was appointed when Baron Steuben came to Virginia Major of Brigade and continued to serve through the year 1780 in that capacity under General Lawson still how of a retaining his rank in the regular Army. About the year 1781 when acting as town Major for the City of Richmond he was appointed a commissary of provisions by Major General Lafayette [see account & certificate within from the Treasury Department]. He served in that character until the regiments of Colonel Dabney² and Gibson³ were consolidated, and the investment of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. After the capitulation of Cornwallis, he returned home as a supernumerary officer with a constitution materially injured by six years of laborious and faithful service and was never afterwards required again to enter into the service or resumed his command, which he was at all times ready and willing to do, if required whilst the war continued [see certificates of Colonel Dabney & General Marshall].

By an act of the General Assembly passed in May 1779, entitled "an act concerning

¹ BLWt 1850-500 Va. Half Pay BLWt17591-160-55, N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 063 Half Pay Charles Ewell

² [Charles Dabney R13624](#)

³ [George Gibson BLWt1985-500](#)

officers, soldiers sailors and Marines" [10 Hening Stat: at Large 25] it is stipulated on the part of this Commonwealth that the Field officers, captains and subalterns commanding or who should command in the Battalions of this Commonwealth on Continental establishment or raised for the immediate defense of this State, war for the defense of the United States & who should serve to the end of the war; and all such officers who should become supernumerary and again entered into the service, if required so to do & continue therein to the end of the war, should be entitled to half pay during life to commence from the determination of their command for service.

Notwithstanding this plain and manifest pledge of the faith of the State, your petitioner regrets to say that he has never been permitted to receive the whole or any part of his half pay or the five years full pay for which he understood it was to be commuted. He has learned with no less regret that many of his old companions in arms have made repeated and unavailing efforts to obtain a fair adjustment of their claims against the Government. Previous Legislatures, it is true have sometimes taken up the subject with an apparent determination to do justice, and on one occasion your petitioner has understood that the meritorious Colonel Campbell received his commutation of five years full pay by an act passed in his favor. But your petitioner has also been informed that the claims of several officers after receiving the approbation of one branch of the Legislature has been arrested in the other on the ground that the law had already made ample provision in their favor, and that the proper mode of redress was by application to the Judiciary; yet when that application has been made, the Courts have turned a deaf ear on the subject, because of some technical informality or legal nicety that your Petitioner is unable to comprehend.

Your petitioner in conclusion, is well assured that he does not invoke the liberality and justice of the Virginia Legislature in vain. Having devoted the flower of his youth to the good of his Country, does he ask too much now when he is old and poor, that that Country should redeem her plighted faith and most sacred promise. To withhold the pittance he claims, can enrich the Treasury but little, but if granted will relieve him in the decline of life with a dependent family, from extreme embarrassment and distress.

S/ Charles Ewell⁴ of Prince William County

[p 72]

Aud. Off. Dec. 20, 1824

It does not appear that Captain Charles Ewell ever received his half pay or commutation of five years full pay.

S/ J. E. Heath, Aud.

Auditor's Officer Dec. 25, 1824

The claim of Major Charles Ewell a supernumerary officer of the Revolution, for half pay or commutation of five years full pay in lieu of thereof, has been disallowed not from any defects of evidence but because the act passed in May 1779 entitled "an act concerning officers, soldiers, sailors and Marines" under which the Petitioner claims, has received a Judicial construction adverse to his demand against the Commonwealth (see Wythe's Chy Report & Decision of the Court of Appeals in the case of Roane & others) -- whether that construction be right or wrong, it is considered obligatory.

S/ J. E. Heath, Audr.

[p 72-73: copy of Charles Ewell's Captain's commission signed by Patrick Henry, Governor]

⁴ Not an original signature

[p 73: copy]

Camp October 4th, 1781

This may certify that Captain Charles Ewell formerly ranked as Captain in the first V. State Regiment and is now a supernumerary officer.

S/ Cha. Dabney, Lt. Col.
V. S. Regiment

[p 73]

Jany. 2nd 1823

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter and do not recollect or believe that the supernumerary officers of the first & second State regiments were required to reenter the service after their return to Virginia.

S/ J. Marshall

(addressed) James Heath Esquire⁵

The image shows a handwritten letter on aged paper. At the top right, the date "Jan 2nd 1823" is written in cursive. The salutation "Dear Sir" is on the left. The main body of the letter reads: "I have received your letter and do not recollect or believe that the supernumerary officers of the first & second state regiments were required to reenter the service after their return to Virginia". The signature "J Marshall" is at the bottom right.

[p 74]

I hereby certify that Charles Ewell of Prince William County entered & received a commission as a Lieutenant in the first Virginia state Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson, in which I was a Captain, early in the year 1777, with which he marched & joined the Continental Army to the North & continued to serve therein until the time stated in his papers & was considered a valuable officer of his rank. Lieutenant Ewell & myself having separated; & he as well as myself having been transferred to the southern service as he states, we knew nothing of each other personally afterwards till since the Revolution.

S/ John Nicholas, Captain & Lt. Colo.

⁵ Original copied from the Prince William County Legislative papers in the [Digital Library of Virginia](#)

Revolutionary War
December 10th 1824⁶

I hereby certify, that Charles Ewell of Prince William County entered the 2^d Regiment as a Lieutenant in the 1st Va. State Reg. commanded by Col. George Gibson, in which I was a Captain, early in the year 1777, with which he marched & joined the Continental Army to the North, & continued to serve therein till the time stated in his papers, I was considered as valuable officer of his rank. I & Ewell & myself having separated, & he as well as myself, having been transported to the Southern side of the State, we knew nothing of each other personally afterwards till since the Revolution.

John Nicholas Cap &
The Col. Revolutionary War
Dec 10th 1824

I was well acquainted with Major Charles Ewell in the year 1777 -- 78 & 79. He was a Captain in either the first or second Virginia State Regiment and marched with his Regiment joined the Army in 1777. I saw him frequently and my impression is that he continued in the service until all the Virginia troops came to the South which he was at the close of the campaign of 1779. The regiments were then broken up & I do not know what became of Captain Ewell afterwards.

S/ J. Marshall, [John Marshall]
December 19th 1823⁷

I was well acquainted with Major Charles Ewell in the years 1777-78 & 79. He was a Captain in either the first or second Virginia State Regiment and marched with his Regiment to join the army in 1777. I saw him frequently and my impression is that he continued in service until all the Virginia troops came to the South which was at the close of the campaign of 1779. The regiments were then broken up & I do not know what became of Captain Ewell afterwards.

J Marshall
Dec 19th 1823

⁶ Original copied from the Prince William County Legislative papers in the [Digital Library of Virginia](#)

⁷ Original copied from the Prince William County Legislative papers in the [Digital Library of Virginia](#)

[p 96]

Shelby County Set

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a justice of the peace for said County Major Elliott Rucker⁸ who being duly sworn saith that Charles Ewell was an officer of the first Virginia State Regiment afterwards transferred to the Virginia Continental line commanded by Colonel Gibson, and served in the said Regiment until a consolidation took place on the 6th of February 1781 under arrangements of the preceding year at which time the said Ewell became a supernumerary or retiring officer, being then at the time of consolidation a Captain of the said Colonel Gibson's Regiment and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Elliott Rucker



Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 7th day of May 1831

[illegible signature]

[p 4]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act entitled "an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution" approved on the 15th of May 1828 I Maria D. Ewell executrix of the estate of Charles Ewell deceased late of Virginia but now of the County of McCracken in the State of Kentucky do hereby declare that he was an officer in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution and served as such to the time when the arrangement of the Army provided [for in]the resolves of Congress of the 3rd and 21st of October 1780 was carried into effect and he was reduced under that arrangement at which period he was a Captain in the Regiment of the Continental line commanded by Colonel George Gibson.

He received by the act of Virginia Legislature of 1825 five years full pay as a Captain in lieu of half pay for life. Witness my hand this 12th day of December in the year 1830.

S/ Maria D. Ewell

Before me Isaac Lovelace a justice of the peace for the County of McCracken in the State of Kentucky personally appeared this day Thomas Taylor and Maria D. Ewell of the said County who did severally make oath that Charles Ewell mentioned in the foregoing declaration deceased on the first day of April 1830.

Witness my hand this 21st day of December in the year 1830.

S/ Isaac Lovelace

[p 48]

Revolutionary Claims

Treasury Department 26 November 1831

Charles Ewell, late of McCracken County in the State of Kentucky has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such until the

⁸ [Elliot \(Elliott, Eliot\) Rucker S46408](#)

reduction of the Army under the resolve of Congress of the 21st of October 1781 at which period he was a Captain in the Regiment of the Virginia line; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March, 1826, nothing.

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are cold Robert rated by the records in his office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department

Third Auditor's Office

It further appears that Charles Ewing is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been since the 3rd March 1826. The only evidence of the services of Captain Charles Ewell is found in the Book of settlements made by Mr. Dunscomb, the agent for settling the accounts of the Virginia line, in which is his account as Deputy Commissary General of Prisoners for pay from 4th May 1781 to 4th December 1781, at the rate of \$40 per month (the pay of a Captain of Infantry).

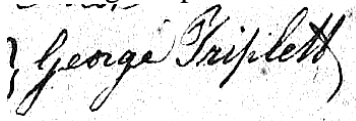
S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

[p 51]

State of Kentucky Bullitt County: Personally appeared before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County -- George Triplett⁹ who being duly sworn saith that Charles Ewell was a Captain of Colonel Gibson's Regiment of the Virginia State line afterwards transferred to the Virginia Continental Establishment or line of the Army of the Revolution and served as such until the Consolidation of regiments at which time the said Ewell retired as a supernumerary officer, he knows not at this time the period when this such Consolidation took place pr was to go into operation but says that it was the first and general consolidation at which Angus Rucker, Charles Ewell and Thomas White himself the deponent and several others of said Regiment retired as supernumerary officers and further he saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April 1831

S/ George Triplett



[p 59]

We John Nicholas & Peter Foster¹⁰ hereby certify that we were both Officers and Colonel George Gibson's Regiment in Charles Ewell was a Lieutenant from its commencement continued in it till 1780 -- was promoted to the rank of Captain & either continued to the end of the war or retired as Rucker, Broaddus, Triplett & others did.

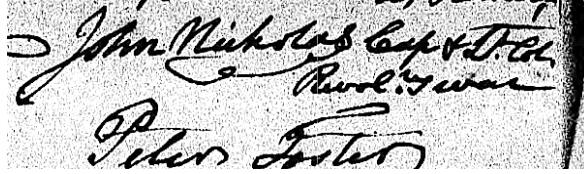
S/ John Nicholas, Capt. & Lt. Col.

Rev. War

S/ Peter Foster

⁹ [George Triplett W607](#)

¹⁰ [Peter Foster S46443](#)



[p 60]

I Churchill Gibbs of the County of Madison and the State of Virginia formerly a Lieutenant in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment at that time known as the first Virginia State Regiment do hereby certify that Captain Charles Ewell formerly of the County of Prince William in the State of Virginia and late of the County of McCracken in the State of Kentucky was a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel George Gibson. The said Captain Charles Ewell in the year 1777 was a Lieutenant in said Gibson's Regiment and in the year 1778 he the said Ewell was promoted to a Captain in said Gibson's Regiment. In the year 1780 he the said Ewell was arranged as a supernumerary Captain after the Regiment returned to Virginia.

Given under my hand this 29th day of July 1830

S/ Churchill Gibbs

[p 61]

I Angus Rucker¹¹ of Madison County Virginia do hereby Certify Charles Ewell formerly of Prince William County in the State of Virginia was appointed a Lieutenant in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment in the winter of 1776 or early of 1777 raised his men and joined Colonel George Gibson's Regiment at Williamsburg Virginia and as soon as the Regiment was organized the said Gibson's Regiment was ordered to join the Main Continental Army commanded by General Washington and the said Lieutenant Charles Ewell marched with Gibson's Regiment to the North and joined the Grand Army commanded by General Washington and while at the North took rise to the command as a Captain in said Regiment & continued in full command as Captain in said Regiment. In the winter 1779 or 1780 Gibson's Regiment was ordered to Virginia and the said Captain Ewell marched with the Regiment to Alexandria Virginia had the troops commanded by Colonel Gibson's officers and soldiers had furloughs for three months to join the Regiment again at Williamsburg and the said Captain Charles Ewell joined the Regiment and continued in command as Captain in said Regiment until the troops were so reduced that there was not man for the officers to command of course and arrangement of the officers took place in 1780 or 1781 and the said Captain Charles Ewell was one of the officers with a good many others were ranged a supernumerary Captain he the said Ewell was considered a good officer I have received letters from Captain Charles Ewell in the course of a few years past saying that he was living on his military land and McCracken County further the deponent saith not.

Given under my hand this day of 1830

S/ Angus Rucker, formerly
Captain in Colonel Gibson's Regiment

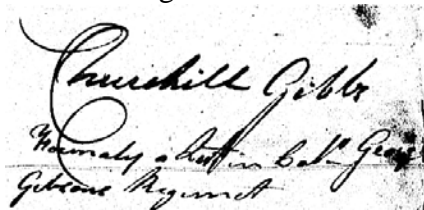
[p 41]

This is to Certify that Captain Charles Ewell was an officer and Colonel George Gibson's first Virginia State Regiment and became a Supry [sic, supernumerary], I have thought in the year 1780 or 81 -- but speak with more certainty as to the precise time when I say that he retired at the

¹¹ [Angus Rucker S19068](#)

same time Rucker did & I always considered & knew that he was in former days considered upon the same footing with his other brother supernumerary officers belonging to Gibson's Regiment who are receiving the benefits of the act of the 15th May 1828 -- in a line word "Supry" before signed. Given under my hand in Madison County this the 12th day of August 1831

S/ Churchill Gibbs¹²
formerly a Lt. in Colo George
Gibson's Regiment

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Churchill Gibbs". Below the name, there is a smaller line of text that reads "Formerly a Lt. in Colo George Gibson's Regiment". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[p 9]

Declaration

In order to obtain the benefits of the second section of the Act of the third February 1853 State of Kentucky, McCracken Circuit Court

On the 29th day of April 1853 personally appeared before the Judge of said Court of the State of Kentucky Maria D. Ewell a resident of McCracken County and State aforesaid aged nearly sixty-five years who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the Act of Congress, passed on the 3rd February 1853 -- granting Pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary war, that she is the widow of Charles Ewell of Dumfries P. O. Virginia who was a Captain in the first Virginia State Regiment in the revolutionary war. That he was first appointed a Lieutenant and marched with the Regiment and 1777 to join the Continental Army, and 1778 he was appointed a Captain in said Regiment and continued to serve until 1780 -- when the period expired for which the men were enlisted he reenlisted his man to serve to the end of the war, marched to Virginia and served in various volunteer detachments -- when Baron Steuben was in Virginia, the said Ewell was appointed Brigade Major, and served in that capacity through the year 1780 -- in 1781 he was appointed deputy Commissary of provisions -- by General Lafayette and served in such until the investment of York town after that he retired as a supernumerary. The services of Major Ewell (for by that title or rank he was always distinguished) were so well known and remembered in Virginia, that it is almost unnecessary to refer to the evidence by which they were established -- a brief reference however well indicate the sources from which it may be obtained -- before the passage of the Act of Congress of the 7th of July 1832 [sic, June 7, 1832] he petitioned the Legislature of Virginia to grant him by half pay promised by that State -- and appended to that Petition may be found a copy of his Commission as Captain signed by Patrick Henry -- Governor of Virginia -- 1st June 1778 also the following Certificate from Colonel Dabney dated the 4th of October 1781 stating his Rank in the line and that he had been supernumerary from Captain John Nichols¹³ stating that Ewell joined the 1st State Regiment early in 1777 and served therein until the time stated in his petition from Chief Justice Marshall verifying Ewell's rank and services at the North to the end

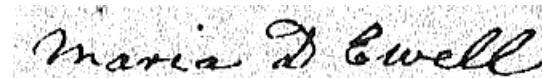
¹² [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

¹³ Sic, [John Nicholas S46397](#)

of the Campaign of 1779. An extract from Dunscomb's Ledger in the 3rd Auditor's Office showing that Ewell in addition to all his other services was Deputy Commissary of provisions from the 4th of May to the 4th December 1781 and received \$280 for that service.

In a certificate of Major Ewell's 28th January 1785 filed in the case of John Nichols[John Nicholas] in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates, he states that he ranked as Major in the Militia -- many of the State and Continental lines, like himself making higher rank in the Militia than they held in the regular lines, a certified copy of this paper and of the several papers above referred to as well as the rolls of Gibson's Regiment to which Major Ewell belonged, may be found in the Pension Office in the volume of Virginia Claims made up chiefly of authentic records from Richmond the Declaration [sic, Declarant] further states that she was married to the said Charles Ewell in the town of Alexandria by the Reverend Oliver Norris of the Episcopal Church on the 1st day of October 1818 and that her husband the aforesaid Charles Ewell died on the 1st day of April 1830 in McCracken County Kentucky, having removed from Virginia to take possession of his Military Land. She further states that she is now a widow and that she was not married to him prior to the second of January 1800 and at the time above stated and that she never before made any application for a Pension.

S/ Maria D. Ewell



[p 12: In an affidavit signed in McCracken County Kentucky, Maria D. Ewell, widow and executrix of Charles Ewell deceased and officer of the Army of the revolution declared that John, Maria V., Joseph D., Edwin & Lucy Ewell and Sarah A. Naylor (late Sarah A. Ewell) are the children and legal heirs of Charles Ewell.]

[p 15: On May A.D., 1855, Maria D. Ewell, 66, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Charles Ewell in which she notes not only his revolutionary service but also states: "your declarant would further state that her said husband was present & actively engaged in the battle at the White House which took place on the banks of the Potomac River in the war of 1812, when the British fleet returning from Washington, was cannonaded by the American troops."]

[p 19: Certificate issued by the clerk of Alexander County Virginia stating that it appears from the records in said office that Maria D. Craik¹⁴ was married to Charles Ewell by the Reverend O. Norris on the first day of October in the year 1818.]

[pp 20-23: last will and testament of Charles Ewell]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$515 per annum commencing February 3, 1853.]

[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](#)]

[Note: There are additional documents in this file but none add materially to the record of the veteran's service in the Revolution.]

¹⁴ The widow's maiden name was Maria Dorcas. She was the widow of Washington Craik at the time she married Charles Ewell.