

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Edward Digges R13760 VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

At a Court of quarterly sessions held for the City of Williamsburg on Monday the 27th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen and in the 40th year of the Commonwealth.

On the motion of James W Murdaugh Esq. It is ordered that the Estate of Edward Digges a Lunatic be committed to the hands of Robert G. Scott: Whereupon the said Robert G. Scott the friend of the said Edward Digges appeared in Court & together with John Goodall and Robert McCandlish his securities entered into and acknowledged a Bond in the penalty of Twenty five hundred Dollars conditioned for the true and faithful performance of the Trust reposed in him by the said appointment.

Teste/ Leonard Henley clk

At a Court held for the City of Williamsburg on Monday the twenty sixth day of February eighteen hundred and sixteen and in the 40th year of the Commonwealth.

On the motion of John Goodall, who made oath according to Law and together with Roscow Cole his security entered into and acknowledged Bond on the penalty of three thousand dollars conditioned according to Law. Certificate is granted him for obtaining letters of administration of the estate of Edward Digges deceased in due form.

Teste/ Leonard Henley clk

At a Court of Hustings held for the City of Williamsburg at the Courthouse thereof on the 26th day of May 1834.

Upon the motion of George B Lightfoot, the court doth certify upon satisfactory testimony. To Wit, on the evidence of Robert Saunders Sen'r. a very old and highly respectable gentleman of this City, That Edward Digges entered into the army, early in the war of the revolution, and was a captain of Artillery in the State line, and so called and known, Whether he served to the end of the war I know not as I was in Virginia from the beginning of the year 1781 till September 1783 when I returned from the Southern Army. The said Captain Digges lived several years after the revolutionary war and died in the lunatic Hospital in this City. The immediate relations of the said Edward Digges were three maiden sisters, all of whom I knew, and well remember, two of them died before him, and Mary Digges the surviving sister, died also in this city, neither of these ladies were ever married. – I have always understood that said Edward Digges was connected by blood with the late Dudley Digges of this City and the late Colo. William Digges of Denbeigh in the County of Warwick. – Dudley Digges had several children, some of whom survived him. Colo. Digges his eldest son lived and died in James City County, leaving several daughters one of whom married the late William Lightfoot of same County, one married Roscow Cole, of Williamsburg, and one married John Goodall, who survived her leaving one child a son. The other children of the said Dudley Digges were Mrs. Burwell of Bottetourt [sic: Botetourt County], Mrs. Nicholson of York, Mrs. Stratton of Northampton, Mrs. Nicholson wife of Andrew Nicholson of Richmond, and a son called Dudley, yet living as I learn in Louisa County. Colo. Digges of Denbeigh left two sons and two daughters, one of the daughters married a Mr. William Digges of Newport news, Elizabeth City and the other a Mr. Hill of Brunswick or Greenville. His sons Cole and William are both dead, the former leaving children and the latter none. Besides these relations, the said William Digges of Newports news and his brother Dudley now also of Louisa [Dudley Digges, probably pension application S8328], were supposed to be related to the said Captain Edward Digges. — Digges of Newports News has been dead many years leaving several married daughters, whom I never knew. The said Edward Digges called Captain Digges had been once married, survived his wife and left no child.

Teste/ Wm. M. Moody C.H.C.

At a Court of Hustings held for the City of Williamsburg at the Courthouse in said City on Monday the

Hanover Courthouse, 20th October 1856.

Sir [Judge Minot, Commissioner of Pensions]/ As attorney for the legal representative of Edward Digges deceased; I apply for the half pay for life, promised to the said Digges, by the legislature of Virginia [obligation later assumed by the United States], for his services as a Captain in the State line; and, directed by the act of congress passed 5th July 1832, to be paid to his legal representative. With the evidence before him that Capt. Digges died in the city of Williamsburg, and that letters of administration on his estate had been granted to John Goodall, your predecessor, James E. Heath allowed it to a man claiming under the authority of the county court of Fauquier, when he knew that that court held no jurisdiction over the estate of a man who did not die in the county of Fauquier. This act of the commissioner of pensions, being illegal, if not fraudulent, is nul, and void, and the claim of my client, who is the legal representative of Capt. Edward Digges, is valid, and due, under the act of congress of 5th July 1832. Col. Digges, the grandfather of Mrs Henley was the uncle of Capt. Digges. Digges of Fauquier, is not an heir of Capt. Digges, and is not recognised as entitled to any portion of the Strip allowed at the land office, to the heirs of Capt. Digges, and therefore, has no claim for his half pay.

Richard Randolph, Atty for W. L. Henley.

[An unsigned note in the federal file reads: "John Godall died in 1840 or 1841 The evidence now adduced was before the Office at the time claim was admitted.]

[The following are among [Revolutionary bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#).]

I Dudley Digges [S8328] certify that I was a Lieutenant in [Capt. Charles] Fierer's company of Cavalry during the revolutionary war. I further certify that I was well acquainted with Capt Edward Digges of the Virginia State Line. Capt Edw'd Digges, served upwards of four years. Given under my hand in Louisa County this 30th July 1832. Dudley Digges Sr



The deponent Joseph S Crawley being duly sworn deposes and saith, that he was well acquainted with Edward Digges a Capt of the Revolutionary Army. That he acted as a recruiting officer, under Colo David Mason in the City of Williamsburg. That he served (as deponent believes) to the end of the war. That he never heard of his resigning, and does not believe he ever resigned. Done at James City County August 10th 1833

Joseph S Crawley

Williamsburg May 10th 1779

Colo Porterfield pr. order approved by Gov't [illegible abbreviation]

To sundries delivered Lieut. Bryant for the following Companies, viz:

For Capt. Edward Digges Men 40 Shirts @ 15/- }

10 pr. Shoes @ 8/- } 46.0.0

The above extracted from Journal B. from September 1778 to Nov. 1779. No. 6.

Jas. E. Heath [James E. Heath]/ Auditor of Virginia] Off 23 Nov 1833

Williamsburg 24 March 1777.

Lieut. Ed. Digges

pr. order Colo. Morgan

To 6 Dutch Blankets No. 427 @ delivered Ed. Digges, Lt. [Lt.]

The above extracted from Day Book to the public store beginning the 8th Nov. 1776 and ending 16 Aug^t. 1777.

Jas. E. Heath/ Auditor Off 23 Nov. 1833

1778

April 24 To Lt. Edward Digges pay roll	£96.9.0
May 4 To Lt Edward Digges D'o	56.16.8
June 18 To Lt Edward Digges D'o to June 15 1778	225.6.8

1779

Feb'y 25 To Capt Edward Digges pay roll	149.6.4
April 16 To Capt Edward Digges pay roll	159.7.0

The foregoing entries are extracted from Lawrence Smiths pay roll on file in this office.

Aud'rs Office/ 23 Nov 1833

Jas E Heath aud

I Robert Saunders, of the City of Williamsburg in Virginia, now at the age of seventy and upwards, being requested by some of the Representatives of the late Capt'n. Edward Digges of the said City, to state what I know and recollect of the said Captain Edward Digges, do hereby certify, that I first knew the said Edward Digges when I entered the College of William and Mary in the year 1774: the said Digges was then a young man, several years apparently older than I was. About the year 1777, as well as I recollect, the said Edward Digges left College, and entered into the Army, and was as I believed a Captain during that year, either of Infantry or Artillery. I have always understood of Artillery. He was called Captain, and I have seen him in the uniform of an Officer in that year, and in the subsequent year of 1778. From that Period 'till the end of the war of the Revolution, I have no distinct remembrance of him or of his Military services.

From 1784 'till his death about the year 1800 I saw and heard of him, and he was commonly called Captain Digges. He was once married, and survived his wife, leaving no Children. Connected with him by blood were three maiden sisters; two of whom died before him unmarried. The third, Mary Digges, survived him, and has been dead several years, unmarried and without children. The said Edward Digges left many collateral Relations, most of whom I knew – and some of them are yet living. All which I certify and make known under my hand this twelfth day of August in the year Eighteen hundred and thirty three.

[signed] Ro. Saunders

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Addendum to Edward Digges R13760

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 11 Dec 2023.

[From [Virginia Half-Pay pension records on fold3.com](#). Some documents in the 63-page file are not transcribed.]

Williamsburg May 10th 1779.

Colo. Porterfield [Charles Porterfield BLWt1145-450] pr Ord. approved by Gov'r D'r

To sundries del'd. Lieut Bryant for the following Compeney's Viz

For Capt Edw'd Digges men 40 Shirts @ 15/. and 40 p Shoes 8/. } 46.0.0

40 p Gaiters @ 4/6. 4 Cloth Coats @ 50/. } 19.0.0

8 Jackets @ 25/. 12 p Breeches @ 25/. } 25.0.0

15 Baize Blankets @ 35/. } 26.5.0

The above is truly copied from Journal B No 6. from page 223.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 11th day of November 1850.

No Seal of Office Ro Johnston First Auditor

Williamsburg 20th August 1779

State Garrison Regemt. D'r

To Colo Porterfield for part of the Clothing due Capt Digges C[ompan]y as a bounty pr Cert[ificat]e Viz

4 Coats @ 50/. 5 pair Breeches @ 25/. } 61.0.0

5 Vests @ 25/. 8 Blankets @ 35/. } 61.0.0

13 Shirts \$ 15/. 15 pair Shoes @ 8/. }

The above is truly copied from Journal B. From page 276.

Given under my hand at the Auditors Office Richmond this 11th day of November 1850.

No Seal of Office Ro Johnston First Auditor

[The following comes immediately after the certificate of Robert Saunders as found in the pension file.]

And at the same Court, towit, on the 26th day of May 1834.

Upon satisfactory evidence the Court doth certify that William Lightfoot of James City County, died leaving the following persons his children and only heirs, towit, Catherine N. Lightfoot who has since intermarried with and is at present the wife of Richardson Henley, Elizabeth D. Lightfoot who married Wm. B. Taylor, and is now a widow the said Taylor being dead. Mary C. Lightfoot at present the wife of Daniel P. Hawkins, Susan G Lightfoot at present the wife of James T. Farthing, George B. Lightfoot and Armistead N. Lightfoot, which said Armistead N. Lightfoot is now dead, and has left three infant children his only heirs, towit, Lucy A. Lightfoot, William Lightfoot and John Lightfoot

And at the same Court, towit, on the 26th day of May 1834

Upon satisfactory evidence, the Court doth certify the Cincinatus Goodall is the only heir at law to his mother Martha Goodall wife of John Goodall who was Martha Digges, she being dead.

We do certify that the three foregoing orders are are truly copied from the Records of my office

Teste, Wm. M. Moody C.H.C.

At a court of the Quarler'y [Quarterly] Session held for the County of Louisa at the Court house thereof on Monday the 10th day Aug. 1835.

The court on evidence this day exhibited to them, are satisfied that William Digges deceased of Newport News Edward Digges dec'd of Fauquier, Mamy [or Marny] Digges de'd. who married George Fitzhugh de'd. of Fauquier, Thomas Digges de'd. of Fauquier, Elizabeth Digges dec'd. who married Doct. Thos. Powell dec'd. of Spotsylvania, Sarah Digges de'd. who married William Fitzhugh of Fauquier

Dudley Digges Sen of Louisa Elizabeth Digges dec'd. who married William Digges de'd. of Newport News, Mary Digges de'd. who married William Hill de'd. of Newport News, Cole Digges de'd. of Hanover Patsey Digges [see endnote] who married Nathaniel Burwell de'd. of Botetourt, Elizabeth Digges who married Doct. Robert Nicholson dec'd. of York*, Lucy Digges who married John Walton dece'd. of Northhampton, Mary Digges who married Dudley Digges Sen of Louisa, Judy Digges who married Andrew Nicholson dec'd. of Richmond, and Dudley Digges Jn of Louisa are the only heir and legal representatives of Capt Edward dec'd who was an officer in the army of the Revolution and that the said Capt. Edward Digges died intestate after the year 1810

*Lucy Digges who married Jno. Stratton of Northhampton

A Copy teste/ John Hunt C.L.C.

I William M. Moody of the City of Williamsburg and State of Virginia now in the sixty first year of my age, do certify on oath that, I was personally & well acquainted with Edward Diggs called Captain Diggs, named in the foregoing certificate of Mr. Robert Saunders, that he died in the Lunatic Hospital, or in the City of Williamsburg about the year 1816 as will appear by the Hustings Court of Williamsburg committing his estate to John Goodall as his Administrator at the February Court 1816. Said Goodall is since dead and no administration has since been granted on the estate of said Edward Diggs in said Court, he said Edward Diggs left a maiden Sister named Mary Diggs more generally called Molly Diggs who died since her brother the said Edward Diggs. And I further certify that I never have known any other Edward Diggs who was a Lunatic in this City or County, or in the Lunatic Hospital of this City except the first named Edward Diggs. And he being harmless was often permitted to go at large. When I knew him, he was a tall, dignified old Gentleman, remarkable neat in his person and general appearance. Given under my hand this 6th day of June 1851.

Wm M Moody

Personally appeared before me John M. Galt an Alderman & Justice of the Peace of the City of Williamsburg, Mrs Mary A. Galt & affirmed in due form of law that she had resided at the Lunatic Hospital in Williamsburg since the year 1809, and since the year 1814 had been matron thereof. She states further more, that she was acquainted during that time with Edward Digges a patient in the said Hospital, & that she never knew but one patient in the hospital by that name, & that he was there in the year 1814 and died between that period & 1820. And she furthermore states that John Goodall who administered on his estate, married a relative of the said Digges, & that Molly Digges his sister married him.

John M. Galt J.P.

Eastern Lunatic Asylum/ June 6th 1851

Dear Sir I have just received your letter of the 3^d inst. There has been no record of the deaths of patients in the Asylum, previously to the year 1827, consequently there is no utility in any search into the books in this regard. The only items of this sort, of which record was kept previously to 1827, are the receptions & discharges. Several years since I took the trouble to look through all the books from the commencement of operations at the Hospital in 1773 until the date of my action. In this way I made a list of receptions and discharges. On referring to this list I find but one person named Edward Digges, who was admitted in 1806. The following is the entry in the record book – “At a Court of Directors of the Hospital for the maintenance and care of persons held at the said Hospital in Williamsburg the 11th day of June 1796. Present the Right Rev. Doctor Madison, The Rev. John Barker, Robert Andrews, Robert Greenhow, Champion Travis, Cyrus Griffin and Robert Saunders Gent.

The Court proceeded to consider the case of Edward Digges from this City who is said to be a person of unsound and disordered mind and it appearing that he is a person of unsound and disordered mind, It is ordered that he be received into the Hospital and that the allowance for his maintenance commence on the ninth day of April last.”

Should it be desirable I will have the records again searched. Please let me know,

I have the honour to be, / your obt. svt./ John M. Galt,

Superintendent & Physician of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum

NOTE: A note in the file indicates that Patsey Burwell was the mother of Col. Thomas Burwell.