

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Edward Barker R496

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia

Smyth County to wit

On the 22^d day of August in the Year 1833 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the County of Smyth Edward Barker resident in the said County aged Seventy eight years who being first sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832

That he the said Edward Barker enlisted for the term of two years on the [blank] day of [blank] in the Year 1777 in the County of King William in the State of Virginia in a Company commanded by Captain James Quarles in the marine service and entered on board the Brig Liberty then lying in York River and commanded by Captain Edward Travis, being a Vessel carrying six 12s & 6 swivels [six 12-pounder cannons and six swivel guns], and employed as a guard Vessel & he continued in that service for about one Year and then the Captain with his Company was transferd to the land service and placed under the Command of Col [Edward] Carrington of the (seventh) Regiment (he believes but cannot now be certain as his memory is much impaired by age but the Rolls will shew.) he remaind doing duty in that Regiment principally at York until the end of his service and was then discharged at York by Colo Carrington having served his full term of two Years a private Soldier. He afterwards in the Year 1781 again entered the service of the United States by being drafted for eighteen months in the County of Buckingham and put under the Command of Captain James Couch was marched from one point to another from the Spring of the Year untill the fall when he was finally marchd to York at the commencement of the Siege [28 Sep 1781] – and join'd the Regiment commanded by Colo Thomas Gaskins but he cannot now remember the number of the Regiment – he remain'd there doing duty as a private Soldier untill after the surrender of the British army [19 Oct] and was then discharged by his Commanding Officer being little better than seven months in the last service in which he was wounded in the foot and unable to march with the troops guarding the prisoners and was put in to the Waggons and brot up into the Country – his discharge was put into the hands of Colo Hancock of Botetourt for the purpose of getting his pay – who died and he never could recover it that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension except the present and that his name is not on the roll of any State for a Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed on the 23^d day of August 1833

Edward hisXmark Barker

Virginia

Smyth County to wit

I William Humphrey [pension application R5377] of the County of Smyth in the State of Virginia am well acquainted with Edward Barker who has sign'd and sworn to the foregoing Declaration and believe him to be of seventy eight years of age and know that he was a Revolutionary Soldier having seen him doing duty as a private soldier at the siege of York that he himself was frequently on duty with him the said Edward Barker at work in the Trenches, and other duty in line and detachment... but he had no knowledge of the said Edward Barker while he was an enlisted soldier in the marine – being acquainted with him only at York where they remaind untill after the surrender. Sworn to the 23^d day of August 1833

William hisXmark Humphrey

NOTE:

On 23 May 1848 Elizabeth Barker of Washington County VA, 85, applied for a pension stating that she married Edward Barker near the close of the Revolutionary War, and he died on 30 May 1845.

The file includes the following:

“Virginia At a court continued and held for Washington county 24th day of August 1852

Ordered that it be certified that it appears to the satisfaction of this court by legal evidence, that Edward Barker who was a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States departed this life in this county on the 30th day of May 1845. That he left a widow whose name was Elizabeth who has since departed this life; and that the following are his children and heirs at law. to wit, Sally now the wife of Micajah McCormick Sen’r. Elizabeth now the wife of William Calliham, Edward Barker, Polly now the wife of Ezekiel Calliham, John Barker who is dumb, Vesta now the wife of Obadiah Calliham, and William Barker the son of a daughter of the said Edward Barker deceased, who is now dead and whose name was Lucy.”

On 12 March 1853 Elisabeth Callahan assigned power of attorney to obtain the amount of pension she though was still owed to her father. Documents in the file show that her belief was incorrect, but the case was pursued by John W. Stevens for the heirs. On 9 May 1853 Stevens wrote that Edward and Elizabeth Barker were married in 1774, that Barker’s pension stopped after 22 Oct 1833, and that the amount up to the time of his death was owed to the heirs, as well as the pension her widow applied for up to the date of her death on 15 June 1849. The widow’s pension had been suspended, however, pending proof of marriage. This long letter includes the following passage: “both [Edward and Elizabeth Barker], have been often heard to say – We were married in the dark day of the Old War. And she would often say, and shed tears, When my Husband was gone to the War I was but a strip of a Girl, I raised a patch of corne, and span and wove cloth to make cloths for Edward, when he would come home, I kept the Rifle loaded to shoot a British or an Indian if they troubled me.”

On 21 Nov 1853 Sally McCormick deposed that she was 72 to 75 years old and the oldest living child of Elizabeth Barker, and that besides the children listed above, Edward and Elizabeth Barker had a child named John who was dead. Also in the file is the following dated 30 July 1853:

“State of Virginia, County of Washington, On this day, personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Mrs Sally McCommack, second child of Edward Barker who was a pensioner of the United States in the County of Washington, and one of the Heirs of the said Edward Barker, who are now applying for arrear of pension due to ther Father & Mother, and in due and solemn form of same makes oath, that she is now in the 72^d or 73^d year of her age, that there was from the birth of the Eldest Child, to her birth two years – and that she has heard her Father & Mother say they were married about the year 1778 – 1778. That she has heard them say – she was a small girl when peace was made, and her Father returned home from the War, and that her Father often told her the same. – that she has often heard her Aunt, the sister of her mother say – she was present at the mariage of Mr. & Mrs. Barker and they were married about the time named.