

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Ambrose Lewis: S36041

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The first deposition is from a printed form with handwritten entries shown in italics.]
District of *Columbia*, Ss.

On this 7th day of *April* 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States for the said district, personally appears *Ambrose Lewis* aged *about 60* years, resident in *Alexandria* in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he the said *Ambrose Lewis* enlisted in *Frederick County* in the state of *Virginia* in the year *1777* as a seaman on board[?] the *Pearl Galley* and transferd to the ship of war *Dragon* ~~in the company~~ commanded by Captain *Elisha Callender* of the *Navy of the United States*; that he continued to serve in the said ~~corps~~ ship, or in the service of the United States ~~until the~~ *nearly three years*, when he was discharged from service in *James River* in the state of *Virginia*, that he was in ~~the~~ *a battles with a privateer called the Lord How [Howe], in which the Dragon lost one man killed, and eight men[?] wounded Commodore Taylor was wounded in the thigh in attempting to board the Lord How* and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services., *except the certificates herein enclosed*

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid: [signed] *W. Cranch*

District of Columbia, County of Washington, Ss

Be it remembered that on this 24th day of January in the year 1821, before the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, for the County of Washington (being a Court of record established as such by the several acts of Congress concerning the District of Columbia) personally appeared in open Court, Ambrose Lewis aged Sixty eight years, resident in the County & District aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare, that he served in the revolutionary war as follows:

That on the 15th April 1776 he entered into the naval service of *virginia*, on board the galley *Sage*, commanded by Capt. *Markham*; in which service he continued untill 30th March 1778. when he entered as a seaman into the naval service of the United States, on board the United States Ship *Dragon* commanded by Capt. *Callender*: in which service he continued until the 15th April 1779; when having compleated three years of service in the navy of the State & of the United States, he quitted that service & enlisted as a Common Soldier in Capt. *Halliday's* Company in the 2nd *Virginia* Regiment, commanded by Col. *George Stubblefield*: served in that regiment untill August 1780, when he was severely wounded & taken prisoner at the battle of *Cambden* [Battle of *Camden* SC, 16 Aug 1780] & was detained as a prisoner till the end of the war, at *Charleston* S. C. where he was confined a part of the time in barracks and the residue of the time on board the prisonship: that he the said *Ambrose Lewis* was inscribed on the pension list roll of the District of Columbia agency, under the act of 27th April, 1810, at the rate of \$2.50 per month, to commence on the 19th July, 1809; which pension was successively increased to \$3.75 per month, to commence on the 19th March, 1811, under the act of 5 July 1812; to six dollars per month to commence from the passage of the act of 24th April, 1816; & lastly to eight Dollars per month to commence on the 7th April 1818; for all which he received pension-certificates in due form; for the pension of \$2.50 per month, as a private in the army of the United States; under the act of 27th April, 1811, he has a duplicate pension-certificate dated on the 16th february, 1820 without number; upon which is stated all the other pensions, except the last of eight dollars per month, under the act of 18th March 1818; for that last pension, granted to him as a private in the navy of the United States; he has a pension-certificate dated 28th April 1818, & numbered, as he believes (272). The said *Ambrose Lewis* then in open court as aforesaid took & subscribed, in due form, pursuant to the act of Congress in such case provided, & passed on the 1st day of May, 1820, the

following oath, and produced and exhibited the schedule thereto annexed, & by him subscribed to wit: I Ambrose Lewis do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred & eighteen, & that I have not since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner whatever, disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & naval service of the U. States, in the revolutionary war," passed on the 18th day of March one thousand eight hundred & eighteen; & that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts, or debts due to me, nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed & by me subscribed. Ambrose hisXmark Lewis

Sworn to in open Court this 24th Jany 1820 Test Wm Brent Ck

Schedule subscribed & exhibited by Ambrose Lewis containing his whole estate & income &c.

I have no estate or property whatever, real personal or mixed; & am not even in a condition to except my necessary cloathing & bedding; for I have no bedding; & not as much cloathing as is necessary. I have no income whatever; except the pension or pensions to which I am may be entitled under the several acts of Congress before mentioned, or some or one of the same, & the casual contributions of the charitable, to which I have been compelled to resort since the payment of my pension has been suspended. I have no occupation, except occasionally that of a barber; and am not able to pursue any regular occupation for a livelihood, in consequence of my age & infirmity; & more especially of the anguish & disability of the wound in my leg received at the battle of Cambden which wound, the greater part of my time, breaks out into an open ulcer, & is always in a condition to render me a cripple in that leg. I have no family but a son about ten years of age, who is unable to contribute to my or his own support; the rest of my children are grown up & live to themselves. Ambrose hisXmark Lewis.

NOTE: The 1830 federal census for Alexandria, District of Columbia, lists Ambrose Lewis as a "Free Colored Person" 55 -100 with a female 36 -55.