

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absalom Jenkins VAS1161

vsl 19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/18/13 supp'd 3/30/15

[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

[Note: Documents relate to the annual administration of a pension of \$60 paid to Absalom Jenkins from 1832 until his death on April 5, 1836. Burrell Jenkins acted attorney for the veteran and as administrator of his estate. The file contains annual powers of attorney signed by the veteran with his mark by which he empowered Burrell Jenkins to act on his behalf. There are no substantive documents in this file relating to the services or injuries of the veteran. Veteran appears to have been a resident of Hanover County, VA.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Hanover County Legislative Papers 17pp under the name Absalom Jinkins

To the Hon. the Legislature of the State of Virginia: now in Session in the City of Richmond.

The Petition of Absalom Jinkins [sic], of the County of Hanover in the said state most humbly Sheweth:

That he is one of the surviving revolutionary Soldiers of the state line, who served in the revolutionary War; that he regularly served eight Tours of duty of three months each, to wit:

First under Capt. Elisha Meidith [Elisha Meredith]

Second under Capt. Thomas Richardson

Third under Capt. John Thompson

Fourth under Capt. David Whitlocke

Fifth under Capt. Thomas White (afterwards General White)

Sixth under Capt. __ Shields

Seventh under Capt. __ Towles

Eighth under Capt. William Talley

But death has removed them all home except Capt. William Talley, who he understands is yet alive; but neither his strength of body or strength of purse enables him to seek him for information upon this subject; This Petitioner further states that part of the time he was commanded by Generals Mulenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] and Stevens [Edward Stevens]; & by Colonels Meriwether & Col; and by Majors, Jones, Boyes, William Mosby, & Diggs. The Army was attended to part of the time by Adjutant General Hardemen: all of these latter gentlemen he

understands are all dead: That although he faithfully served those several eight Tours of duty he never obtained a regular discharge, though [he was] never impeached for any Default of duty, during the whole time; to prove his service, he introduces here the affidavit of Lieut. Peter Foster, to show that he served part of the time (Marked A.) and introduces for further proof the affidavit of Mary Ann Jinkins to show he served the whole time (Marked B.) he here introduces the affidavit of Dr. James Drew McCaw to show that a Surgical Operation has been performed upon his body, which renders him entirely incapable of maintaining himself, by his labor: (Marked C.) He introduces the affidavit of William J Clarke to show that he is at this time unable to maintain himself by his labor: and is an aged, and infirm man: (Marked D.) He here introduces the affidavit of Burwell Jinkins to show that he is in very indigent circumstances, and cannot, from what he possesses or his bodily Labor, maintain himself (marked B.) All of which, he most humbly prays may be taken as a part of this his petition and read and heard, as a part thereof: and this Petitioner, most solemnly avers before Almighty God, that he never received one Cent in compensation for his services aforesaid: nor has he ever asked it, of any tribunal, whatever, before this present application; nor would he now ask it, if he was able to maintain himself, by his property or the labor of his hands: but without aid he must perish; and most humbly conceiving, that he has just claims, upon his country, for those services rendered in the time of need & Danger, and for which he has never as yet received one cent for; he now humbly comes before your Hon. body, and most humbly implores assistance:

How grating it would be to his feelings, as an Old and faithful revolutionary Soldier, to be turned off by his native state, upon the Charity of his County, at the advanced age of near eighty years, he sickens at the idea; when he well knows in good conscience, that he has been a faithful defender of those Glorious rights & liberties, we now so happily enjoy. This petitioner in good faith hopes this Hon. body will not suffer it to be so in the present case. And therefore most humbly prays, that your humble body, will grant, to this War worn, feeble, disabled Petitioner that portion of pay, he may here prove to be due and unpaid to him; and place him upon the Pension List, and allow him by law a reasonable Pension, for the balance of his life, which cannot be long, and chargeable in any way whatever. And your petitioner shall, and will, as in duty bound will ever pray &c &c &c

S/ Absalom Jinkins, X his mark
Hanover

[Attested in Hanover County Virginia January 19th, 1832 before Reuben Meredith, JP]

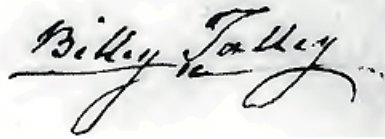
[Reverse]

Jinkins to the Legislature of Virginia
Petition for pay & pension
January 26 18 32
Referred to Revolutionary Claims
Reasonable as to the pension at \$30 for present relief
Rejected as to the prayer for compensation for Revolutionary Services

I Certify that while at the Siege at Little York at the close of the Revolutionary War, I commanded a Company of pro tem and have no Doubt but Absalom Jenkins thought I was the proper commissioned Officer at that time and to which he alludes to in his petition to the Legislature

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23rd day of January 1832
S/ Nathl. Chasteen, JP

S/ Billey Talley



City of Richmond to wit

The affidavit of Lieut. Peter Foster¹ of lawful age. Says that being called upon to state what he knows of the services of Absalom Jenkins in the Revolutionary War Says upon Oath, that he himself (this affiant) was a Lieut. in the Continental line under Capt. William Campbell and Others from time to time that by virtue of which Commission he now receives a Pension from the United States Government. That he well remembers Absalom Jenkins during the late War, served in the Army during Arnold's [Benedict Arnold's] invasion between 3 & 4 months, they afterwards separated & he never knew anything more of him during the War. And further this affiant saith not

S/ Peter Foster, Lieut.



[attested in Richmond January 18, 1832]

City of Richmond to wit

The affidavit of Mary Ann Jenkins aged Seventy years saith that her brother Absalom Jenkins who now applies to the Legislature for a Pension entered in the Militia Service in the revolutionary War in the Second call for soldiers after the War was declared between Great Britain and these United States that he was at the time he first entered service very little over sixteen years of age, And from that time until the end of the War he was almost constantly in service & always ready when called upon to serve his Country. Sometimes he would stay no more than two weeks at home, and some time longer but he must have served at least twenty-four months if not more; he was at the taking of Cornwallis at little York [October 19, 1781], which ended the war & he was engaged in it very shortly after it commenced & indeed almost always in the Army. He is now nearly Eighty years of age and very infirm and since the operation performed on him by Dr. James Drew McCaw his weakness has greatly increased and very poor & unable to get his living by his labor, and no property to support him & further this affiant saith not.

S/ Mary Ann Jenkins, X her mark

[Attested in Richmond January 18, 1832]

Richmond January 16, 1832

I do hereby certify that about 30 years ago I was called upon to visit Mr. Absalom Jenkins residing in the County of Hanover. –

I found Mr. J suffering from an obstruction of the Bowels. – It became necessary to operate immediately for Hernia – this I performed with success –

¹ [Peter Foster S46443](#)

Mr. Jenkins completely recovered – but was cautioned against unnecessary violent exertion
S/ James Drew McCaw

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James Drew McCaw". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested January 20, 1832 in Richmond]

City of Richmond to wit

The affidavit of Burwell Jenkins of Lawful age, saith, that he is nephew to Absalom Jenkins who now petitions the Legislature for a Pension. He knows nothing of his services in the revolutionary War, being not being in existence at that time; but has understood by information that he was a meritorious Soldier & served his Country faithfully; He is called upon to state the circumstances of said Jenkins and here upon oath do say that he is a very old, infirm man and a very poor man as to property; and can neither support himself by his labor or income from anything he possesses and further this affiant saith not.

S/ Burwell Jenkins

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Burwell Jenkins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested in Richmond January 18th, 1832]

C. Leon Harris provides the following from the file of [Jesse Williford W4865](#)
An Act placing Absalom Jenkins & Jesse Williford on the pension list.

Passed February 28th 1832

Be it enacted by the General Assembly that Absalom Jenkins of the County of Hanover, and Jesse Williford of the County of Southampton, poor, old and infirm soldiers of the revolution shall be placed on the pension list, and each receive sixty dollars annually during his life and be paid as other pensioners are paid. They shall moreover receive thirty dollars each for their present relief, to be paid them from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

This act shall be in force from and after the passing thereof.

[Copy certified by S. G. Tucker, Clerk of the House of Delegates, 17 Dec 1853.]
