

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition of Roger Williams VAS1760

2

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/16/15 supp'd 4/22/15

[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 [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] York County Virginia Legislative Petitions

To the Hon. the Speaker and Gentleman of the House of Delegates

The Petition of Roger Williams humbly Sheweth. That he served as a Deputy Commissary under Messrs. Eaton and Brown at the Garrison of York, in the late War with Great Britain for a period of two years and three months, that at the time of the Enemy's committing depredations and ravaging this State and making advances towards the said Garrison at York, your Petitioner for security of the Books and papers in his possession, belonging to the Commissary's department, removed the same in order to evade and prevent their falling into the Enemy's hands, but all his endeavors proved ineffectual to that end, as some of them were by that means destroyed, and others fell into the hands of the Enemy: that your Petitioner has made sundry applications to Messrs. Eaton and Brown, by whom he was employed on behalf of the State, for payment of such reasonable sums of money as his services merited for the said time of two years and three Months, but the want of his Books and papers to adjust and liquidate his Account and his Claim, has made it impossible for those Gentlemen to comply with his requisition; they therefore have declined meddling therewith, by which your Petitioner has [words too faint to discern] lost the whole of his wages for that time, having never received any part thereof: for this your Petitioner, who wholly relied on these wages for the support of himself, his Wife and several small Children, has suffered very much and has been and now is, greatly distressed, nor is there a power in the hands of any as he is advised that can relieve him except it is in the Legislature, and to them he most humbly appeals for redress.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that your Honorable House will be graciously pleased to take his Case under your most wise and serious consideration, and after reviewing it and examining into the same, considering it with all its attendant Circumstances, that the whole of your Petitioner's time and attention was solely taken up with the business of the Commissary's department during that time which required the greatest application and fatigue: that no other steps were taken or means sought by him for a future support during that time, than which he might merit and deserve at the hands of his Country for these services, humbly hopes, that you will in your goodness be graciously pleased to make him such Compensation for his said services, for the aforesaid period of time, as you in your wisdom and Justice shall think his case deserves. And your Petitioner as in duty bound, Shall ever pray &c
[no evidence of a signature]

Williams's Petition
November 1st 1786
Referred to Claims
[no action noted on the papers in this file]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] New Kent County Legislative Petitions

To the honorable the Speaker and Gentleman of the house of Delegates

The Petition of Roger Williams humbly Sheweth that after having served as a Soldier in the Continental Army three years in the late war the period for which he enlisted, on his return to this state from whence he went, he was appointed issuing Commissary to the Garrison stationed at Yorktown where he served three years and some months in that capacity and until the end of the War; that for the last two years and three months of this time your petitioner never received a shilling of wages or any compensation whatever for his services, owing as he your petitioner has been informed to Mr. John Brown, now deceased, by whom your petitioner was employed in this service having never settled his accounts as commissary General for the state, at least this was the reason always given to your Petitioner by the said commissary general when he applied to him for his wages, he alleged the loss of many of the Deputy commissaries Books and accounts by the depredation of the enemy when they first came to Yorktown, as the reason why he could not settle his accounts with the public. Your petitioner being thus circumstanced and by this time having a Wife and several small Children to support, by which he was much distressed for his Wages so due him, he was upon application advised to commence an action at Law against the said late commissary general, in order to endeavor thereby to recover his Wages of him, which he did in the County of New Kent, but the said commissary proving to the Court and Jury that he had not settled his accounts with the public your Petitioner failed to recover his said wages, and was saddled with the cost of an expensive lawsuit thereby. In this situation, and then unfortunately and most unjustly circumstanced, your Petitioner is impelled, as his only and last resource for his equitable and legal claim, to apply to the representatives of that County which has had his services for the said term of two years and three months without compensation, for a remedy; And he your Petitioner cannot entertain a doubt, but that you will, after being satisfied of the truth of the Allegations herein contained, and considering the case of your Petitioner with all its attendant circumstances; the services he faithfully rendered his Country in the said department in which he acted after having served as long as three years (as a Soldier) in her service; the great inconvenience and distress he has been at and suffered for the want of the money during a period of 11 or 12 years the time elapsed since he rendered the services and his wages ought to have been paid him, make him such Compensation as the nature of his Case actually requires: Your Petitioner therefore very humbly prays that you will be pleased to take his case under your serious and wise consideration, and begs leave to hope that you will be graciously pleased to make him such satisfaction as you in your Wisdom and goodness shall think him entitled to for his said unsatisfied services, and Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever thank and pray &c

[There appears to be some additional text at the bottom of the page but the image is so faint that it is impossible to discern any of the text of that portion of the page]

[Reverse]

Williams Roger's Petition
to the general assembly
October 24th, 1793