

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Virginia documents pertaining to William Bennett VAS2488
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Samuel Jessee of the County of Shelby and State of Kentucky, late of Middlesex County in the State of Virginia being called on by E. B. Clemson, the friend and attorney of Mrs. Catharine Williams, to testify in relation to a certain William Bennett late of Middlesex County and State of Virginia Do certify on Oath that I knew a certain William Bennett during the revolutionary War who resided in said County of Middlesex and State of Virginia, and from the information I received being then in my infancy, he the said Bennett was in the service of his County, but whether in the Militia or Continental Troops of the said State of Virginia, I the said Samuel Jessee cannot say, being at the close of the War, or Seige of Yorktown in the year 1781 [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] only eleven years old. The general understanding was that said William Bennett, served as above stated in the Virginia Contine'l Troops of which I have not the smallest doubt. I can further certify that the said William Bennett had a sister commonly called (Katy) Catharine Bennett, who as well as I now recollect, intermarried with a certain George Williams of Middlesex County and State of Virginia and from information received, the said Catharine now resides in the State of Illinois. Given under my hand and seal in the County and State aforesaid this sixteenth day of August A.D. 1834
Signed in the presence of Witnesses
Chas. Baird/ Warren B. Jesece

I Charles McCarty [Charles McCarthy] of Cincinnati Ohio late of Middlesex County in the State of Virginia being Seventy seven years old do certify and attest, that I formerly (during the revolutionary War) was acquainted with William Bennett formerly of said County and State. That the said William Bennett served as an Officer to the best of my recollection as a Lieutenant in a Corps or Battalion of Troops raised in the said County of Middlesex, during a part of the revolutionary War. In which corps I also served as a Soldier. I further certify and declare that the said Wm Bennett served to my perfect recollection, in the Seige and Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown Virginia and that shortly after said surrender, and before the Army marched away the said Wm Bennett died of a fever, which was brought on to the best of my belief from the fatigue and exposure during the seige. I recollect perfectly well, that Gen'l Washington himself, with several of the Officers attended his funeral, which took place some short time before the Army broke up their encampment near York Town Virginia. I further declare that I knew the family of said Wm Bennett of Middlesex County Virginia, that he had a sister named Catharine who afterwards intermarried with one George Williams of said County and State of Virginia, who after the death of her husband I was informed removed to the Western Country. Given under my hand at Cincinnati this 18th day of August A.D. 1834.

Witness
R Mulford
R L Mulford

August 18th 1834
Charles M^cCarthy

To His Excellency, Littleton Waller Tazwell [sic: Tazewell}.
The Petition of Catharine Williams, of the County of St. Clair, and State of Illinois, respectfully representing sheweth:
That she is the only sister and heir of William Bennett deceased, an officer of the Virginia line, and understanding that he became entitled for his services in the War of the Revolution, to the land bounty of a Lieutenant, she prays that the same may be granted to her as his only heir.
Your petitioner was too young herself to have had any personal acquaintance with the services of

her Brother, or with the events of the War. She has however always understood, and believes that he engaged in the service of his country in the Virginia Continental line at an early period of the war in his native County of Middlesex (Virginia) and continued in service, in the active discharge of his duties until after the Siege of York Town and Surrender of Cornwallis. He had then attained the rank of Lieutenant. Shortly after the Surrender and while the Army was encamped near York Town he died, whilst engaged in the active service of his country, of a fever brought on by the exposure and fatigue of the siege.

Your petitioner is poor, has a large and dependant family, and hopes, that although no longer a resident of Virginia, that her native State will award to her the just reward of her deceased Brother.

T. M. Nichols } Witnesses
W. W. Roman }
State of Illinois }
St. Clair County SS

Catharine herXmark Williams
November 6th 1834