

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Adams BLWt373-200

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Milford [DE] Dec'r. 8th 1802

Dear Sir

On my return home I was taken Sick which has occasioned the delay in transmitting the documents to prove mine and my Brothers right to the Military Lands of Capt'n. Nathan Adams [BLWt371-300] of the State of Delaware & Colo. Peter Adams [see application BLWt372-450] & Lieut. William Adams of the State of Maryland our Uncles to all three of which claims we are the only Heirs.

In Testimony of Capt'n. Nathan Adams services I have sent his commission from Congress dated January 19th 1776 and in Testimony of his death [at the Battle of White Plains, 28 Oct 1776] I have sent forward my Mothers Letters of Administration altho they are almost five years after his death owing to the uncertainty thereof by Reason of the Americans loosing the Field Also a Certificate from Peter Caverly Esq'r. Auditor of Accounts for the State of Delaware certifying my Mother to be placed on the Pension List of the State of Delaware on account of her Husband Slain in the Service of his Country attested by the Secretary of State accompanied with the deposition of John Vinyard who was a Fifer in his Company who deposes that he entered the Action at White Plains and never after was heard from. In proof of my Heirship and a strong Collateral Testimony of his Death I have sent my diploma of Admission into the Society of Cincinnati [sic: Society of Cincinnati] of the State of Delaware & as proof of my Brother John Adams's being a joint Heir I have sent his power of Attorney to me impow[er]ing me to transact the Business for him wherein is a certificate from John Ralston Esq. certifying him to be a true Born Son of Cap'n. Nathan Adams attested by the Secretary of State there is a Mr. James Neale in the City of Washington that can I apprehend prove me & my Brother to be the only Heirs that are now surviving Also Mr. Bayard our Representative to Congress can inform that I am the son of Nathan Adams or at least that I paid his debts

As confirmation of the Death of Colo Peter Adams & Leut. William Adams of the State of Maryland I have transmitted a Certificate from the Register of Caroline County State of Maryland Certifying that Major William Potter obtained Letters of Administration De Bonis Non on Both their Estates 13th May 1793 both these men dying Single and without other Heirs me and my Brothers as Nephews were left the only Heirs as the certificate of the Administrator annexed to the Registers Certificate will show

I have also sent two Commissions of Colo. to Peter Adams from Congress [see BLWt372-450] the Commission to William Adams cannot be found but as Testimony of both their Services on my return home from the City of Washington I obtained from Robert Denny Esq'r. Auditor General of the State of Maryland an official Certificate specifying that from the Books & Records of his office that Peter Adams was appointed Lieut. Colo. Comandant in the Maryland Line on the first day of August 1779 & that he continued in Service during the War And that by the same Records it appears that William Adams was Appointed a Lieutenant in the Maryland Line on the 8th day June 1779 and that he continued in Service during the War this official Certificate I concluded precluded the Necessity of any Depositions or further Evidence of their Service

I have the Honor to be Yours Honors most Obedient Servant

William Adams

The Honorable Henry Dearborn Esq'r

NOTE: Among other documents in the file are the following:

A petition dated 21 Feb 1806 by William Clarke "who intermarried with Chaney Adams widow of Doctor William Adams dec'd." [son of Nathan Adams], seeking guardianship of his wife's children.

Power of Attorney given on 18 Feb 1808 by the four children of Dr. William Adams to their uncle, Dr. John Adams.

Depositions that Peter, Nathan, and William Adams were brothers.