

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Williams R11585

Transcribed by Will Graves

f22NC

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[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of North Carolina, Orange County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1834

On this the 28th day of November 1834, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for Orange aforesaid now sitting, James Williams, a resident citizen of the County aforesaid, now in the 74th year of his age, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. This Declarant states That on the 1st of September 1780 he enlisted in the service of the United States as Drum Major, in the Town of Hillsboro in Orange aforesaid, for the term of 18 months, the Company to which he was attached was commanded by Captain McGibbony [Patrick McGibbony or McGibbon], James McCoy was Lieutenant and Reid Colonel of our Regiment, whilst at Hillsboro we were encamped on Courtney's place about a mile below Town, there were two regiments of us whilst at Hillsboro, and were in one brigade under command of General Smallwood [William Smallwood] – Captain Singleton commanded the Artillery. After receiving a partial supply of winter clothing, this Declarant's company with certain militia Companies, all under the command of General Smallwood were ordered to Salisbury, we crossed Haw River at Woody's ferry, thence by Randolph old Court House, thence to the Trading Ford on the Yadkin [River], thence to Salisbury, thence to Charlotte in about a mile from Charlotte, attacked a small party of the enemy encamped there defeated and routed them: after remaining some time in the neighborhood of the Catawba [River] we were ordered by General Greene [Nathanael Greene] to Charlotte where his headquarters at that time were (this was perhaps about the second or third week in December). From Charlotte, we marched under Smallwood into South Carolina, and in the neighborhood of Lumberton took a good many Tories and the hung Nine, in the Town of Lumberton, after remaining in Lumberton two or three weeks, we were marched to Wilmington where we took shipping for the State of Maryland and we were stationed at Frederick town on the Potomac [River] till the following Spring, thence were marched to Hagerstown on the Potomac – thence to Strasburg, Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, and at the Strasburg, remained till the expiration of my 18 months, when I was regularly discharged.

That he was born on the Saint Lawrence River – immediately after his parents had set out on a Voyage to Ireland – and settled in the province of Munster, where they remained till this declarant was about 10 or 12 years of age; -- thence emigrated to the United States – and this Declarant settled at Colonel Hart's within 4 miles of the Town of Hillsborough – where he was living in 1780, when he enlisted as above stated.

That he has no record of his age, but from the best information he can procure is now in his 74th year.

That he now lives in Orange County aforesaid, and has been living there for about 62 years: --
That when he entered the United States Service he Enlisted.

That he received a discharge for his 18 months Service, but that he left it in Strasburg in Virginia.

That he received his discharge from Colonel Reid.

That he knew in the Army, General Greene, General Morgan, General Smallwood, Colonel Otho Williams, Col. Reid, Colonel Lytle, Colonel Tinnen, General Butler & others (Militia officers were).

That he is acquainted in his Neighborhood with Colonel Joseph Allison, Captain John H. Wells and James Smith (Clergyman).

That he knows of no person living that can testify to his revolutionary Services except that of John Dolley¹ of Orange aforesaid, a pensioner: --

That there is a clergyman living convenient to him – whose Certificate he has procured: --

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity Except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. Taylor, Clerk

S/ James Williams, X his mark

[Col. Joseph Allison, Capt. John H. Wells & James Byrd gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[James Smith, clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Thomas Reeves, a clergyman, and John Jeffreys gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 24th day of October 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice for Orange aforesaid John Dolley, now in the 81st year of his age, a resident Citizen of Orange and an United States pensioner: who being first duly qualified maketh oath, that, in the fall of 1780 while in the Service at Black River, remembers of seeing James Williams, now an applicant for pension there and at that time said Williams was a Drum Major in the Army under General Smallwood – and has always understood that said Williams served faithfully to the Close of the War – or at least for 18 months for which. He understood he had enlisted – And that this affiant has ever since the close of the War been acquainted with said Williams, and he has always understood him to be a man of truth & veracity and a regular soldier (for 18 months) in the War of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and date aforesaid: --

Test: S/ Samuel N. Tate, JP

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this 29th day of February 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace, in and for the County aforesaid John Dolley now in the 82nd year of his age a resident of the County of Orange aforesaid, who being duly qualified maketh oath that during the War of the Revolution he was well acquainted with James Williams Senior a Citizen of the County aforesaid and remembers that J. Williams was a Drum Major in the Continental Service, and has a perfect recollection of Captain McGibbony, & Col. Reid and saw them in the Town of Hillsboro when General Gates was encamped there after his defeat near Camden in August 17th, 1780 [sic, Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] – that Williams as Drum Major, Succeeded one, Barker; Williams left Hillsboro with the Continental Troops in the Capacity of “Drum Major” -- and was absent as well as I remember till about the expiration of my tour in guarding the Town of Hillsboro – say the spring of the year after Cornwallis was made prisoner – my understanding has always been that Mr. Williams served in the United States as Drum Major 18 months. I have been intimately acquainted with said James Williams

1 [John Dolley S6802](#)

since we were boys.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & date first above written before me.

S/ J. Careathers, JP

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 25th day of May 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for Orange aforesaid, James Williams, Senior, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that in the War of the Revolution he served 18 months as Drum Major, in the United States Service as he has set forth in his original Declaration – now on file in the War Department pension office, and that he cannot make any further proof that he knows of.

Sworn & subscribed the day & date aforesaid.

S/ James Williams, W his mark

S/ John Blackwell, JP

Supplementary evidence to the Declaration of James Williams of Orange County for a Pension made 24th day of February 1835.

State of North Carolina, Orange County

On this the 24th day of February 1835, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for Orange aforesaid Britain Bowers², a United States pensioner, a resident Citizen of the aforesaid County who being first duly qualified maketh oath, that during the War of the Revolution, while in the Town of Hillsborough, in the Continental Service in September 1780, well recollects at that time that James Williams of the County aforesaid enlisted in the Service of the United States for 18 months as Drum Major, in Smallwood's Brigade – marched a little ahead of us – to Charlotte, thence was parted from Greene, and as this affiant always understood, said Williams was marched under Reid (Col. he thinks) to Lumberton thence to Wilmington, thence took shipping for Maryland – and was in the States of Maryland & Virginia the remainder of his 18 months tour.

In this Affiant in conclusion say as he has since the fall of 1780, been acquainted with said James Williams Drum Major, & that he is a man of truth & veracity & served as stated above. Sworn and subscribed the day & date first above written before me.

S/ J. Strayhorn, JP

S/ Brittain Bowers, X his mark

State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify it appears from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that James Williams a private in Captain Blount's Company of the 10th Regiment enlisted on the 8th day of June 1779, for the term of 18 months, and that nothing more is set of him on said rolls.

Given under my hand this ninth day of March 1835.

S/ Wm Hill

The James Williams named above is the only person of that name on the rolls except one who died in 1778 and a Captain James Williams.

S/ Wm Hill³

² [John Brittain Bowers S6674](#)

³ I think this certificate relates not to this veteran but to [James Williams S31487](#)