

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Williams R11587

f17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/11/17 & 10/3/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of North Carolina, Onslow County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term A.D. 1833

On this 4th day of February personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Onslow County now sitting John Williams a resident of said County & State, aged 75 years, 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.

I, John Williams, served in the Revolutionary War under the command of Colonel Johnson [sic. Lt. Col. Thomas Johnston] in a volunteer Company: I was then living in Onslow County & this was early in the war. In this first trip we went to Wilmington & staid one month. After this I served under the command of Captain John Boston & Colonel Rhodes [Henry Rhodes] three months at Wilmington. We were joined at the Richland Chapel in Onslow. This time I was drafted. After this we returned home. I was again drafted under the command of Captain Benj. Williams [Benjamin Williams] & served with him six months at Wilmington & Beaufort's Bridge [sic, Buford's Bridge]¹ – After this I again came home to Onslow & was again drafted under Captain Battle [Ephraim Battle] & served under him three months at Wilmington -- & again served, under draft, with Captain Grant [Ruben Grant] three months at Wilmington & the Richland of New River, General Linnington [Sic, General John Alexander Lillington] & Major Daws [this might be Abraham Dawes of Wilmington] were our commanding Officers. Then under Colonel Mitchell [George Mitchell] & Captain Snead served four months in the light horse, & found my own horse & equipment – we were 60 in number – we marched from the Richland of Onslow, to Major Clinton's in the edge of Sampson [County] where we took 20 Tories & we then went to old Duplin Court House & thence home. I then served three months under Captain Love at Wilmington, being drafted, & I hired a substitute for three months. I was engaged at times during the whole war. At Tuckahoe in Jones [County] I was one of a party of 60 who were attacked about 50 of the enemy and we drove them towards Wilmington. We were then commanded by Benj. Williams – the enemy by Genl. Gordon [sic, Capt. John Gordon?] who was killed. I myself took General Gordon's horse, pistols, Bridle, Saddle & Spurs & killed one of his men who fired at me. We got 20 of their guns which had been thrown away – I had a ball shot through my hair.

¹ J D Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

Test: S/ James Taylor

S/ John Williams, X his mark

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ John Williams, X his mark

[Thomas Hawkins, a clergyman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: -- The 10th of June in Onslow County & State of North Carolina in 1758

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: --I had a book, but the leaves have been lost

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: -- In Onslow – in Onslow & I still live there

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: --I was first a volunteer, afterwards was drafted a number of times & once found a substitute for three months, a man named John Webb

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: -- I know nothing of the Regular officers having never served any -- & saw them some times Knows nothing of the names of the Regiments – I did not go out of the State – never went further than Genl. Clinton's in Sampson – had no battles except the one at Tuckahoe in Jones County in this State.

[6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?--omitted]

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Jonathan Wilder & John Bradshaw, Hilory Brinson [sic]

S/ John Williams, X his mark

Sworn & subscribed the 4th of February 1833

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State of North Carolina, Onslow County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term A.D. 1833

John Williams whose papers are herewith appended came into open Court this 7th of November 1833 & files this his amendatory declaration --
He served as follows --

1 month under Colonel Johnson of Onslow – joined at Richland Chapel in said County in 1777 being then 19 years of age-- we spent the month at Wilmington (50 men)

3 – mos – directly after our return I was drafted under John Boston, Captain, our company, in Onslow, went to Wilmington & stayed there three months

6-- mos – under Captain Benjamin Williams drafted in Onslow County & went to Wilmington, the first three months in the foot, & the last three in the light-horse, having got a horse from my father, & equipped myself – we about 50 light-horse & went to Sampson County & took 20 Tories – came home after the last three months were out --

3 -m - we were next drafted under Captain Ephraim Battle under whom we served three months & went to Wilmington.

3 I was again drafted & served three mos. at Wilmington under Captain Grant, afterwards Colonel, very little time between my time was out under Battle & when I joined Captain Grant 4 mos under Captain Snead, Colonel Mitchell & Scott Cray in the light horse as a volunteer, 60 of us - we had an engagement on Sanders Bridge at Tuckahoe in Jones County - and in the old field - where the particulars stated as written occurred - Major Daws exercised our men at Wilmington, Colonel Rhodes joined us from his own house, he lived on Stones Kay on the Wilmington Road - we had barracks in Wilmington, was not engaged in any civil service -- After the affair at Tuckahoe we pursued Craig [James Craig] on his return from New Bern to Wilmington

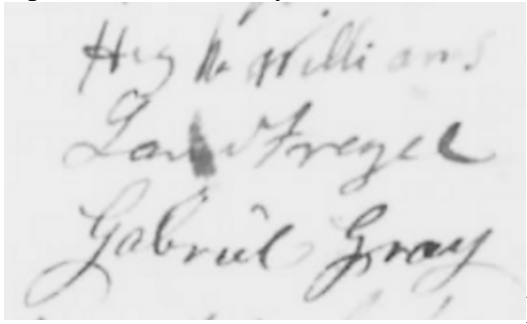
The foregoing contains a detail statement of the facts required by the department as far as they are in the recollection of the affiant.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Williams, X his mark

Test: S/ J. Taylor

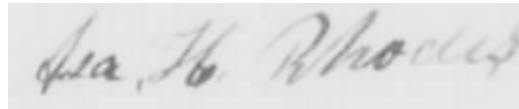
[Hezekiah [?] Williams, James Frezel [?], Gabriel Gray gave an affidavit supporting the reputation for veracity of the affiant.



Hezekiah Williams
James Frezel
Gabriel Gray

I Asa H. Rhodes hereby affirm that I have heard my father Woodhouse Rhodes who was a Lieutenant in the Revolution state the above applicant John Williams served with him in the Revolutionary war.

S/ Asa H. Rhodes



Asa H. Rhodes

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.