

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Williams¹ R11610 Rachel Williams

f55NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/14/17

[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.]

[p 9]

State of Alabama, DeKalb County

On this 22nd day of February 1843 personally appeared before me Polly-Jove Nailor Judge of the County Court of DeKalb County and State of Alabama at his residence in said County, Thomas Williams, who from age & infirmity, is totally unable to appear in open Court, aged 84 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.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under one Captain William Gray, at a place called the Hanging Rock in South Carolina, in the month of January 1781, as a private soldier for the term of nine months, and immediately marched to the Army of Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] which he joined in district 96 as he thinks; was with Colonel Morgan when he was pursued by Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] to the Cowpens, was in the Battle at that place, the Battle lasted till about eleven o'clock A. M. it began early in the morning of the last of January 1781 [sic, January 17, 1781]. Declarant remained under Captain Gray who he thinks was now made a Colonel and was sent to North Carolina with the prisoners taken in the battle under Colonel Gray to a place called the X Roads. He at this place left the prisoners and joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] (under Col. Gray) he does not recollect who his Captain was at this time, He remained with General Greene, and was marched all night, swimming creeks and was with him at the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] in North Carolina. He cannot say in what month the Battle was fought. He knows the waters were high & thinks it was in the spring of 1781. After this Battle, he was detached as one of the wagon guard. He remained with the Army under General Greene in this capacity until they arrived at Camden in South Carolina, at which place he was detached under one Captain Wade [Thomas Wade] to press wagons & provisions. He left the Army at a place called Santee, in South Carolina where he was discharged, his Captain's name was Grier [sic, Nicholas Greers] at this time, this was in the fall of 1781. He was at one time during this service with one Captain Clarke who was killed by the falling of a tree. He resided when he joined the Army at a place called Guilford in North Carolina. He has no documentary evidence of his service, and knows of no person living by whom he can prove the same. He had a discharge but does not know what became of it, he does not now recollect ever to have seen it since it was written and handed to him. He states as reasons why he did not make this declaration in Open Court, that it has been four years since he has been on horseback, and the distance to the Court house being about 20 miles, and that he is not able to walk so far. That he is very poor, and dependent alone on his children for a support. He is totally unable to perform any kind of labor. He hereby relinquishes

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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. That the reasons why he has never before applied for a pension are these, He has been advised until lately that none but regular soldiers were allowed pensions, and he is remoteness from sources of intelligence (being himself wholly illiterate) he never until lately ascertained his rights.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 22nd day of February A.D. 1843

S/ Thomas Williams, X his mark

S/ Poly Jove Naylor, Judge of the County Court of DeKalb County Alabama

[p 37: Jacob W Gipson, a clergyman, John Davis and Alexander McCormac gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Interrogatories

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Chester County in the State of Pennsylvania at a place called the White house [could be “White horse”], I think in 1758.

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

Answer – I have no record of my age nor never had

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

Answer – When I joined the Army I resided in North Carolina at a place called Guilford, at the close of the revolution I returned to Pennsylvania, Chester County & lived six years with one Colonel Thomas Allen, thence to New River in the State of Virginia where I remained eight years. Thence to Nolichucky in the State of Tennessee, where I remained in 11 years. Thence to Sequachy [sic, Sequatchie] Valley now Bledsoe County Tennessee where I remained about six years, Thence to what is now Jackson County Alabama, where I remained about 20 years, thence to the neighborhood where I now reside, in DeKalb County Alabama

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

Answer – I was a volunteer

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.

Answer – I know not that there were any Regular officers with whom I served, but suppose General Greene & Colonel Morgan were Regular Officers, I do not recollect the names of the regiments or the particulars of my service for of a band is given in my annexed Declaration

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

Answer – I did receive a discharge – do not recollect by whom it was given, nor what has become of it.

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.

Answer – Reverend Charles L. Roach, Hiram Allen, Thomas Longacre, George Caperton, & Col. Franklin Slaton.

S/ Thomas Williams, X his mark

[p 2: On April 28, 1857 in DeKalb County Alabama, Rachel Williams, aged 80, widow of Thomas Williams filed for a widow’s pension; that she married her husband in Jefferson County

Tennessee on August 3, 1800; that they were married by a magistrate by the name of Cox; that her husband died November 5, 1847 and that she remains his widow she signed her application with her mark.]

[p 42: On May 4, 1857 in Jackson County Alabama, Thomas Longacre gave testimony that he was personally and intimately acquainted with Thomas Williams; that Rachel Williams is the affiant's Sister; that affiant was an eyewitness to the marriage of his sister Rachel to Thomas Williams in Jefferson County Tennessee upwards of 55 years ago; that the veteran and his wife raised a "large family".

Thos Longacre

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[Facts in file: Veteran died in Jackson County, Alabama November 5, 1847. No children of this union are named in the file.]