

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Williams R11611

f29NC

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 '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.]

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State of Georgia, Carroll County} SS

On this 19th day of January 1846 personally appeared before me is Subscriber a Justice of the Inferior Court in and for said County Mrs. Rebecca Williams a resident of said County & State aged Eighty years past who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled ["An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows." That she is the widow of Thomas Williams. That she has always understood and verily believes that said Thomas Williams was a private and Lieutenant and served during the War of the Revolution in the North Carolina Militia in Captain Edward Williams's Company, Colonel Belford [sic, Andrew Balfour?] & Dogen [sic, James Dougan or Thomas Dougan, both of Randolph County militia] Regiment and in Captain Knight's [John Knight's] Company, Colonel Litrel's [sic, John Luttrell's] Regiment. That she was acquainted with the said Williams partially But not so intimate as to have a definite knowledge of his services so as to give a complete narrative. That he resided in Randolph County State of North Carolina during said War of the Revolution and done Service at different stages of the War and in all she believes that he served at least three Tours as private and two as Lieutenant for which she claims a pension. That she has no Documentary evidence in support of her Statements. That she knows of no person – living who could give a narrative of her Husband's Services. That Hardeman Rooks a resident of DeKalb County Georgia she believes done some little service with her said husband & he is the only person living within her knowledge who could testify to any part thereof – Knowingly. That the said Thomas Williams in the Land Lottery of the State of Georgia drew land under the laws of said State providing for soldiers who served in the War of the Revolution which is the only evidence of record showing that he was a soldier to be found in the State of Georgia. That the said Thomas Williams died on the __ day of October 1826 in Fayette County State of Georgia. That she was legally married to said Thomas Williams on the 29th day of March 1785 in Roanoke County State of North Carolina by Richard Shackelford a clergyman. That she has no documentary evidence public or private in support of the fact that her family registry having been destroyed. That they removed from North Carolina about the year 1791 to the State of South Carolina from thence to Georgia about the year 1800 – and resided for many years in Jackson County – and moved from thence to Fayette County – where her husband died leaving her a widow. That she has remained a widow ever since the period of her husband's death on the day aforesaid. That she was not married prior to her husband's last Service but was married prior to the first day of January 1794 all of which she will be able to prove by Hardeman Rooks if in life.

S/ S. C. Candler, JIC of Carroll County

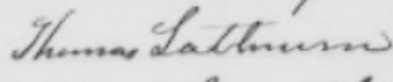
S/ Rebecca Williams, X her mark

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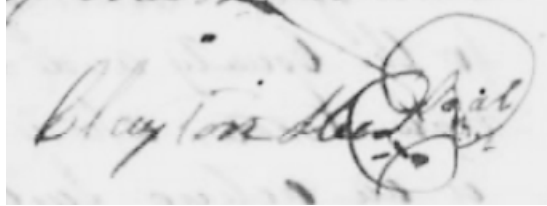
State of Georgia DeKalb County

Be [it] known that on this 26th day of January 1846 before me Marrill Collier a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Hardaman Rook a resident of said County and State aged 96 years past who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Statements. That he is called upon to state if he knew Thomas Williams and Rebecca Williams formerly Rebecca Steed in Randolph County North Carolina and if he knew the said Thomas to be a Soldier in the War of the Revolution &c. Deponent states that he was married in Duplin County North Carolina and removed to Randolph County about the [year] 1778 or 1779 – and resided in what was then called Captain Knight's District and was well acquainted with Thomas Williams of the same place and knew him to be a faithful Soldier and done Service with him as a minute man in Captain Knight's Company. But at this late period he cannot with accuracy give a narrative of minute Service as the tours were frequent and Short. That a few months before the Battle of Guilford Court House [March 15, 1781] the said Thomas Williams raised a Company (of which he was a member) in Randolph County volunteers he believes for the term of __ months and placed himself as commander and marched to Luttrell's Barracks in Chatham County where [they were] Stationed awaiting orders where they remained some 7 or 8 weeks when they received intelligence that Cornwallis with his Army was expected [to march] through North Carolina. Colonel Luttrell received orders to march South with his whole forces for the purpose. Colonel Luttrell's Regiment was organized and took up their line of march. That this deponent was taken sick and returned home leaving the said Williams in Service, and he understood that Colonel Luttrell's Regiment marched south with the view of combating with Cornwallis but Cornwallis crossed Adkin [Yadkin River] higher than was expected and was attacked by General Green [Nathanael Greene] at Guilford Courthouse in a few weeks thereafter and Colonel Luttrell's Regiment continued in service until there term of service expired and the said Thomas Williams returned home. That the said Williams afterwards done Service in Captain Knight's Company of Cavalry and bore the rank of Lieutenant that he does not recollect the particulars But knows that he was engaged in a Skirmish at Needham's plantation in Randolph County with Fannins [David Fanning's] Company of Tories where Thomas Latburn [?]¹ and one other was taken as Spies and Colonel Belford ordered them Blindfolded and shot which order was carried into effect. That he can state nothing more of his own knowledge of the Services of the said Thomas Williams. But has always understood and believes that the said Williams done Service from the Commencement of said War from the fact of his being of full age and subjected by the laws of his Country and his Brother Edward Williams being a distinguished Captain in the American Cause for Liberty. That about the Close of the War of the Revolution the said Thomas Williams wife died and in the course of two or three years thereafter he was legally married to Rebecca Steed by Richard Shackelford a clergyman in Randolph County North Carolina and that he deponent witnessed the marriage ceremony. That he afterwards knew the said Thomas and Rebecca Williams in Jackson County Georgia where they had a large family of children and he is informed that the said Rebecca Williams is still living now a resident of Carroll County Georgia. That he heard of the death of the said Thomas Williams several years since.

S/ Hardaman Rook, X his mark



[p 17: On July 25, 1846 in Randolph County North Carolina, Clayton Steed, now in the 60th [could be 69th] year of his age gave testimony that he was present at the marriage of Thomas Williams and Rebecca Steed at the house of Nathaniel Steed [relationship not stated] in Randolph County North Carolina; that they were married by George Shackelford, a Baptist minister. The affiant's relationship to the veteran and/or his widow is not stated

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clayton Steed". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with some loops and flourishes, particularly in the 'S' and 'E'.

[Facts in the file: Thomas Williams first married ___ McKnight in 1779 with whom he had two children; she died; Williams then married Rebecca Steed on March 29, 1784, '85, '86 or '87 [all dates appear in the file] in Randolph County, NC at the home of Nathaniel Steed [relationship, if any, not stated]; that Williams served under Col. Andrew Belford [Andrew Balfour]; Thomas and Rebecca Williams are said to have had a large family, but only sons Ned and Clayton are named in the file; Ned was 19 years old in 1807 and Clayton was living in Cherokee County, Texas in 1858; Rebecca died in Cherokee County, Texas in 1852.]