

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Williams R11617    Mary Williams    f21NC  
Transcribed by Will Graves    rev'd 7/13/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

State of Georgia, Bulloch County }

On this seventh day of September personally appeared in open Court, Before the Inferior Court of Bulloch County, now sitting, a Regular Term, Mrs. Mary Williams, the widow of Samuel Williams, Esq., deceased, a soldier of the Revolution, a resident of the County of Bulloch, and the said Mrs. Mary Williams, after being duly sworn before the said Court, makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That she was the wife of Samuel Williams, a Soldier of the revolution, who resided in Duplin County in the State of North Carolina, during the war except when engaged in military service in South Carolina, and that subsequently to the war he migrated to the State of Georgia, and resided in Bulloch County until the time of his death, which happened on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1832, in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age, having been born in North Carolina on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July A.D. 1759. This declarant says that she was born in the State of North Carolina on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1769, and is now in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of her age, and deposes that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, she cannot swear positively as to the precise length of her husband's services, but according to the best of her recollection of the conversations of her husband on the subject of his military adventures, Samuel Williams served not less than five years, principally under General Green, Colonel Rhodes, Armstrong, and Major Ivy but under other officers whose names have escaped this applicant's memory. Of so many names, she can only recall a few; and of the complicated details of battles, victories and defeats, of marches and counter-marches, charges and routes, returns and departures, sickness, blood and desolation, this affiant only remembers to have been often told, that all or most of these dire calamities occurred in the State of South Carolina. Her husband frequently recounted these melancholy scenes to her and she has many times heard them spoken of by numerous other individuals, who were well acquainted with Samuel Williams in his lifetime. This declarant will undertake to relate the few facts and circumstances that still linger on her memory, in the fervent hope that the wise and good men who have the sacred trust of searching out the records of the past, and of granting the claims of the widows of deceased revolutionary soldiers may compare her imperfect account, and unconnected facts, with the more perfect details of revolutionary history, as it exists in the national archives at Washington City, and she feels convinced that her brief statements will stand the test of comparison and wear the semblance of truth. This applicant declares her belief that her husband applied<sup>1</sup> for a pension in his lifetime and that the facts were proved by John Best,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There is no application by the veteran in this file.

<sup>2</sup> [John Best S6614](#)

with whom he was for a time companion in arms; but that from some delay or mismanagement, or other cause, neither of them succeeded then in getting their pensions. She has heard that her husband enlisted in the Army at a very early age, (she thinks at the age of 16 years) and that he served throughout a greater part of the war. She recollects mention having been made of his great sickness and distress in a hospital in some town or city; she can swear positively to having some large and distinct marks of wounds or bruises on each of her husband's hips; she has heard that he deserted his father's house when a boy to fight and suffer for his country; the night having, in company with some 30 men, (she believes a scouting party) taken shelter in the second story of an old house on the road, the party were that night attacked by a company of British or Tories, and her husband narrowly escaped with his life, after refusing to stop when called, and was shot as he fled. Being in the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], he narrowly escaped in a retreat. It appears from what this declarant has heard, that at the time of that battle General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] rode a fine horse which, being a present from his father or some other distinguished individual, he highly prized, and fearing the horse might be shot in the engagement, he called to Samuel Williams, and said "here my little soldier mount this horse and escape for your life;" and then the General after having given some hasty directions as to his horse, plunged again into the battle. She remembers to have heard that her husband was present when the gallant De Kalb<sup>3</sup> fell; and also in some engagements where a Sergeant hovered over that individual, and cried aloud, "Save the brave De Kalb[!"]]. She has also heard her husband discourse on his having served with DeKalb and having been present at a conference between De Kalb and Marion previous to Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], at which S. Williams was present, and narrowly escaped. He often mentioned the fact that one of the companies with whom he served, was attended by white washer woman, who on one occasion when the Army reached a wide Creek which they had to wade very deeply, after the whole company had ridiculed the woman and refused to help her over the water, Samuel Williams kindly offered to take her over on his shoulders which proposal the female replied that he was too young and little for such a service. He notwithstanding carried her over safely, and she told him she would remember him for that, and pay him for it someday. It was this same washerwoman who afterward by her care saved his life in the hospital before alluded to. This is nearly or quite all, this applicant remembers of the circumstances of her husband's services in the war; except in reply to the interrogatory propounded by the war Department. The applicant has at her house the record of her age, as well as that of her husband. She believes from report that her husband served both as a Regular and among the State Troops of North Carolina. If her husband ever received a discharge, this declarant knows not where it is. The declarant is known to many persons in Bulloch County, who will testify to her character for veracity and their belief that her husband served as a soldier in the revolution. She has never entertained any doubt of this fact, nor has she heard of any over persons doubting them. In conclusion, it may not be improper to state, that it is generally known in the applicant's neighborhood, that her husband, Samuel Williams, a few years before he died, often became insane or foolish on the subject of the Revolutionary War. In those fits of mental derangement, he would imagine that he was engaged in battle, he would order about the troops; charge upon the supposed enemy; call aloud on familiar names of persons who served with him, and would shout, or bid defiance to the British and Tories. During these paroxysms, he went around with the back of an old scythe blade and occasionally with an old gun with no lock. During most of his life after the war, he wished and prayed to die on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and accordingly he expired on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in the year of our Lord 1832 after fighting, as is believed by all who knew him, heroically for his Country. The declarant cannot add aught else in this declaration but submits her claim to the decrees of

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3 Johann DeKalb died from wounds sustained in the Battle of Camden (Gates Defeat).

Providence and Justice.

Sworn to in open Court, the day and year above mentioned, also signed.

S/ Mary Williams, X her mark

Witness: S/ J. Cohen

S/ J. H. Miller, JIC

S/ James Lee, JIC

S/ Wm. Williams, JIC

S/ David Beasley, Clerk

“no clergyman in the County cognizant of these facts.”

[Court certifies that Robert Williams, Elizabeth Best and Sarah Rawls are the only surviving children of Samuel and Mary Williams.]

State of Georgia, Screven County

Personally appeared before the undersigned, a justice of the peace, Benjamin Taylor,<sup>4</sup> a revolutionary Soldier, who after being duly sworn deposes and says, that he was acquainted with Samuel Williams during the Revolutionary war, having often met the said Sam Williams in the course of the war and saw him [in] service – as a private. Deponent knows that Williams served a long time, but does not recollect precisely the time.

Sworn to & subscribed the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1846[?] before me.

S/ Benjamin Taylor, X his mark

S/ Lewis Lewis, JP

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4 [Benjamin Taylor R10407](#)