

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Williams R11621

f30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/11: rev'd 5/30/17

[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.]

State of Tennessee Giles County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November term 1834

On this the 22nd day of November 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas Williams a Citizen of the aforesaid County of Giles and State of Tennessee aged seventy-one years since the 7th day of September last who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – That He entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated – That is to say, he entered the aforesaid service as a private militia man as substitute for his brother Peter Williams who had been drafted and who did not wish to go into the service on account of his having a family, and this applicant having no such encumbrance he substituted and went in his place said applicant being under age to do service for himself at that time not being eighteen years old, he entered the Service above stated under the command of Captain Timothy Rives, Colonel Lawson's Brigade. Applicant at the aforesaid time of entering said service lived in Prince George County State of Virginia and entered said service in said last mentioned County and rendezvoused in said last mentioned County at Blands Ordinary and thence was marched to Smithfield, he was then marched down to a town called Suffolk to meet an old Tory and his Company at that place the Tory leader just alluded to was by the name of Guthridge, he had [indecipherable word or words, possibly "burnt"] the Town before our troops to which applicant belonged had reached there. Applicant and his [indecipherable word or words] troops were then marched to Smithfield where they were stationed about six weeks when they were discharged after having been in actual service on this tour seven weeks he received a discharge from the service from Colonel Lawson which discharge he has since lost. He next entered the said service a drafted militia man under the command of Captain Hartwell Rains in May, James Cock's Battalion & he entered the service in the said County of Prince George and rendezvoused at Bland's Ordinary the same place mentioned in the account given above of the other Service. From thence he was marched to Hood's Fort on James River in the said County of Prince George – when they were again stationed for the time of seven weeks and were then discharged, where and when they were all discharged and he further states that he has also lost the discharge from this service. This term of service having terminated at the end of seven weeks from the time they entered the same. Applicant next entered the said service as substitute for Samuel Lee as a private militia man under Captain Peter Williams applicant's Brother and in Colonel Lawson's Regiment, were rendezvoused at the same place mentioned in the former service above set forth – and from thence they were marched to Derby's old field in a [word written over and

indecipherable] County in State of Virginia and from thence to Cooper's Burnt Mills some 15 or 20 miles from said old Field, at which last mentioned place their term of service expired having been in service on this expedition eight weeks in all and was again discharged by Colonel Lawson which is also lost or mislaid. He next entered the service in the month of January the same year that Cornwallis surrendered under Captain John Hart as a private drafted militia man and were rendezvoused at Petersburg where they were attached to some Regular troops he thinks in Colonel Gibson's Regiment – from thence he was marched to Cedar Point where they cannonaded the British Vessels at the mouth of Appomattox River and from thence they pursued the British down to Hood's Fort when they had another skirmish at the Cross Roads as it was called, from thence near Stono where applicant was again discharged having served six weeks during this tour. He was again called out in the following spring as a private drafted militia man under Captain Richard Bland were again rendezvoused at Bland's Ordinary in the said County of Prince George – and marched from thence into Nansemond County and also into Isle of Wight County and stationed a while at Walls Bridge and from thence pursued the British up to Petersburg and being routed by the British they were marched to Richmond and from thence to the coal pitts and there were discharged after having served in this expedition the term of two months. Applicant was a great portion of this term of service under the command of General Lawson by whom he was discharged, he has also lost this discharge, he again entered the said service as a private drafted militia man under Captain Edmund Ruffin and rendezvoused at Maycock's on James River in the said County of Prince George where Applicant remained during the whole of the Revolutionary war except when absent in service from thence he was marched into in Rico County where he was joined by General Lawson's Brigade and from thence crossed over into Prince George from thence down James River to Green's Springs where they were stationed some time and there fell and with Lafayette's Army which was landed [paper torn and text compromised] from thence through Williamsburg to Springfield where they lay off while until they went down to the close Lord Cornwallis in at Yorktown and remained there until the surrender and was in the engagement at Yorktown which terminated in the surrender of the British forces stationed there to the American forces under in Chief [sic] – this term of service then expired having lasted nine weeks from which Applicant was then discharged by Captain Edmund Ruffin which is also lost which ended applicant's Service during the Revolutionary War – he states that he has no documentary Evidence nor does he know of any witness by whom he can prove his services above stated. He hereby relinquishes all right and claim 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.

S/ Thos Wms

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thos Wms', written in a cursive style.

Questions propounded by the Court

Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer/ I was born in Prince George County State of Virginia on the 9th of September 1763

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

Answer/ My age is recorded in the State of Virginia in the family Bible.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the

Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer/ When called into the service I lived in Prince George County Virginia, after the war I moved to Dunwoody [Dinwiddie] County Virginia from thence to Giles County State of Tennessee where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> 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 drafted every time but twice when I was received as a substitute

5<sup>th</sup> 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 have in my deposition stated these matters as fully as I am able to do.

6<sup>th</sup> 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 have stated that I received several discharges which are whole lost or mislaid.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

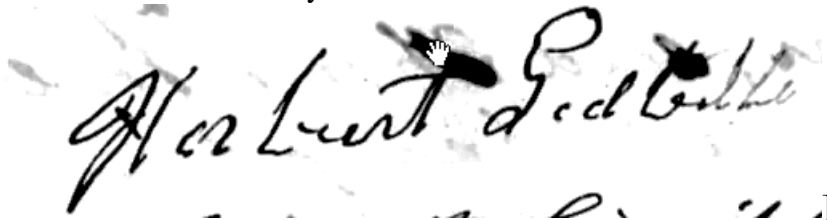
Answer/ I am known to Daniel T Woods, Daniel Puryear, James Carol and many others could testify to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to before me in open Court December 22nd, 1834

[Allen Hill, a clergyman, and Daniel Puryear gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 12: the printed list of 1852 gives cause of rejection as "Not under military authority organization"]

[p 15: On February 23, 1841 in Giles County Tennessee, Herbert Ledbetter, 73, gave testimony that he lived a near neighbor to Thomas Williams during the revolutionary war and knows that Thomas Williams was a soldier in the revolution; that he has a young boy was designated in the neighborhood to deliver clothes to Thomas Williams and his brothers while Thomas Williams was in service under the command of Colonel Lawson in a company commanded by Captain John Holt at Fort Mackey

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert Ledbetter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There are some faint, illegible markings below the signature.

State of Tennessee Giles County

On this the 23rd day of February 1841 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Circuit Court of Tennessee now sitting in Pulaski, Thomas Williams a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged about eighty 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 June 7th 1832, passed by the Congress of the United States; – That he will be eighty years of age next September: that he first entered the Virginia Light Infantry as a volunteer early in the revolutionary war, but that he does not now remember the year, and served about two months

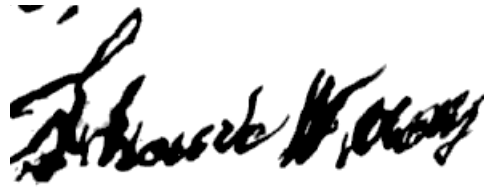
under the command of Captain Timothy Reeves in Colonel Lawson's Regiment; that the company Rendezvoused at Bland's ordinary (or Tavern) Prince George County Virginia, and marched to Smithfield, and then to old Suffolk, at the time it was burnt by the enemy -: His next Tour of duty took place about two months after he returned home from his first tour when he was in Captain Hartwell Rains' Company and under the command of Colonel Lawson – the company met at Bland's Ordinary, and marched to Hood's Fort on James River, and served two months. A few months afterwards he went out on a third tour of duty under the command of Captain Peter Williams, his brother, rendezvoused at Bland's Ordinary (Tavern) and marched thence with Colonel Lawson's Regiment to Johnson's old fields in Nansemond County in the State of Virginia – and then to Cooper's Burke Mills in Isle of Wight County, and then to Stono Mills, where he was discharged after a service of three months. About two months after his return home, he again volunteered for the fourth tour of duty under Captain Bland & rendezvoused at Bland's Ordinary – marched to Stono's Mill, remained some time, & then went to Cooper's Burnt Mill, and at the expiration of three months, was discharged. This tour of duty was performed under Colonel Lawson also. His fifth tour of duty took place in the month of January succeeding his last tour – he then volunteered under Captain John Holt – rendezvoused at Petersburg, Virginia, and was under the command of Colonel Lawson – marched through Nansemond and Isle of Wight counties – was in the battle at Cedar (or Broadway) Point, and at Cross Roads in Prince George Counties – pursued the British into Nansemond & Isle of Wight & then followed them back to Petersburg, where we were defeated & retreated into Chesterfield County & our troops dispersed for a few days, but the above named Thomas Williams, on the reassembling of the troops which took place in about two weeks at Maycock's in Prince George County on James River, was put into Captain Edmund Ruffin's Company & afterwards remained with Colonel Lawson's Command, until the troop came from the North – crossed the River at the Green Springs marched to Williamsburg, & then to the Siege of York, where he remained until the capture of the British Army, and was then discharged after a service of five months having served in all in the service of the United States as a volunteer militia man in the Revolutionary war, fifteen months. –

He states that at the end of all of the tours of duty above named (except one) he got discharges, but that he has lost or mislaid or destroyed them and he further states that he has not in his possession, nor does he know where he can procure, documentary evidence of his services; and he also states that he knows of no one now living by whom he can prove his service except Herbert Ledbetter, whose testimony is forwarded to the Department with this Declaration, said Ledbetter being too young to remember the extent of his services –

He also states that he once before had a declaration made out, before he knew that Herbert Ledbetter was still alive but of whose existence he has but recently apprised and had it forwarded to the War Department, but, as he has never heard from that application he supposes, that the Declaration miscarried. He states that he has never drawn a pension, either from the United States or from Virginia. 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/ Thomas Williams

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward W. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "K".

[This file contains a power of attorney dated September 26, 1854 in Giles County, Tenn., granted by Martha A. H. Rhea, but her relationship, if any, to the veteran is not stated.]