

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Goodwyn R4134

f103SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/21/08 rev'd 9/11/15 & 8/5/21

[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 Georgia, Columbia County

On this the Twentieth day of October 1855, personally came before me Stephen Drane the Judge of the Inferior Court for and in said County and State, Mrs. Elizabeth Parish of the same, aged Twenty Nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath say, she is the only living child of William Goodwyn, late of said County Deceased who was her father and, a soldier of the Revolution, and, she further declares, that, she makes this declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832, in the right of her deceased father the said William Goodwyn deceased. And she declares upon oath, that the said William Goodwyn entered the service of the United States in the State of South Carolina a militia soldier, in 1776, and remained in said service during the war and to its close in 1783, and, that, he fought at Augusta Georgia in 1779, and in 1780, & in 1781, also, at Stono in 1779, at Congaree in 1781, and at Orangeburg in 1781, and, she thinks in Georgia under Colonels Taylor, Clarke and others, whose names she cannot now remember And she further deposes and says, that, her said Father William Goodwyn was a private, a Lieutenant and Captain in the said Revolutionary war, and, did good and valiant work for his Country, and that, she thinks he once attempted to, or, did apply for a Pension, but, was refused on a property qualification. And she further declares and says, that, while she is fully convinced of the services of her father, William Goodwyn, she has no documentary evidence, she is aware of, with which to maintain it, and, she must appeal to the justice of the Department to sustain it. And she further declares that, she is the only living child of her father the late William Goodwyn, the identical William who served as she states, and, that, he died in or near his hundredth year on the 8th of July 1844. And, she further declares and says if he ever drew a pension she does not know it, and, [if] any one has for him it is fraudulent, and, she further says, if he ever did and, that, truly and lawfully, she does not claim or wish a cent And, she further declares and says, that, all of her father's papers she thinks are destroyed by reason of the conflagration of his house, but, that, she has often seen his discharge & commission. And she further declares and says, that, while she is poor and infirm almost to despair in body, she does not want anything but justice, and, hopes the Department will speedily give her only what is due and, she hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any annuity or pension whatever in the name and right of her deceased father William Goodwyn, except, the present, and, she declares, that, he is name is not on the Agency of the Pension Roll of any State, or, of the United States, that, she is aware of, and, if it is, and, he has drawn, she does not wish it again. Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

S/ Stephen Drane, JIC

S/ Elizabeth Parish, X her mark

[H. A. Ramsay and Wiley Jones gave a supporting affidavit.]

[pp 20-25: This file contains a literal transcription of the records of payments made to William Goodwyn during the Revolution as reflected in the records of the SC Comptroller General's office—all of which relate to the [William Goodwyn \(Goodwin\) W8861](#). This application highlights the challenges descendants and the War Department both had in differentiating between veterans of the same name who served in the some locale. WG]

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State of Georgia, County of Columbia

On this the 14th day of December 1855 personally came before me John Arrington, who being duly sworn first according to law, doth on his oath declare, that, he is the same man who testified some weeks ago, with reference to William Goodwyn the father of Elizabeth Parrish his only daughter and living child, and, he declares that, he knew well and long the said William Godwin deceased, the father of the said Elizabeth Parrish applicant for his arrears of Pension, and, he further says, the said William Goodwyn was a soldier of the Revolution and served to the best of his knowledge and recollection formed upon a service with him, at Stono in South Carolina at the battle there in 1779 [June 20, 1779], and, we marched from Charleston SC to Stono, and, he was also at the Siege of Augusta in 1781 [May 22-June 6, 1781], and from there, we went towards 96, but, was not at the siege [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781] and, there we fought at Congaree in 1781, and, we, also, fought at Four Holes in 1781, and, we had skirmishes under various circumstances which were trivial. And he further declares and says, that, the said William Goodwyn, was well known to Colonel (*he says his memory may be imperfect as to dates.)¹

Taylor, General Moultrie [William Moultrie], and many others of the South Carolina officers. And he further says, the said William Goodwyn entered the service in South Carolina and he was a Lieutenant and Captain [in] the said revolutionary war, and, he served under and with him. He was a home man, or, pure man, and, he could call to mind many incidents of his war services, but, for old age, as previously stated. And he further says he is unable to give without a pension, & never applied because he was told he could not get it, if he could live without it, but, he would now apply if he knew of any living evidence by him to sustain the claim. These are my reasons for not applying, but, if there is any chance to get it, I shall try & apply as I now need it in my old age. The claim of William Goodwyn is a just one I knew him well, he died on the 8th day of July in 1844, and was then in search of evidence to send to Washington to try and get his Pension. He was well and [indecipherable word] known as an old soldier and his child needs and should have the Pension, for a few years before he died his house was burned and all his papers lost, and, he blind at the time. That he was entitled I know. I was under him in the war & I know he was the identical William Goodwyn who entered the war of the Revolution in South Carolina, and, fought at Stono, a Congaree, Augusta, Four Holes, and other places, and, he was under Colonel Taylor and others.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ John Arrington,² X his mark

¹ It is not clear where this interlineation was intended to be inserted, but it appears at the bottom of the first page of Arrington's affidavit.

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State of Georgia County of Columbia

On this the fourth day of January 1856 personally came before me Francis W Hobbs, a Justice of the Peace for and in said County and State, William Jonsin, a resident of the County of Telfair same State, but formerly of Burke and originally of Camden South Carolina aged Ninety Eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare, that he knew well the Goodwyn's of South Carolina during the Revolutionary war. John and Uriah Goodwyn belonged to the Continental service, while William belonged to the ordinary service of the country. All of them held official posts, and were active men, held & determined, I was not as particularly acquainted with the Revolutionary details of the service of John and Uriah, as with William. I served under William Goodwyn, for about one year in all I think he was a Captain a part of the time and a Lieutenant under Captain Bates as well as my frail memory will now permit me to recollect. I was with him under Colonel Taylor at Stono in 1779 and we marched from Ashley River under General Lincoln, Colonel Henderson and Taylor, General Moultrie was at James Island. This was on the 20th June 1779, if my memory is true. The British went from here to Port Royal under Maitland and Provost [Augustine Prevost]. In 1781, I was under William Goodwyn again at the siege of Augusta, he did good service here, as well as Stono ferry. Lee's Legion was at Augusta, we fought hard there, and the satisfaction to see the Fort surrender to Pickens and Lee, Clark was here, also, so were Captain's Carr, Dunn, O'Neal, Armstrong, Rudolph, Richland Jones, John Jones, Major Eaton, and others. I did not know them all, but I saw and heard of them frequently. On 21st May 1781, Fort Galphin was taken by Rudolph, on the 15th or 16th of June, Brown surrendered. After the siege of Augusta and its surrender, I was not in service much; and, the above of the only two important engagements I was in under Captain William Goodwyn. While under him we had several little skirmishes, but they were common to the period and not important to detail. I am quite sure William Goodwyn was in the service from 1779 to 1783, but, I was not with him all the while. I have been looking for evidence myself for several years to get a Pension, as I now need it, but, can find none and in my infirmity cannot look out much. I should have applied long ago, had I had the necessary evidence and knew where Billy Goodwyn lived. The Goodwyn family lost most of their property by the war; and, were deserving men. The claim of Elizabeth Parrish is certainly good. I knew her father well and long, and, I have no more doubt, but, he is the identical William Goodwyn who I learned is recorded there. I am swearing to this evidence because I knew him, and, the whole family, and, he was through the war from 1779 to 1783, and, the only William Goodwyn who was an officer and soldier during that time. Let justice be done, let the child have the "good old man's" mite, he fought hard for it. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above.

S/ William Jonsin, X his mark

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United States of America

Southern District of Georgia

Before me Thomas L. Ross a Notary Public for Bibb County State of Georgia personally came John Arrington of Richmond County, Georgia who being duly sworn deposes and says that he passed this day had read to him what purports to be 2 affidavits made by him before Francis

² It does not appear that John Arrington ever applied for a pension from the federal government for his services in the revolutionary war.]

M. Hobbs a justice of the peace for Columbia County -- one made on the 9th day of November 1855 and the other made on the 14th day of December 1855. In the first of these affidavits he is made to say that "he knew William Godwin the father of Elizabeth Parish his only surviving child, that he died leaving no wife" -- that "William Godwin died on the 8th of July 1844 in or near the hundred year of his age. That he was the father of Elizabeth Parish who applies for his pension, that he is the identical William Godwyn who was a private, Captain and Lieutenant in the War of the Revolution and he fought at Stono, at Augusta, at Orangeburg -- at Congaree and he did other good and faithful service &c" That "I knew it to be so, I lived in those days and am now 90 years old &c"

About the 9th of November 1855 I was sent after to go up to the Bellville Factory in Richmond County when I got there I found Doctor Henry A. Ramsay, Wiley Jones, General Steven Drane and Francis M. Hobbs there I was called on by Doctor Ramsay to make an affidavit in Relation to the Revolutionary services of William Goodwyn, I informed Doctor Ramsay that "I have known William Goodwyn about 20 or 22 years and had heard Godwin say that he was a Revolutionary soldier but that I did not know it"-- for that I was not in being in the Revolutionary War" After this conversation Doctor Ramsay wrote out the affidavit -- and told me that what I had told him was what he wanted me to testify to and I supposed was what I was testify to the affidavit was not read over to me if it had been I would not have testified to it. I am about 63 years of age. The William Goodwyn that I knew if he was a Revolutionary Soldier was surely not an officer as he was quite an illiterate man and I do not think that he could neither read or write. He was then reputed father of 6 children 2 sons and 4 daughters who are all living. I am uneducated can neither read or write and I was imposed upon in making the affidavits, and was the more easily imposed upon from the characters of the men who sent for me viz. Doctor Ramsay, General Drane, Wiley Jones & Francis M. Hobbs all the whom were present when I made the affidavit. I never stated to Doctor Ramsay, Drane and others that I was in the Revolutionary War -- that I knew Colonel Robert Goodwyn, Colonel Taylor and Generals Marion, Sumter & Colonel Horry & others.

In the affidavit of 14 December 1855 I am made to swear that William Goodwyn died on the 8th day of July 1844 and was in search of evidence to send to Washington to try and get his Pension. I never made any such statement. I do not know when William Goodwyn died. William Goodwyn I should judge was about my age he might have been a few years older or younger than myself.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 24th May 1856.

S/ John Arrington, X his mark

S/ Thomas L. Ross, NP