

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Jenkins R5574

f18VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/20/13

[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.]

State of Virginia Preston County: SS

On this 30th day of November 1833 personally appeared before me Hugh Evans a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Preston in the State of Virginia Reuben Jenkins a resident of Preston County in Virginia aged seventy-four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – That in the year 1777 he was drafted in Westmoreland County Virginia to serve three months in the Virginia militia under Captain Sanford¹ was marched from Westmoreland Courthouse in May 1777 down to Hollises (or some such name) Marsh there joined a Regiment of Virginia militia commanded by Colonel Parker, Major Austin. The British were landing at Stradford's Landing² Colonel Parker gave them battle, repulsed them with the loss of several lives, took one of their boats and they returned to their Vessels. This was he thinks in May 1777. The Colonel (Parker) kept a lookout till the three months for which he was engaged had expired. Colonel Parker requested that officers and soldiers to volunteer for another term of three months, he told us we could not make a crop this year and it was a pity to call those who could off to relieve. He did volunteer for another tour of three months under the same officers this (he now thinks) was in August 1777. He was kept guarding the Potomac watching the enemy who were in the Potomac. He was marched to Stradford's Island where the enemy again attempted a landing, Colonel Parker again repelled them. They then proceeded down to Hollises marsh [Hollis Marsh at Stratford in Westmoreland County Virginia] and their attempted to land but Colonel Parker had anticipated them and by a forced march had got there ready to receive them they hauled off, [they] did not land. He was continued along the Potomac till in November the enemy fell down into the Chesapeake Bay & Colonel Parker was relieved and He was marched back to Westmoreland Courthouse and discharged having served this summer of 1777 in two continuous or successive engagements six months as a private in the Virginia militia.

Then again in the spring of 1778 he again volunteered to serve three months under the same Captain Sanford in a company of Virginia militia. He was marched in March 1778 to Stradford's Island, thence down the Potomac into Northumberland [County] he thinks along the Bay. The British went up the Potomac several times towards or near Alexandria again returned

¹ Gwathmey lists three men named Sanford as being officers in the Westmoreland militia: Edward Sanford, Patrick Sanford and Richard Sanford, but only Patrick Sanford is listed as having attained the office of captain.

² C. Leon Harris suggests this is probably a reference to Stratford Hall in Westmoreland County.

down well watched by regiments of Virginia militia at different points, they never landed, in June 1778 his term of three months expired and he again volunteered for another tour of three months under the same officers. He was kept in Captain Sanford's Company in Colonel Parker's Regiment watching the enemy along the Potomac and Bay till in October more than three months this last time when he was discharged by Captain Sanford having served six months in two terms continuously in the summer of 1778 as a private in the Virginia militia.

Again in the Spring of 1779 the British early in the spring in April or May made a descent from Norfolk – burned it – Portsmouth and Suffolk. He then in May 1779 about the first of this month volunteered his services for six months in a company of Virginia militia from Westmoreland County Virginia under Captain Harper [possibly Robert Harper] was marched down into Northumberland thence down into Lancaster County to the mouth of the Rappahannock [River], there joined a Regiment commanded by the same Colonel Parker, was continued at this Point he thinks called Windmill point for six months watching the enemy in the Bay till in November 1779 when he was discharged having served full six months as a militia man a private in the year 1779. He went home. Again in the spring of 1780 he volunteered for three months in a company of Virginia militia under Captain Harper his former officer at Westmoreland Courthouse, he joined a Regiment under Colonel Campbell, was marched to Stradford's Island again was kept along the Potomac and down along the Bay moving up & down watching the British to prevent their landing. This kind of service was continued from March 1780 till June 1780 his term of three months expired and he engaged again as a volunteer in the Virginia [militia] under his same Captain Harper & Colonel Campbell. He continued along the same quarter in the same kind of service till the first of October 1780 having served more than three months this last time and in all in two engagements this year of 1780 more than six months, he was discharged and returned home. Then in the Spring of 1781 the British under Cornwallis were marching from the South it was said into Virginia. He then volunteered in a company of Virginia militia for six months under Captain Harper again joined a Regiment commanded by the same Colonel Campbell again marched from Westmoreland Courthouse – were marched up through King George [County] and a part of Stafford Counties to Fredericksburg in Spotsylvania [County] there we were reviewed by General Weedon [George Weedon] were ordered to join the Marquis Lafayette in Caroline County, marched to the Bowling Green in the night thence to holidays Tavern not finding Lafayette we returned to Fredericksburg. There next day Colonel Campbell's Regiment joined him we marched to Raccoon Ford on the Rapidan River there we were reinforced by General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] with Pennsylvania troops. We cut a new road across towards Albemarle, headed Lord Cornwallis, he retreated back we followed in pursuit our forces daily augmenting [?].³ We came up with his Lordship on the Chickahominy, there General Wayne gave him battle but without any decisive advantage been gained either way. The British passed on to Yorktown. The Americans in pursuit. His term of three months expired he again volunteered for a term of three months more under same officers was marched to Yorktown in October the British surrendered [October 19, 1781]. He guarded prisoners to the Winchester barracks continued there as a guard till his other three months expired when in December (about the last of it) 1781 he was discharged having served into continuous engagements this year of 1781 for 9 months, this was his last service. He served not less in all than 2 years and 9 months from 1777 till 1781 both years included as a private in the Virginia militia. He has no documentary evidence. He knows of no person whose testimony he can

procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the revolution although he supposes many of his fellow soldiers yet survive. They are all dispersed out of his reach. 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.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ Reuben Jenkins, X his mark

The Justice propounded to declarant the seven interrogatories prescribed by the war Department to which he answered as follows the is

1st That he was born in Westmoreland County in Virginia in the year 1759 as he has always understood.

2nd. That he has no record of his age –

3rd. That he was living in Westmoreland County in Virginia removed to Frederick County from thence to Randolph thence to Preston County Virginia where he now lives 18 miles from Preston Court house.

4th. That he was first drafted in the Virginia militia for 3 months and volunteered afterwards each time. He served two years and nine months at least during the war.

5th. That he saw Generals Washington, Wayne, Lafayette, Weedon, Lincoln, Knox, Muhlenberg and others. He saw at Yorktown Virginia, Pennsylvania & French troops, regular and militia State and Continental troops. He does not remember the names or Numbers of regiments. The general circumstances of his service were as above stated as well as he can now recollect them.

6th. That he received discharges signed by each of his captains and countersigned by his Colonel's he has not preserved them they are lost long since. He regarded them of little value to him his services were freely rendered until Cornwallis was captured this was regarded by many as an end of the war.

7th. He is known to many persons in his neighborhood among them he will name Thomas Hebb and Moses Beavers old men who can certify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. There are no clergyman living near him.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Reuben Jenkins, X his mark

[Thomas Hebb and Moses Beavers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10]

Weston 8th March 1834

Sir

Some indisposition has for some time prevented me from corresponding with the war Department. Now enabled by returning health to do so I resume it. First I have to say that I learned through Colonel Camp [probably a reference to James M. Camp]; of this place (who has recently returned from Baltimore via Washington) that some communications (deemed official) have been received at the department containing information of frauds on the Government and Lewis. Colonel Camp does not know whether the informant gives particulars or generalities. The information however has caused me to inquire whether in any case I have been so far as writing instrumental in placing doubtful claims before the department the result of such inquiry is that I learned from an old man a faithful chronicler of the occurrences of that day that the application of David Carpenter [David Carpenter R1712] of Harrison is erroneous as to the period of his services. That they were performed after 1783. This old man's tenacious memory

leaves me no doubt on this subject, tis due [?]⁴ to Carpenter and others to say that from what [I] hear of the standing of Carpenter that he is only mistaken, he is a frail and weak man I learn and such is his appearance I have seen him but have no acquaintance with him. The same I think is [the] case with Uriah Ashcraft [Uriah Ashcraft R278]. The information about him is not so decisive but enough so to make me request the department not to act in his case unless some further information shall clear the case of much doubt. I should much regret being accessory to any imposition on the department. If I had not paramount obligations to aid the department the prompt and courteous manner in which the functionaries of the several Bureaus under its different organizations have always conducted a correspondence with me from the year 1815 till now would impose such obligation on me. The files of the department for the above period will show that I have not solicited doubtful claims.

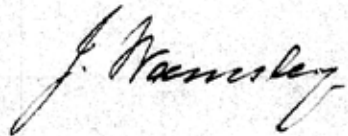
Without knowing who the informant is I cannot forbear to say that it seems to me most probable that his or their information will be found to have been dictated more from envy or malignity than patriotism. I have wrote declarations from memoranda furnish me for several men whom I have never seen some of those may have missed dated from design or frailty the precise period of their service. If there is any designation made of any of my cases either of those who have been allowed or are now pending I will be at pains to investigate by all the means in my power the grounds of the charge and report the evidence. Among the cases of application now before the department under my control I am personally acquainted with the following of whose claims I have no doubt Wm Cookman [William Cookman R2281], David Wolf [David Wolf R11767], __ Reynolds [Benjamin Reynolds R8709] and C. Knight [Christopher Knight R6023]. I have no doubt of Goodwin [Francis Goodwin R4126], or Conway [John Conway R2244] I know nothing nor hear anything pro or con, the same I say of Hyatt Lazear [Hyatt Lazear R6219].

I respectfully ask a reply from the department to this communication with such information as it is pleased to him part. I also asked that the cases of Cookman, Wolf, Knight, Reynolds & Goodwin be acted on and reported and know no reason why the cases of Conway & Lazear should not.

Respectfully

Your obt. Sert.

J. Wamsley [Jonathan Wamsley]



[p 15]

Kingwood 21st of June 1834

Dear Sir

I returned on yesterday from my trip to see Reuben Jenkins and I had to travel over a very rough country and the following statement I obtained from him as follows viz. that in March before Cornwallis was taken he was placed on the muster roll in Westmoreland County Virginia by Captain Sandford [sic] and that he was frequently called out during that spring and summer by his Captain for the purpose of guarding the Potomac River at the different fording places to

prevent the enemy from crossing the River and it was generally in the night and he says he was in that kind of service three months, and in August before Cornwallis was captured he was drafted for three months and that he served under Colonel Campbell & Captain Harper and that he was at the taking of Cornwallis at York Town, which was all the service that he says he was in. I told him that I had come to see [him] for the purpose of getting him a pension, and he said that he had employed two men from Lewis County to get it for him, but he said the people told him that they would cheat him out of it, and that he had never heard from them, and he then said he would get me to attend to it for him, and I then told him he must tell me truth about his service and he made the above statement and I inquired of him who wrote his first declaration and he said Waldo [Calvin Waldo] & James Robison who was to have all of his first draw for their trouble in getting his pension and that they would ensure him a pension – and I inquired of him how long he told them he served and he said that he told them the same as he had now told me and he said Waldo read his declaration to him but he did not mention the length of time that he had served and when he went before the magistrate to be qualified to his declaration the Magistrate inquired of him if he had heard it read and Waldo & himself replied that he had and he was qualified to it and he says he told him he was only out as before stated – and his wife says the same –

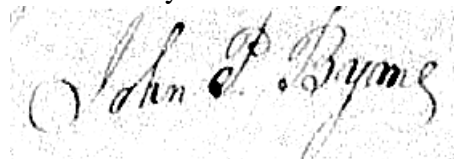
If you should go to see old Mr. Lipscomb [possibly [Ambrose Lipscomb W8252](#)] who has applied for a pension he lives in the edge of Randolph some of the Weston speculators wrote his declaration, you will be within three or four miles of Reuben Jenkins and if you should have time I should also like you to call and see him.

Mr. Wilson⁵ our member of Congress from this district has written to this place that all the pensions of this County & Lewis & c have been stopped until they can be investigated and that there would be no new applications acted on which was in consequence of some declarations having been sent to him from this County. I should like for you to write to me at what time you will be in this County for the purpose I told you when you was here.

In haste yours &c

J. W. Singleton Esqr. [sic]

S/ John P. Byrme



Please to hand this letter to Mr. Singleton

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Reubin Jenkins, applicant Service 2 ys & 9 ms

I employed Mr. Byrme to investigate this case, his report is hereto annexed—in addition to which I am informed by Mr. Byrme that when Jenkins originally applied to him—(See his letter

⁵ Probably WILSON, Edgar Campbell, (son of Thomas Wilson of Virginia and father of Eugene McLanahan Wilson), a Representative from Virginia; born in Morgantown, Monongalia County, Va. (now West Virginia), October 18, 1800; completed preparatory studies; studied law; was admitted to the bar June 24, 1832, and commenced practice in Morgantown; elected as an Anti-Jacksonian to the Twenty-third Congress (March 4, 1833-March 3, 1835); was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1834 to the Twenty-fourth Congress; resumed the practice of law in Morgantown; appointed prosecuting attorney in the circuit court of Marion County in 1842; died in Morgantown, Va. (now West Virginia), April 24, 1860; interment in Oak Grove Cemetery.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=W000574>

to Mr. Edwards) to write a Declaration, he said nothing about his Services in guarding the Potomac River—Mr. Byrne found he was not Entitled and so informed him—W. G. Bunn also examined Jenkins, found also he was not Entitled & so told him.

S/ W. G. Singleton [Washington G. Singleton]
Nov. 25 1834

Recd in Court in, applicat. Saml 24. 1834
I consulted Mr. Byrne to investigate the case,
his report is hereto annexed — in addition to which
I am informed by Mr. Byrne, that when Jenkins origin-
ally applied to him — (See his letter to Mr. Edwards) he wrote a decla-
ration, he said nothing about his Service in guarding the
Potomac River — Mr. Byrne found he was not Entitled
to receive him — W. G. Bunn, also examined Jenkins,
found that he was not Entitled, to take him

W. G. Singleton
Nov. 25. 1834

[Note: C. Leon Harris has made an amazingly thorough examination of the fraud ring investigated by Washington G Singleton. See [David W. Sleeth S6111](#)]