

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Jones R5698

Dorothy Jones

f77VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/21/14

[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.]

[p 9]

State of North Carolina County of Yancey: SS

On this 22nd day of February in the year 1855 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County and State, Alfred Jones to the Court well known who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit first of the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832 and also the act of Congress passed the 7 day of July 1838 entitled "an Act granting half pay and Pensions to certain widows and for other purposes" That he is the son and legal heir of Dorothy Jones, deceased who was the widow of William Jones deceased who was his father: That his father William Jones was born in the County of Henrico in the State of Virginia (and from his age when he died) about the year 1760, that he worked at the brick and stone masons trade in Richmond Virginia until he was about 18 or 19 years old when he enlisted or was drafted (but things [sic, thinks] enlisted) from the County of Henrico in said State of Virginia for the term of three years under a Captain Henderson in a Virginia Regiment of State Troops commanded at times by Colonels Williams and Cropper, and is of opinion that it was about the year 1778 or 1779. He further declares that William Jones often stated that his Officers (some of them) were changed and others took their places during his period of Services and that he heard him mention the names of Captain Fields, and Colonel Anderson as being in some way connected with them, or under them during the period that he was in service and that he also mentioned that he was under General Green [presumably Nathanael Greene] a good deal of the time. He further states that while under General Green (he believes it was) that he was marched into some portions of North and South Carolina that he was in a battle called the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] and another at the Ford of the Catawba [River], and several small skirmishes but has forgotten the names and places as well as dates of these skirmishes and that after they had been in the Carolinas for a considerable length of time they were marched back to Virginia and remained there for the remainder of the war and was principally engaged in hunting of and dispersing gangs of outliers or Tories and British in small gangs who were committing ravages on neighborhoods in the Western part of the State. He further declares that said William Jones frequently told about being (in connection with the other soldiers) in a great want of clothing and that on one occasion their provisions also gave out, and their hunger became so great that some of them killed and ate a dog. He states, that he is of opinion that said William Jones said he was at home once during his service is not certain as to that, nor whether more than once or not. That he is not certain about the line to which his father was attached, whether it was in the Continental Line or in the Virginia

State Line as on this point the old man spoke frequently of both, and for that reason they are somewhat blended together in his memory, but is of opinion that his father said he was paid for some services by the State of Virginia in what he called old Proc money and that the greater part of what he got for said services was in this kind of money and which soon became so worthless that it would take ten pounds of it (£10) to buy a dinner. He further declares that William Jones stated that he continued in the service to about the close of the war, and that the fighting had almost ceased, (only small skirmishes) and that his term of service had also expired when he was regularly and honorably discharged by his officers and received a written certificate to that effect, which he left with present declarant's grandfather at the time he (said William Jones) emigrated to this date, some years after his marriage and as he did not go back to Virginia anymore he did not know whatever became of it. That it was during his father's services and marches that he formed some acquaintance with the lands in North Carolina in consequence of which (he said) he afterwards determined and did move to said State of North Carolina where he bought land and settled for life. He further declares that not of great while before his father's death a man by the name of Thomas Gardner came to his father and informed him that he could get his Pension and was about to undertake it, when the cancer of which he was afflicted became suddenly worse and he soon after died the matter entirely stopped and that at that time they did not know the widow could draw for her husband's services, nor did the widow know it for several years afterwards. That his Mother was old and very infirm for a long time before her death and her children much scattered over the Country, and those that were near her were poor men and all possessing but little general information about the Pension Laws, and men who served with the old man being in Virginia, and it also being a long ways to where they might be found to prove the service, that it was a good while before the widow finally determined to make application, and that after so determining the Agent she employed did not get the papers all sworn to before she took sick and died, and that since her death the present declarant has been getting all the information he could from the older children & who were with his father more, about the service the old man said he rendered that he might be enabled to detail it in this application. He further declares that he does not possess any record evidence of the service nor does not know where any can be found, but supposes there may be some persons in Virginia that may know something of said service. He further declares that the attached Family Register of the births of his fathers and mothers children which is in the hand writing of his father is all the evidence in relation to said marriage that he now knows of and that it has been in possession of his mother from his father's death to her death and then in that of his sister Dorothy Shepherd until he procured it to put with this declaration. That he believes there was once a record of the marriage also but does not know what has become of it. He further declares that said family register shows the oldest child (Luvisa now dead) to have been born 4th day of June in the year 1789 and as his mother always said she was married precisely eleven months when her first child was born, that from this it appears that the marriage took place on or just about the 4 day of July in the year 1788, in the County of Wythe and State of Virginia and that his mother's maiden name was Dorothy Hampton, and that she was also born and raised in the County of Wythe in the State of Virginia. He further avers that said William Jones died of a cancer on the first day of January in the year 1835 in the County of Yancey State of North Carolina and was seventy-five years old at his death. He further states that Dorothy Jones his Mother died in the County of Yancey State of North Carolina on the 28th day of July in the year 1854, all of which will more fully appear by the accompanying testimony here with presented. He further avers that at his Mother's death she left the following children, heirs and issue of said marriage between her and William Jones and

who were living the last time heard from, viz., those that are mentioned as being deceased and here mentioned to show their ages, viz. 1. Luvisa who is dead, 2. Laban Jones, 3. Viney wife of Elijah Shepherd, 4. Malindy wife of James Runion all of whom live in Macon County North Carolina, 5. Susannah wife of Gabriel Madcap lives in Madison County North Carolina, 6. Thursee who is dead but was the wife of Julius Roberson of Kentucky, 7th Dorothy wife of John Sheppard lives in this County, 8th Preston Jones now living in Kentucky, 9. Alfred Jones the present declarant; 10 and William B Jones who lives in Washington County Tennessee – eight now living and two died. He further avers that his father and Mother were not married [before] he left the service above described but that it took place before the first day of January 1794 viz. at the time heretofore mentioned, and that his mother continued a widow from the day of her husband's death to that of her own in the year 1854.

S/ Alfred Jones, X his mark

[p 2: On August 6, 1855 in Yancey County North Carolina James McMahan, 80, gave testimony that he was born in Virginia; that he was well acquainted with the family of William Jones; that the affiant's father Redmond McMahan was a Virginia Continental soldier; that his father and William Jones were intimate friends and often conversed together on the Revolution and their services in it; that his father spoke of William Jones as a true and faithful soldier; that the affiant and his father moved from Virginia to North Carolina, Buncombe County (now Yancy) about the year 1795; that the Jones family settled near the deponent; that Dorothy Jones' maiden name was Dorothy Hampton. He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[pp 16-19: appears to be the family register referred to by Alfred Jones in his affidavit but the images of that record as posted online are largely illegible. The few records I could decipher read as follows:

Thussay Jones was Born on September the 10 Day 1801

Dolly Jones was Bourn March the 25 Day 1804

Preston Jones was Bourn may 24 Day 1806

Alfred Jones was Born April the first Day 1809

__ Jones was born __ day 1806

__ Jones was Bourn __ the first day 1809

__ B. Jones was __ July 12 Day 18012 [sic]]

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This is to certify, that it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their full pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the first January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462,) that a settlement was made on the 24th day of April 1783 in the name of William Jones as Soldier Infantry and evidence of the indebtedness of the State to him was £101.1.3, delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof or not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the First Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
23rd day of February 1855.

S/ G. W. Clutter

[No Seal of Office]

Auditor P. Accts.

[p 59: Certificate dated August 24, 1855 from the clerk of court of Wythe County Virginia indicating that he has made diligent search in the records in his office for a marriage bond or license for William Jones to marry Dorothy Hampton and found no such papers.]

[p 61: On August 8, 1855 in Yancey County North Carolina Joseph Shepherd of Burnsville gave testimony that he is 62 years old; that he was acquainted with William Jones; the affiant gave testimony as to his having had conversations with William Jones about Jones' service in the revolutionary war.]

[p. 64: On August 18, 1855 in Yancey County North Carolina, James L. McCurry, 58, gave testimony that his father Malcolm McCurry was an officer in the revolutionary war and took great interest in all the old soldiers of that war; that his father and William Jones had conversations regarding their services.]

[p 71: On August 15, 1855 in Yancey County North Carolina, Nancy Phipps, 77, gave testimony that she was born and raised in Wythe County Virginia; that when about 10 years old she became acquainted with William Jones; about that same time William Jones began to court her sister Dorothy who was about 10 years older than the affiant; that the affiant's father was opposed to the marriage of William Jones to Dorothy Shepherd but that they continued to court secretly and in the month of July he thinks 1788 were married in Wythe County Virginia; she tells a story of her parents having gone to NC to visit relatives leaving Jones and Dorothy in charge of the children of her parents—that while her parents were gone, Jones, who was a fiddler, was one day fiddling in the doorway of the house when a storm came up and lightning struck a tree in their yard causing Jones to say 'that was a damned hard clap'—Jones' use of profanity made the event memorable to the affiant; that Jones was a soldier of the revolution and that she, affiant, has often heard him speak of his services in the revolution.]