

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jasper Billings ¹ R839

f55SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 'indcipherable' 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.]

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe }

The Declaration of Jasper Billings made this 25 day of February A.D. 1854 before me Solomon Jones a Justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid -- as follows -- the said Jasper Billings after being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is now a resident of the County of Ashe State of North Carolina. That he was born in said State on deep River on the 23rd day of February A.D. 1764. That his father John Billings removed into the State of South Carolina whilst he was an infant -- and resided in said State -- at a place called Wind Hill on the Main road from Charlestown to Ninety Six during the time of the war of the Revolution. He states that his said father was taken prisoner by the British, and Tories and kept prisoner at Charlestown by the British where he died in captivity. He further states that he enlisted into the service of his Country for and during the War of the Revolution -- at a place called the old three runs [??] -- in the State of South Carolina. That he was enlisted by one Colonel Henry Hampton. That he does not know the precise date of his enlistment but he thinks -- and believes that it was in the early part of the year 1782. He thinks and believes that it was between eighteen months and two years before the final settlement of peace -- he thinks his enlistment took place in the latter part of the winter or early in the spring of said year -- he states that he was placed in the company commanded by Captain Prather under the command of General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter], and that he was stationed at a Fort [?]² -- That he thinks was called Sumpter Fort -- if it they any other name he does not know it -- he thinks said Fort was on the waters of Santee some short distance from Charleston South Carolina -- That he continued under the command of General Sumpter. He thinks about six months, and that during that time he was in a battle under General Sumter and General Marion at Orangeburg Court House South Carolina -- that in that battle, they took Colonel Fisher and his whole command prisoner. That he does not know whether Colonel Fisher was a British or Tory officer -- he knows that he wore the British uniform, and he thinks that something like 100 of his men wore the same uniform -- and the balance he thinks amounting to several hundred wore common clothing, and he thinks and understood were Tories. He further states that in said action he received a shot in his right leg

¹ BLWt31700-160-55

² 

which laid him up for some time -- that he was conveyed to the Hospital -- at the Fort -- where he remained for some time -- until he was able for service -- he further states that said wound has much injured him ever since -- and at times laying him up for several weeks. He further states that when he got able for duty that General Marion wished him to join his command -- That he consented to do so -- and that General Marion exchanged one Elish Peters [??] for him with General Sumter, and that for the balance of the war, he remained under the command of General Marion, he thinks for the period of one year and upwards -- That Sergeant McDonold [sic, Sergeant McDonald?] and Sergeant Jasper was also with General Marion. He states that Sergeant Jasper was his cousin -- he states that [indecipherable word] he was -- under General Marion. That they had frequent skirmishes with the Tories -- and with him the Santee, wants at a place called the four holes -- The name of the others he did not know or have forgot -- that he was very young at the time and unacquainted with the Country -- that he was marched from place to place -- very often -- and in great part often of a night -- and through the woods so that he had but little chance to know the Country routes or places -- That they mostly camped in the woods and kept concealed -- and surprised the enemy. He states that he knew Sergeant Midfort, Sergeant Newton, Colonel Lee & Colonel Horry. He further states that he served he thinks and believes to the best of his knowledge about twenty months -- and was honorably discharged after the conclusion of peace -- at said Fort Sumter in South Carolina, he thinks and believes about the month of September 1783. That General Marion's men was all discharged at the same time and place as well as the command of General Sumter. That he got a written discharge at the time he thinks it was signed by general Sumter he further states that shortly after the said that he came to Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina to stay with his uncle Thomas Billings and that in crossing the Catawba River -- the said River being swollen, that he lost his saddle bags -- containing his clothes -- and papers -- amongst which was his discharge -- and came near being drown -- he states that he has no record evidence of his service in his possession nor does he know of any -- nor does he know of anyone living by whom he can prove his services direct. He states that he is on no pension roll nor never has been -- and that he has never heretofore made any application for a pension for the reasons that he has for many years lived in a remote part of the Country -- That he had no one to advise him or assist him -- and that he was told and so fall that he would be compelled to make special and direct proof of service -- that he was and now is very poor -- and that on account of his great age -- his wound -- and general infirmities and general want of knowledge, advice and assistance -- he has not heretofore ever applied for his Country's bounty. He resides about eighteen miles from the Court House of his County over a very rough road -- and that he does not feel able to attend Court for the purpose of making this declaration -- He states that he belonged to the 6 Regiment -- That they wore a Blue Uniform coat with two rows of pewter buttons in front--with the figure "6" cast [?] in their bound [?] with red in the bust. He further states that he has resided ever since shortly after said war in Wilkes County North Carolina Grayson County Virginia and Ashe County North Carolina -- and that he now resides in Ashe County North Carolina. He further states that some time he thinks about 25 or 30 years ago when it was talked of the old soldiers getting pensions -- that he was advised by some of the old soldiers, to wit -- one Abraham Willis & one William Harris that he would have to have evidence of service or of enlistment -- in consequence of which he went from his residence in North Carolina -- to his old home in South Carolina to where his mother then resided to hunt up if possible his recruiting Colonel the said Colonel Henry Hampton. That when he got to that part of South Carolina -- that he was informed -- that Colonel Hampton had removed off out of the Country to a place in a great distance -- called Elk River and as he was

informed at the time and so believed that no other evidence would be accepted -- he then nor never since up to the this time made any attempt to get any evidence of his said service in said war -- he states that he served as a private soldier -- that at the same time and place when he enlisted that one William Nicholls and Sergeant Medford enlisted and some others that he does not now recollect the names of --.

S/ Jasper Billings, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Ashe }

On this 19 day of April A.D. 1855 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid -- Jasper Billings, aged about 94 -- years, a resident of the County of Ashe State of North Carolina, who after being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical Jasper Billings who was a private in the company commanded by Captain John Hampton in the Regiment commanded by General Sumter in the State of South Carolina in the war of the Revolution That he served in said War of the Revolution for the term of [indecipherable word] days and upwards and was honorably discharged -- that for proof of his said service -- he refers he refers to the certificate of the Comptroller of the State of South Carolina on file in the case of his application for a pension from the United States on account of his Revolutionary Services.

He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Bounty land to which he may be entitled under the I passed three of Marched 1855. He states that he has never received land from the United States -- nor has he ever made any application except this now made.

[... power of attorney boilerplate]

[p 14: certificate dated December 19, 1854 on the South Carolina Comptroller General's office showing payments made to a Jasper Billing for 16 days service as a private footmen from February 13 to March 6, 1779 in Captain John Hampton's company]

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State of Virginia County of Grayson

On this 18th day of May A.D. 1857 personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid, Thomas Bennett a resident of the County & State aforesaid, to me well-known, who after being duly sworn according to law declares that he is about 98 years of age or upwards to the best of his knowledge and belief. That he was born and raised in the County of Richmond North Carolina within about three miles of the Yadkin or Pedee River, near the Grassy Island and not far from the South Carolina line that some time during the war of the Revolution, he thinks to the best of his recollection to be the date 1778 or '80 he went over into South Carolina and volunteered in the service of the United Colonies, under the command of General Francis Marion, under whom he continued to serve until the close of the war. That some time after he had been serving that he well recollects that General Marion exchanged for one Jasper Billings he thinks from the command of General Sumter; he well recollects the matter for the that said Billings was at the time quiet young, he thinks something younger than himself was and that for that reason amongst others himself & Billings became much attached to each other, And the said Billings continued in the service under General Marion to the close of the war and was honorably discharged, that he knows said Billings served for nearly if not quiet two years. He states that service was mostly performed in the State of

South Carolina on the Santee, Pedee, and from Charleston up the Country as far as about the place called Ninety Six. That their service was mostly of a scouting character, foraging etc., that they had frequent skirmishes with the Tories and parties of the British and that said was wounded in the fight at Orangeburg -- in one of his legs. He states that some years after the close of the war of the Revolution that he removed to the Western part of North Carolina and found the said Jasper Billings living near the Blue Ridge in the County of Wilkes or Surry, he is not certain which not far at least from the line of the those two counties, that he stopped with him for a while and then went over the Blue Ridge into the edge of the State of Virginia County of Grayson not far from the place that Billings lived at and settled. That afterwards the said Billings also moved to Grayson County Virginia and afterwards went to live in Ashe County North Carolina joining Grayson County Virginia. That he often saw the said Billings and worked with him at the old furnace in Grayson County Virginia. That the said Billings was a blacksmith by trade, & that he has not lived more than 15 or 20 miles at any time from the said Billings since he came up to this part of the country, and he states that Jasper Billings of Ashe County North Carolina is now living and is the identical man with whom he served as aforesaid

S/ Thomas Bennett, X his mark

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State of North Carolina County of Wilkes: November Term Quarter Sessions A.D. 1856

On this 6th day of November 1856 personally appeared in Open Court -- Francis Rose a resident of the County of Tazewell State of Virginia -- aged 103 years the 27th day of July last -- and who after being duly sworn in open Court -- according to law declares that he resided on the Pedee River near the South in North Carolina line in the time of the war of the Revolution. That he was much in the service of the United States in said war that he served both in North & South Carolina -- that he served the larger part of his time in the latter State -- was much in the County down the Pedee to George Town, on the Santee, near Charleston, and up to Camden -- and in all that section of the State north of these places -- That he was in said war about five years -- with the exception of some brief periods of time -- That in the course of his service in South Carolina he frequently came in contact with the command of Generals Sumter, Marion & others -- of that state. That in the latter part of said he became acquainted with one Jasper Billings -- who belonged to the command of General Marion in the State of South Carolina -- that he saw the said Jasper Billings at several different times in said service in the Santee country -- That said Billings was at the time quiet young and was he thinks a good deal engaged in the foraging -- part of said service that he himself was also similarly engaged much of his own time in the commands to which he belonged -- That he saw the said Billings occasionally in said service -- in the latter part of the war for about 18 months or two years to the best of his recollection and belief -- and knows he did do service as aforesaid. That just before the final settlement of peace, that this affiant removed to the mountainous part of North Carolina -- and settled in the then County of Wilkes NC on the West side of the Blue Ridge near the Virginia line -- that some few years thereafter that the said Jasper Billings came up to the same part of the country and settled in said County of Wilkes -- and sometimes lived in the edge of Virginia. That he knew the said Billings well at the time and ever since -- and knows that he is the identical Jasper Billings -- whom he knew in the war of the Revolution in South Carolina under the command of General Marion -- and that Jasper Billings of Ashe County North Carolina is the identical man that he is now a very old man. That he is a blacksmith by trade -- and has generally lived near him and have most well and intimately known him for many years since his first settling in this part of

North Carolina as aforesaid. And he further states that he has no interest whatever in this matter that makes this statement readily [?] and because it is true and just -- and within his own knowledge and recollection.

S/ Francis Rose, X his mark

South Carolina Audited Accounts³ relating to Jasper Billing
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 490

AA2

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[No.] 1937 [Book] X 4 March 86 [1786]

Jasper Billing for 16 days duty as a private footman from 13th Feby to 6th of March 1779 in Capt. John Hampton's Compy at 10/ p [per] day

Charged Curry [old SC currency]	£26
Deduct less	<u>18</u>
Curry	<u>£8</u>
Stg [Sterling]	£1.2.10 ¼

Ex^d. J. M^c. A. G." [Executed by John McCall, Adjutant General]

³ The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [ENTER ON-LINE RECORDS INDEX](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Individual" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name. The "SC" file number shown on this transcript has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.