

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Preston R8448

Cecelia

f16VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/19/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia County of Fauquier: SS

On this 25th day of October A.D. 1854, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for said County and State aforesaid William Preston, a resident of the County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the son of Cecelia Preston, deceased, who was the widow of Jacob Preston; the said Jacob Preston having been a Revolutionary Soldier, as shown by the affidavit of James Martin on another page, and therefore claims the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed July 4th 1836, for the benefit of the widows of Revolutionary soldiers, or their surviving children, as his father, the said Jacob Preston having died in the year 1804, and the said Cecelia Preston, his Mother, lived the widow of the said Jacob Preston, never marrying again, and died on the 9th day of December A.D. 1847: he further states there are now surviving only six children of the said Jacob and Cecelia Preston, his father and Mother, viz. Allen Preston, Jacob Preston, William Preston, John Preston, Jane Kearnes and Agnes Sandford.

S/ William Preston, X his mark

State of Virginia County of Fauquier: SS

On this 25th day of October A.D. 1854, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for said County and State aforesaid, James Martin, aged eighty-seven years, who being duly sworn according to law, testifies that he was well acquainted with Jacob Preston deceased from his boyhood and was on terms of intimacy with him as long as he lived, and knows that he, the said Jacob Preston was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and was one of the eighteen months drafts, and served out the term of his engagement at which time he, the said Jacob Preston was a married man, and had two sons, he married Cecelia Hughes, he, the said James Martin, states that he was not present at their marriage, but knows they lived together as man and wife, and acknowledged each other as such, and were generally reputed man and wife, and as having been lawfully married, and he further states that the said Cecelia Preston, formerly Cecelia Hughes, remained the widow of the said Jacob Preston to the time of her death, which took place about seven years ago, never having married after his death in 1804: his residence was in this County during his life.

S/ James Martin, X his mark

On this 27th day November 1854 personally appeared before the County Court of Fauquier County in the State of Virginia John Preston a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged fifty-seven 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 provision made by the act of

Congress passed July 4th 1836: That he is the son of Cecelia Preston deceased who was the widow of Jacob Preston, deceased, who was a Revolutionary soldier as he has heard his mother the said Cecelia Preston often say, and believes served as stated by James Martin, in his affidavit, sworn to before J. Willett Leach, a Justice of the Peace within and for the said County and State aforesaid, on the 25th day of October A.D. 1854. He further declares that he believes his father and mother, the said Jacob and Cecelia Preston were married in the year A.D. 1778; her name before marriage was Cecelia Hughes, as he has often heard his mother say, they were married by Parson Craig, a Protestant minister of the Parish in this County, in which they were born and lived at the time of their marriage aforesaid, Parson Craig aforesaid kept a record of the marriages, births and deaths in his Parish in the vestry books of his church; the most diligent search has been made for said vestry books, and as they cannot be found, we suppose they have been destroyed: My father, the said Jacob Preston died in the year 1804. My mother the said Cecelia Preston died December 9th A.D. 1847; still the widow of the said Jacob Preston. We have no family register. My father and mother had twelve children, the first, third, fourth, sixth, tenth and twelfth of whom have died, there are now surviving the second child, Allen Preston, who was born in the year A.D. 1780, according [to] mother's accounts, the fifth, Jane Kearns, aged about sixty-nine years, the seventh Agnes Sandford aged sixty-seven years, the eighth Jacob Preston aged sixty-five years, the ninth William Preston aged sixty-three years, and the eleventh John Preston aged fifty-seven years, making six children of the said Cecelia Preston now surviving whose names and ages, I believe are above stated. The most diligent search has been made among all the old papers of the family for his father's discharge, which he got when he left the Army; but it cannot be found, we therefore conclude that it has been destroyed.

S/ John Preston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Preston". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

[Note: In a letter dated December 16, 1854 sent by William Preston from Fauquier County Virginia St. Stephens post office gave the additional information relating to this claim:

1. That the witness James Martin married Agnes Hughes, the sister of Cecilia Preston
2. That the justice of the peace who wrote James Martin's affidavit misstated his age therein. That Martin's age at the time he gave his affidavit was about 91; that he Martin was about 18 years old when Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781].
3. That their mother went to a Mr. Hoard with the intention of prosecuting her claim for a pension; that aptly that time there were several old persons in the neighborhood who could attest to his father's service and Mr. Hoard promised to obtain their affidavits but failed to do so and they all died before giving any testimony.
4. That his father when in the service about April 15th, 1781 in the company commanded by a Captain Markham and in Colonel Churchwell's Regiment. That their father returned from service about the time Cornwallis surrendered.
5. That his father was employed as an overseer in the year 1780.
6. Both of his parents were illiterate and kept no family registry.]