

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rains R8561

Nancy (Anna)

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/3/12

[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 Spotsylvania: SS

On this 3rd day of August 1843 before the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for the aforesaid County & State personally appeared Nancy Rains, a resident of the Town of Fredericksburg and State aforesaid aged seventy-six years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision may by the act of Congress passed on the 7th of July 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay & Pensions to certain Widows:" That she is the widow of William Rains who was a private in the Army of the Revolution, That her husband, the said William Rains was an enlisted soldier, but how long he enlisted for, or how long he was in service, she cannot state, knowing nothing of his services of her own knowledge, nor does she know at what time he entered or at what time he left the service, but she well recollects to have heard him say during his lifetime, that he enlisted when a very Young man, and was in service during the greater part of the war and that after he served out the period of his enlistment he was once or twice drafted into service – She cannot state the names of any of the officers (having forgotten them) under whom he served or by whom he was enlisted nor can she state positively whether he ever informed her that he was in any engagements, but is rather inclined to think that she heard him speak of being at the Battle of German Town [Germantown, October 4, 1777]. She frequently heard him speak of his services, and the great hardships he endured whilst in service but from extreme old age, ill health, and the consequent loss of memory she cannot remember many things which she heard him say in relation to his services. She further states that she has no record testimony of his services, nor does he know of any person now living who can testify as to his enlistment and service, That the only old soldier that she recollects to have heard her husband speak of being in service with, she has been informed is now dead & whose name was Moses Standly¹ of the County of Caroline & State of Virginia in which County her husband resided, when he entered the service and was an apprentice to one__ Arnold, who was a Wheelwright by trade. She further declares that she was married to the said William Rains on the 5th day of January 1792 and that her husband the aforesaid William Rains died sometime in the month of March 1810. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that her marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated. She further states that she is unable from bodily infirmity from attending Court in order to make this declaration.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year 1st above written before me

S/ W. C. J. Rothrock, JP

S/ Nancy Rains, X her mark

¹ A veteran by that name and a resident of Caroline County Virginia did file for a pension, but he claimed under the 1818 for service in the Virginia Navy. [Moses Standley \(Stanley\) W3886](#)

[f p. 9: On August 3rd, 1843 in Spotsylvania County Virginia, Sucky Williams, 75, of Fredericksburg gave testimony that she is the sister of Nancy Rains the widow of William Rains of Spotsylvania County; that they married January 5, 1792; that she was present at their marriage; that she lived with him many years after their marriage and recalls William speaking of the hardships he suffered as a soldier of the revolution.]

[f p. 11: Caroline Hogans and Elizabeth Rains gave testimony in Spotsylvania County Virginia on August 2, 1846 in support of the application of Nancy Rains, widow of William Rains; Caroline Hogans stated that she was well acquainted with William Raines; that she knows he enlisted in the Army as a soldier in the revolution but she cannot state under what officers he served nor positively the time he served but feels certain that he served over 2 years because she recollects that said Rains and his brother Henry Rains enlisted about the same time and returned about the same time to her father's; she recalls her father asking in her presence how long they had been in service and Henry Rains remarked that they had been gone 7 years; Elizabeth rains, 73, gave testimony that she is a resident of Spotsylvania County and a cousin of the aforementioned William Rains; that she knows he enlisted in the revolution in the Continental line but cannot state how long he served but feels no hesitation in saying that he served over 2 years; that William and his brother Henry enlisted together with 2 other men, Moses Standley and Rudolph Horn both of whom were residents of Caroline County; that she frequently heard Henry Rains say he was gone 7 years and upwards and that she believes Williams served nearly as long.]

[f p. 21: in a supplement to her application, the widow stated on March 26, 1847 that she recollects the name of Captain Quarles in whose company she thinks her husband served.]

[f p. 3: Copy of a marriage bond dated January 4, 1792 issued to William Raines and William Williams in Spotsylvania County, Virginia conditioned upon the marriage of William Raines to Anna Williams.]