

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Skelton S10258

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

2/28/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[State of Virginia Charlotte County]

Declaration –

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 –

On this 10th day of December 1836, personally appeared before me William Bacon a Justice of the Peace in the County and State aforesaid, William Skelton, a resident of said County & state, aged seventy-eight years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 –

He states that he was born in Charlotte County, State of Virginia, on the 9th day of March 1757. He had a Register of his age some years back, which by some means or other has been lost or mislaid. He has resided in Charlotte County from his infancy, and makes that County his home.

That in consequence of old age, bodily infirmity &c his memory has been greatly impaired; insomuch that he cannot give that clear and satisfactory account of his services in the Revolutionary War that he would desire. The following statement is made according to his best recollection at the present time –

He was first drafted in the militia from the County of Charlotte in the fall of the year 1775, for the term of three months, under Captain Thomas Williams and marched first to Petersburg where he stayed a short time, thence to Williamsburg where he remained some time, thence to Hampton, and from Hampton by water to Portsmouth. At Portsmouth, his term of service expired: and was accordingly discharged. John Collier was Lieutenant and James Hamlett Ensign in the company according to his best recollection.

He was drafted the second time in the Militia from the same County, for the term of three months in the year, 1779, (the day & month he cannot call to memory) under Captain William Morton & marched to Petersburg. He did not serve the full term he recollects distinctly: and his memory is so defective that he cannot say how long he actually did serve; but recollects that he once applied to Captain Hillary Moseley who was with him in this company to say how long the company was in service, and he said one month Captain Moseley is now dead – there being no further use for the company, they were accordingly discharged.

He was drafted the third time in the Militia from the same County, for the term of three months, in the spring of 1781, under he thinks Captain Legrand, who marched them to Prince Edward Court House: he was there transferred to the command of Captain Overstreet, and marched first to Cartersville where he crossed James River; thence to the Rapidan River, where he crossed at what was called Raccoon Ford and from there until he met the main body of the Army under the command of the Marquis de Lafayette: he was there, together with a man of his

company under command of Sergeant William Cheatham, ordered to Brock's Bridge in the County of Orange, and there stationed as a guard over some guns and munitions of war deposited at that place for safekeeping: at Brock's Bridge his term of service expired and he received a discharge and also a receipt for his Gun, both of which he kept for many years, but are now unfortunately lost or mislaid. Major Overstreet one of the field officers accompanied the company from Prince Edward Court House to the main body of the Army under Lafayette: Major Higgins commanded at Brock's Bridge where the munitions of war were deposited and he was discharged.

He further states that he served on other occasions during the Revolutionary war for short periods of time, for which he claims nothing, and therefore declines making any mention thereof. He regrets exceedingly that he cannot produce better and more satisfactory evidence in support of his claim; but such as it is he submits to the War Department with his present Declaration – fondly hoping that the Department will make you a allowance on account of his old age and bodily infirmity – He well only claim a Pension for six months Service –

His general bad health, old age &c has prevented him heretofore from applying for a Pension, and other reasons of minor consequence which he deems unnecessary to name –

That he is a cripple, in very needy and reduced circumstances, with a large family of children, and that he needs aid and assistance from his country for support –

He has no documentary evidence of his services in the Revolutionary –

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ William Skelton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Skelton', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Sworn to and subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace in the County aforesaid this 10th day of December 1836

S/ Wm Bacon, JP

[George Pettey, a clergyman, and James McCargo gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Virginia Charlotte County to wit

I James McCargo Senior of Charlotte do hereby testify that my Brother Redford McCargo<sup>1</sup> now of the State of Kentucky (if living) told me repeatedly that William Skelton of Charlotte, who is an applicant for a Pension, was in the service with him during the Revolutionary War, but do not recollect that he stated how long, or in what company, they were together.

S/ James McCargo

Virginia – Charlotte County to with

I do hereby certify that William Skelton of Charlotte, was drafted in the Militia of Charlotte in the latter part of 1775, under Captain Thomas Williams, for the term of 3 months, which term he served faithfully, John Collier was Lieutenant in the company. We marched 1st to Petersburg thence to Williamsburg, by Hampton and across Hampton Rhodes to Portsmouth – at Portsmouth

---

<sup>1</sup> FPA S16955

he was discharged –

I further certify that [words written over and illegible] and indistinct recollection of the said William Skelton being again drafted in the militia under Captain Legrand and marched to Prince Edward Court House where he was transferred to the Prince Edward Company under command of Captain Overstreet – But of this latter service I cannot speak with any degree of certainty. The 1st mentioned service under Captain Williams, I am positively certain of – Given under my hand this 9th day of December 1836

S/ James Mullings<sup>2</sup>

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mullings". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]

---

<sup>2</sup> FPA S10251