

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Jordan S10929

f10VA

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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Virginia in Nelson County} SS

On this 25th day of March 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Nelson County now sitting William Jordan a resident of said County of Nelson aged Eighty years on the 16th day of May next, who being first 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: During the progress of the War of the Revolution but the year nor day he cannot tell, being a resident of the County of Caroline Virginia, a draft of the Militia of the adjoining County of King and Queen was made and placed under the command of Captain Pollard [John Pollard] for a three months tour of duty, that he the said Jordan before the marching of the said draft substituted himself therein and took the place of a certain Edward Botley and served the said tour of three months as a private soldier. That during this Tour which to the best of his recollection took place about five years before the close of the War Colonel Innis [perhaps James Innis] was his field Officer and he was with his Company & Regiment engaged in marches and counter marches and served alternatively at and in the neighborhoods of York Town, Williamsburg and Shields Tavern. That after he returned home from the last named tour to the County of Caroline, under some law of the state then in force he was drafted with others from the Militia of that County for the period of eighteen months intended to be sent on service to the South, that his mother who was then alive being much opposed to his going on this service persuaded him to obtain a substitute which he did in the person of a certain James Whistler, also of the County of Caroline, about six months after the marching of this latter draft to the southern services, the division to which Whistler his substitute belonged was ordered into service for three months, when he Jordan was informed by the County Lieutenant that as Whistler was absent performing his tour that he Jordan was obliged by the laws then in existence to perform Whistler's tour which he did under the command of Captain Daniel Coleman. That this tour was performed like the first in and about Williamsburg, the halfway house and at York Town under the command of Colonel Nelson [probably Thomas Nelson] and was performed also in the character of a private soldier. That after his discharge from this latter tour and his return home, but the day nor year he cannot from old age recollect he joined a Volunteer Corps of eighteen men under the command of Lieutenant Minor to be stationed at James Town on James River for the purpose of guarding some boats in keeping the ferry at this place for the transportation across said River at that point of troops and Stores. That he continued in this

service at that place also in the character of a private Soldier three months. That after his discharge from this last tour and his return home another draft was made upon his native County of Caroline, when his brother Armistead Jordan was drafted to go for the period of three months, that he agreed to substitute and take the place of his said brother and accordingly marched under the command of Captain New [Anthony New], and served in and about Williamsburg & York Town, but from some cause not now recollected he served but two months this last tour, and like the others as a private soldier. That after the last named tour but the month nor year he is utterly unable to recollect he was again drafted into the service from the same County of Caroline for the period of three months and placed under the command of a Captain David Jamison, and was employed in and about York Town Williamsburg, Richmond and Fredericksburg, and continued to serve four months in instead of three. That during this tour he was at times under the command of the Marquis Lafayette, and was with him in Richmond when the enemy had possession of Manchester, and he saw from the Richmond side of the River the first torches that were applied to the Warehouses in Manchester by the enemy which consumed them [April 30, 1781].

That after serving four months in this tour and that being one month longer than he thought he ought to be kept, and the relief having arrived, yet the relief was kept and his company still detained, he grew dissatisfied with the Militia service, and declared to a recruiting officer of the Continental line that if he would permit him to go home on furlough he would enlist for the War. The Officer consented and accordingly furloughed him, but for what time he does not now recollect, after reaching home, he was taken sick and lingered for some time, when he was sent for and charged with desertion, but on the representation to the County Lieutenant made by his mother his furlough was extended until such time as his health would enable him to join his company. That as soon as his health permitted, he set out to join his company then at York Town and had progressed as far as New Town in the County of King & Queen when he met many of his comrades in arms returning from the siege of that place, bringing intelligence of its surrender [October 19, 1781], and that his services were no longer needed. That he does not know that he is entitled to anything on that account or that he can prove his last enlistment, but he is well assured that he served actually served in the different Militia Tours fifteen months and always as a private soldier. That he has no documentary evidence to support his said claim nor does he know of any living witness or witnesses by whom he can prove his said services. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension roll or Agency of any State.

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I learned from my parents that I was born on the 16 May 1754 in the County of Caroline on the edge or rather near to the Counties of Essex & King & Queen

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record of my age, but understood from my parents that my age was recorded in the Clerk's Office of King & Queen after the custom of those times.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. When called into service I was living in the County of Caroline, continued to reside in that County 3 or 4 years after the close of the Revolution, then removed to the County of Chesterfield, Virginia and lived there 7 years, removed from thence to the County of Amherst, near my present residence, and do now live in the County of Nelson (being a part of Amherst).

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. My first tour was as a substitute for Edward Botley, my second for James Whistler, who had substituted me, my third as a Volunteer, my fourth as a substitute for my brother Armistead Jordan and my fifth tour was drafted.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. My memory as to names is much weakened by time and I do not know that I can designate Corps and names, but I do recollect and well recollect the Marquis Lafayette in my last tour – as to the general circumstances of my service I refer to the body of my declaration, with the additional recollection that during one of my tours whilst serving in and about York Town the great Stable was burnt and during the last tour and affair we had with the enemy about 4 miles on this side of Williamsburg, whilst we were under the command of Colonel Mathews [probably Thomas Mathews] and Major Armistead, we were attacked by the enemy's Cavalry – which resulted in our route, killing two & crippling one of our men – upon which occasion Reuben Broaddus my right hand file leader had his gun lock carried away by an enemy's shot.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received a written discharge nor do I think it was usual and those times to give such.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. There is no clergyman immediately resident, but Spotswood Garland & Nathan Lofftus I expect will so testify.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm Jordan¹

[Spotswood Garland and Nathan Lofftus gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 15 months in the Virginia service.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 6-page file

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, 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, that a Certificate issued on the 30th day of April 1785, in the name of William Jordan, as a Soldier for £2.6.8, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to John Dunn and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
12th day of June 1833.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

¹ not the original signature of the veteran

Petition for bounty land

William Jordan – Soldier Continental line

This soldier's name is on the Army Register – He received £2.6.8 the balance of his full pay, April 30th 1785.

There is no proof offered of his enlistment & service for three years, or for the war: nor any other proof, then the Auditor's certificate, that this soldier's name is on the Army Register & that he received the balance of his full pay. I respectfully suggest, that there is not sufficient evidence, to authorize the allowance of this Claim.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

April 19th, 1834

to his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

William Jordan Represents that shortly before the Surrender of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] he Enlisted for during the war, and that very soon after that surrender was discharged, that he was in a company with Captain Jamison and served [several undeciphered words] – He thinks he will be able hereafter to produce his discharge, having left it in the County of Caroline with a Sister Mary Chapman, who he has not seen for nearly fifty years, but he will endeavor to procure it if in preservation – He now resides in the County of Nelson Va – This [several undeciphered words] the Executive to make an [undeciphered word] among the old records.

S/ J. T. Jr. attoy [attorney]

for Wm Jordan

30 Nov. 1833