

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Williams S11836

fn41VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/11

[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, Chesterfield County SS

On this 12th day of May 1833 personally appeared before the County Court of Chesterfield County Thomas Williams, a resident of the said County in the State of Virginia, aged sixty-nine 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 may by 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 after stated, viz.:

In the month of September 1780 he entered a company of volunteers commanded by Captain John Webb, formerly a Colonel in the Continental Army, in the County of Essex, of which this Declarant was then a resident; marched down to Williamsburg where the said company remained for three months, and was discharged in December just before Christmas, without having been attached to any Regiment or Battalion. The subaltern officers were William Edmondson and Nathaniel Crowe.

In the spring or early part of the summer of 1781, this Declarant again entered the service as a drafted militia man in Captain Philip Leigh's [Philip Lee] company of militia in the same County in Major Thrashley's [?] Battalion, marched from the County of Essex and joined the main Army under General Nelson then retreating before Cornwallis' Army; about 18 or 20 miles above Richmond; Major Thrashley, being in bad health, then left the Army & was succeeded by Major Armistead. The American Troops continued their retreat until they formed a junction with General Wayne's Army near the Blue Bridge of Mountains Cornwallis then retreated before the combined American forces under Generals Nelson, Wayne and Steuben, who pursued him into the lower part of Virginia; this Declarant with others was stationed about a fortnight at Bottom's Bridge, and was soon after was discharged at the Malvern Hills, about twenty miles below Richmond, as well as he recollects, after a service of three months. The subaltern officers were William Perkins & Obadiah Bowler.

In the latter part of the summer of the same year, he was again called out and entered the service in the County of Essex in Captain William Gatewood's company of militia, the subalterns being Thomas Chaney and William Jeffries; marched through King & Queen County into the County of Gloucester, and was put under command [of] Colonel Innes & Colonel Griffin about three miles from Gloucester Town, was then stationed near that Town opposite Yorktown on York River, during the whole time of the siege of York; remained at that place, with about 500 troops, guarding the prisoners and reconnoitering the movements of the British Army and British scouting detachments, and was discharged at Gloucester Town a few days after the surrender of Cornwallis' Army, having served a little less than three months, not less he thinks, and two

months & a half.

That he served with him sundry Continental troops, but does not recollect the numbers of the Regiments or the names of the officers except those already mentioned, was never engaged in any battle except a skirmish with a detachment of British troops near Gloucester. He never received any written discharge & has no documentary evidence of his service, but the part of his services is known to several living witnesses. He does not [know] that he can procure the testimony of any clergyman to the tradition of his service; but could refer to many persons who can testify to the same.

According to the best of his recollection, he served not less than 8 months and a half as a private in the Virginia militia, and a volunteer as aforesaid.

He was born the 22nd day of March 1764, according to a Register of his age made by his father, which has been carried by one of his brothers to the State of Kentucky. That he resided in the County of Essex until about thirty years ago, when he removed to the County of Chesterfield where he has resided ever since.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension or warranty except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

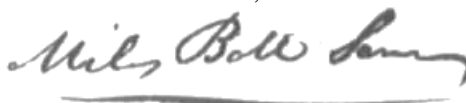
Subscribed & sworn to

S/ Thomas Williams, X his mark

Manchester Virginia 30th of November 1832

I do hereby certify that in the spring and summer of the year 1781, while General Lafayette was retreating before Lord Cornwallis to the upper part of Virginia, where General Lafayette was joined by General Wayne, after which Lord Cornwallis retreated on his way to Yorktown – I served a 3 month tour, and was discharged near Bottom's bridge – whilst serving my tour as a Waggoner, Thomas Williams was one of the guard who guarded the wagon I drove, at the time I obtain my discharge, Thomas Williams three months had not expired as he was not discharged and I was, and it is my belief that he served out his full time of three months, I was discharged sometime in June of that year and as well as I can remember he guarded the wagon about two months with me – Captain Walker of Amelia County was the officer who commanded the company to which we belonged.

S/ Miles Bott, Senr.



[attestation clearly shows the affiant's name as Miles Bott, Senior. I could not find a federal pension application filed by a man of that name.]

[fn 16: On May 13, 1833 in Chesterfield County Virginia , Nancy Ferguson, the sister of the soldier and the wife of Haley Ferguson, made affidavit in behalf of her brother's claim stating that she recalled his serving a 3 month term under Captain John Webb and another term at the time Cornwallis surrendered.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 1/2 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]

[Note: the file for this veteran as posted on Fold3, formerly Footnote.com, erroneously includes the application and related documents belonging to Thomas Williams S14843.]