

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rawlins S1713

f36VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/8/12

[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 Tennessee Franklin County Sct.

On this 16th of January 1833 – Personally appeared in Open Court before the Honorable J C Mitchell Judge of the Franklin Circuit Court now sitting, William Rawlins a resident of Franklin County in State of Tennessee – Aged 68 years the 12th day of April last – 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 the 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier under Captain Joseph Richerson [Joseph Richeson] of the Militia of the County of Caroline & State of Virginia when he was but a few months over sixteen years old, & marched about the last of September or the 1st of October 1782 Richmond, with Captain Anthony News [Anthony New's] Company of Militia & two others to Richmond – Where we were put under the command of Colonel Harrison, Major Magill, & others Regular Officers We there took up the line of march for Norfolk crossing James River nearly opposite to Cabbin point [Cabin Point] & marched as low as Mackey's Mills, & was stationed near Mackey's House on James River sometime after General Spotswood of Spotsylvania & Colonel John Taylor of Caroline came & took command of the Caroline Militia, a few days before Christmas we were marched up to Petersburg Virginia & there discharged without giving us a written discharge.

About the 1st of March following he again entered the service of the United States under Captain Charles Woolfolk of Caroline & was appointed the 2nd Sargeant in his company – Several other Companies of militia from Caroline County was called out at the same time. We rendezvoused at the place called Flanders (now called White Chimneys) There we met General Lafayette & his Regulars & marched with them to Richmond, a few days after our arrival the British Army commanded by General Philips [William Phillips] & Arnold [Benedict Arnold] marched into Manchester opposite Richmond on the South side of James River & burnt the public warehouses & all the tobacco [April 30, 1781]. That evening they evacuated the Town & marched towards Petersburg, – On the next day we were reinforced by Baron Steuben General Muhlenberg & others, who commanded the militia on the South side of James River. The Caroline Militia was attached to Colonel Thomas Matthies [Thomas Mathews] Regiment & was ordered down to Williamsburg in order to watch the movements of the British Army, but was soon ordered back information being received that Lord Cornwallis & his Army was marching from the South to crossed James River & get between our Army & the North to prevent our receiving reinforcements. Lafayette then retreated from Richmond through the County of Hanover crossing Pamunkey River at Davenport's Ford, through Spotsylvania & Orangeburg crossing the Rapidan [River] at Normond's Ford & went into Fauquier County, hearing that General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] & his Army would soon join us we recrossed the Rapidan &

went into Orange & stayed at Lind[balance of name is overwritten and illegible] Mills until General Wayne joined us. We then marched into the County of Louisa our wagons & other Country property. Between that & Point fork we formed the line of Battle expecting to have a general engagement. The 2nd or 3rd day Cornwallis retreated & we advanced after him, until we arrived at the Morvin Hills [Malvern Hills] 16 miles below Richmond. There we encamped for some time. We took up the line of March & crossed Pamunkey River at Ruffin's ferry & Encamped at Custice's plantation in the County of King William – General Lafayette's head quarters he kept at Madam Moors (so called) on Mattaponi River – where the Army stayed there for some time – we then marched to the neighborhood of Old James Town, Lord Cornwallis embarked part of his Troops across James River opposite old Jamestown – General Wayne observing his movements, attacked the rear of his Army, & a severe engagement took place between Wayne's Army & Wallace's Army [perhaps a reference to the engagement at Green Springs July 6, 1781]. Lord Cornwallis brought his Army back to old Jamestown & reinforced his men & got the better of the battle, & Wayne retreated – Wallace then with his Army marched into Little York, where he surrendered to General Washington on the 19th October 1781. In all I served in the United States Army about nine months.

He has no documentary evidence in his possession or power to prove his said services or any part thereof, nor does he know of any person or persons which he can produce to prove his said services except the Reverend Melchizedeck Brame & his sister Mrs. Jamima Light whose statements will be presented.

He states that he was born in the County of Caroline & State of Virginia on the 12th day of April 1764 according to his Father's family record, but has no record of his age in his possession – he resided in the said County of Caroline until he was about 39 years of age, during which time he often saw his age recorded in his Father's large family Bible which he kept – He then removed into Halifax County in the same State about the year 1803. – Where he resided in Meadesville & at the Court House 5 years – And then removed to Pittsylvania Court House in the year 1808 – Where he resided about eight years, & then removed to Danville & resided in that Town 2 years – I then removed to Rawlinsburg in the County of Rockingham & State of North Carolina – From thence he removed to the State of Tennessee & has resided in the County of Franklin about 10 years where he still resides. –

He was intimately acquainted in Virginia with the Honorable Thomas H Davenport – the present Representative in Congress from the District of Halifax Pittsylvania & Cammel [Campbell] in Virginia in which State I was extensively known – To the said the Honorable Thomas H Davenport he refers for the truth of this Statement –

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/ Wm Rawlins

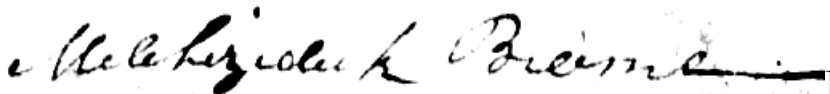
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Rawlins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm Rawlins".

[Micah Taul and James Lewis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 20: On December 14, 1832 in Bedford County Tennessee, Jemima Light, 58 the 28th of November next, born in Louisa County Virginia but raised in brought up in Caroline County gave testimony that she is personally acquainted with William Rawlins of Franklin County Tennessee an applicant for a pension; from her earliest recollection she has heard several

gentlemen including her own horse Walter & John Brame state that William Rawlins served with them as a soldier in the old revolutionary war. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 22: On December 14, 1832 in Bedford County Tennessee, Melchizedeck Brame, 60 on 21st April next, gave testimony that he was born in Caroline County Virginia and has been intimately acquainted with William Rawlins of Franklin County Tennessee, an applicant for a pension; that he has often heard his Father [not named] and his uncles Walter & John Brame say that William Rawlins served in the revolutionary war with them in the same Regiment and company; that they all retreated with General Lafayette; he also testified that he recollects hearing Paul Carrington, a judge and officer in the revolutionary war say that William Rawlins served as a soldier in that war.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melchizedeck Brame". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background and is enclosed in a simple rectangular box.

[f p. 25]

State of Tennessee Franklin County Sct.

On this 29th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of the County of Franklin & State aforesaid – the same being a Court of record – William Rawlins well known to the said Court – who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement as an amendment to the declaration heretofore by him forwarded to the Department of War for a Pension under the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

That after being reinforced by General Anthony Wayne & his Army at Lynseys Mills in the County of Orange we the Army under General Lafayette marched to Brock's Bridge on Pamunkey River unloaded our wagons & left all the baggage there under guard, early next morning we marched into Louisa County (& as I stated in my former declaration) marched to Boswell's Tavern where Colonel Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] had burnt the Country & wagons & other property which he found there. Between this Tavern & Pointe folk [Point of Fork?] we got ahead of Cornwallis & his Army & about 11 o'clock before noon formed the line of battle expecting a General engagement but on the 2nd day of the Evening, or early on the 3rd day in the morning, Cornwallis retreated & we, that is Lafayette & his Army, marched after him – Our relief had come from the County of Caroline & had been in Service for some days, Our Colonel requested of us (the Caroline Militia) not to leave the Army (although our time of service had expired) until we met the enemy, as it was Expected we should have a warm engagement in a few days. This request was made by our Colonel at Lindsey's Mills when General Wayne joined our Army with his reinforcement which we the Caroline Militia very readily agreed to – But after Cornwallis retreated showing his unwillingness to meet us in the field, General Wayne having reinforced us; we were discharged – Immediately went by Brock's Bridge to get my clothes which were left there in a chest with the rest of the baggage from thence to my Father's who lived in the County of Caroline, about 30 miles from Richmond – Thomas Jefferson the end Governor of Virginia had called out the Militia of Caroline nearly en masse & they were on their march to reinforce Lafayette – I again entered the service of the United States, & marched to the defense of my Country – we joined General Lafayette & his Army at the Morvin Hills [Malvern Hills] 16 miles below Richmond, I was under Captain David Jimmerson [David Jameson] & attached to Colonel Mathews' Regiment – after we had been at the Morvin Hills one week, I was made choice of (& taken out of the Company of Captain Jimmerson) by Colonel Payne Major

Jones & Major Webb of the quarter master's department, as an express rider, to carry dispatches from & to General Lafayette – & wherever sent either by night or by day – after staying here at the Morvin Hills for some time we marched to the County of King William crossing at Ruffin's ferry & encamped at Custice's plantation between the monkey & Mattaponi rivers – about a mile of the latter – Lafayette's headquarters was at Madam Moors in a large two-story brick house. We continued here for some time. We then took up the line of march & went into the neighborhood of old James town – Cornwallis (as it was believed) Intending to cross James River opposite old Jamestown & to go into Portsmouth, embarked his troops & had gotten the most of them over when General Wayne with his Army & the riflemen and attacked the rear of Wallace his Army with great theory but Wallace soon brought his troops back, reinforced his Army & Wayne had to retreat having been worsted in the battle – After this he, Cornwallis, marched into little York, where ultimately he & his Army was made prisoner by General Washington – I arrived at Headquarters early in the morning after the battle of James Town with dispatches to General Lafayette – saw many of the soldiers who had been in the battle the over night, just got in camp – I continued in the Quartermasters Department as an express arrived until my 3rd Tower [tour] in which I served in the militia had expired. I served three months as a corporal under Captain Jo Ritcheson [Joseph Ritcheson] my first tower – three months as a Sargeant under Captain Chs. Woodfolk second tower one week as a soldier under Captain D. Jimmison & the balance of three months 3rd tower (save one week) as express latter under Colonel Payne & others. In all I served 9 months.

To the best of my recollection I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier under Captain Joseph Ritcheson from the County of Caroline State of Virginia the 29th of September 1780 – or a day or 2 before or after & was discharged the 29th December after, or a day before or after which composed my 1st Tower – as a corporal as I now perfectly recollect.

On the 1st of March or a day or 2 before, I entered the Service of the United States under Captain Woolfolk – from the County of Caroline & State aforesaid & acted as Sargeant – in said Company, after Cornwallis retreated we were discharged. I think the [words written over and illegible] of June or in a day or 2 of that time.

I again entered the Service of the United States on the 10th of June & joined General Lafayette's Army at the Morvin Hills 16 miles below Richmond, & was discharged on the 10th of September or a day or 2 of that time. We were called out in service for 3 months each time, & I served 3 towers – In all I served 9 months –

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 29th day of May 1833  
S/ E. Russell, Clerk  
by W. B. Wagner, DC

S/ Wm Rawlins

State of Tennessee Franklin County Sct.

An Amendment to and Amended Declaration Forted to the War Department sometime last year 1833.

Personally appeared this 3rd day of March 1834 before the Justices of the Peace in open Court for the County of Franklin of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting – William Rawlins a resident of the County & State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following statement as and Amendment to and Amended Declaration. –

That in his Amended declaration he stated that he was discharged near Pointe fork on James River, after serving his 2nd Tower of duty in the service of the United States under Captain Charles Woolfolk of Caroline County Virginia & in the Regiment commanded by

Colonel Thomas Mathews of Norfolk Virginia. He then returned to his Father's in Caroline County who lived about 30 miles from Richmond – Thomas Jefferson then Governor of Virginia sent an express to the Lieutenant Colonel of Caroline County & called out the Militia nearly en masse – (one third of the County was then in actual service). I was again drafted in the service of the United States & marched under the command of Captain David Jemison – We Joined General Lafayette's Army at the Morvin Hills 16 miles below Richmond on James River – We were then attached to Colonel Thomas Mathews' Regiment – After serving one week with Captain D. Jimmeson at the Morvin Hills – Colonel Payne who was head of the Quartermasters Department made a requisition by a written Order directed to Captain D. Jemmeson & drafted expressly myself my Brother George & John Mickelberry into the service of the Quartermasters Department & requested Captain D. Jimmeson to discharge us & send us to him as he had chosen us to ride Express & to Carry dispatches to and from General Lafayette & elsewhere whenever ordered – Captain D. Jimmeson immediately complied & Discharged myself my brother & John Mickelborough & sent us to Colonel Payne – I then continued in the Quartermasters Department writing Express & carrying Dispatches to General Lafayette & elsewhere whenever sent – & I may add with credit to myself when only little more than 17 years old. I have rode through the American Army with dispatches to General Lafayette between midnight & day – break [sic, been?] hailed by the Sentinels & brought to, & when I arrived at Headquarters hailed by one of the sentinels of General Lafayette's life guard brot [brought] to & conducted at the point of the bayonet to his Door, there kept until Lafayette's Secretary came & received the Dispatches from made. I was then released from the Sentinel & ordered to stay until further Orders. – Thus I continued riding express until my 3rd Tower of service in the United States Army expired which was three months for my 3rd Tower. When I was drafted into the Service [word written through and over and illegible] time I was discharged I refer you to my Amended Declaration forted sometime last year 1833.

S/ Wm Rawlins

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the Virginia line.]