

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Willard S31489

fn31VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/19/11

[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 Illinois Morgan County: SS

On this twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open court before William Wood, James Green & William Gillham, Judges of the County commissioners Court of said County now sitting William Willard a resident of said County aged seventy-seven 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 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.

He volunteered to serve a Tour of Militia duty of six months at Leesburg in Virginia in the month of July he does not recollect the year, he joined a company commanded by Captain James Ratican [?], the company marched from Leesburg to Winchester expecting there to join a Regiment commanded by Colonel Shepherd [David Shepherd], but did not arrive in time, as soon as the men were furnished with arms, the company proceeded to Fort Pitt and there joined Colonel Shepherd's Regiment, there was stationed at Fort Pitt about one hundred Regulars, but deponent does not remember the name of any Regular Officer, General Martin he thinks was commander in chief of all of the forces at that place, Colonel Shepherd's Regiment was ordered to Fort Wheeling and arrived there in September, General Martin did not go to Fort Wheeling, a part of Colonel Shepherd's Regiment remained at Fort Wheeling and a part at Fort Shepherd, the Regiment arrived at those places during the winter, sometime in the winter Colonel Crawford came on to Wheeling and took command he being a Senior officer the deponent continued in this service seven months. He received no discharge or certificate of service, he returned to Loudoun County Virginia his place of residence, about two years and six months after his return – He again volunteered to serve a tour of three months, he joined a company at Leesburg commanded by Captain William Douglass, the company marched from Leesburg to the Red House and there joined the troops under the command of General Payton [Peyton] and Colonel Russell, the Army marched from the Red House to Richmond, and joined the French Army under General Lafayette at a Ferry called "Ruffin's Ferry" but deponent does not remember the name of the River, the Army remained in that vicinity until the capture of Lord Cornwallis, and not long after that the Regiment under Colonel Russell was discharged, the deponent belonged to that Regiment, the deponent served on this expedition the three months or within a few days of that time, and he received a discharge signed by Captain Douglass and Colonel Russell but that discharge he has long since lost, he has no written evidence by which to prove his service, he knows of no person now living except one by whom he can prove his service, one Hannah Dillon who resides in White County Tennessee, she lived at deponent's house while he was absent on the last

expedition of three months, he was born in Loudoun County Virginia about the year 1755 according to the information which he received from his parents, he has no record of his age, he removed from Loudon County to Henry County Virginia several years after the war, he remained in Henry County about three or four years & then removed to Tennessee Overton County, remained there until the spring of the year 1830 when he removed to Morgan County Illinois where he now resides,

He further states that he is known to Samuel Durant, Theodore S Barton and James V. Heddenburg and Aaron Wilson all of whom can testify as to his character for Honestly & Integrity.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or territory.

S/ William Willard, X his mark

[James V. Haddenburg, a clergyman, James Durant and Theodore S Barton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$31.67 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9/2 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]