

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Williams S32065

f153NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 10/31/13

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

[p 18]

Georgia, Telfair County

On this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1833 – Personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court now Sitting, Joseph Williams, a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged Seventy-three 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 – Viz. -- That he entered the service of United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer (and held the rank of Ensign) about the last of March in the year 1779 as near as he can now recollect, shortly afterwards, he was promoted and Commissioned as first Lieutenant in the Company to which he was attached, commanded by Captain Aaron Williams of Duplin County State of North Carolina, in which County and State said declarant resided when he entered the service – Was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Owen Kenan and Major James Gillespie of General Kenan's [James Kenan's] Brigade; his services were confined the North & South Carolina, as far as Pedee River. That he was in no general engagement, but was in several skirmishes with the British and Tories. The principal of which was at the Big Bridge [Heron's Bridge, January 30, 1781] ten miles above Wilmington, General Ash [John Ashe]<sup>1</sup>, General Livingston [sic, Alexander Lillington] and General Kenan were the principle officers; of the Continental Troops, he recollects, Major Dougherty and Major Rhodes to have been principle officers with whom he served – and that his services continued without intermission or discharge from the before named period in 1779 until the last of May 1781, as the declarant believes according to his best recollection and that said continual and continued service was two months as Ensign and two years as first Lieutenant, and for some more circumstantial detail of which service he begs reference to his affidavit written in his own hand & qualified to, and appended to this paper first. He further declares that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure in order to establish his revolutionary services except Stephen Bowen<sup>2</sup> (a pensioner for revolutionary services of) and John Goff<sup>3</sup> – the Certificates of whom are hereunto appended.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any State.

1<sup>st</sup> Question by the Court: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1760 in Duplin County North Carolina

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

Answer – I have none other than that which I left in my father's Church Bible in North Carolina

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War

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<sup>1</sup> General John Ashe was not at the engagement at Heron's Bridge

<sup>2</sup> [Stephen Bowen W5853](#)

<sup>3</sup> [John Goff R4085](#)

and where do you now live?

Answer – I was living in Duplin County North Carolina, and lived there until 1823 when I removed to Telfair County Georgia where I now live

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

Answer – I was a volunteer – and on my own account

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

Answer -- General Kenan, General Ashe & General Lillington, were General Officers – Col. Kenan of the Regiment to which I was attached – Major Dougherty & Major Rhodes of the Continental troops – especially names of Regiments I do not recollect except the one to which I was attached viz. Col. Kenan's and the circumstances of my services, were chiefly as follows, my services were confined to the North & South Carolina as far as Pedee River – was in no general engagement, but in several skirmishes with the British & Tories, were the principle of which was at Big Bridge 10 miles above Wilmington.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a commission, and if so, by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer – I did receive a commission signed by General Kenan, I left it in North Carolina with many other papers at my Brother's, it has since been lost.

7<sup>th</sup> 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 – William Parker, Noah Paramore, John Wilcox, Edward Burke & Jeremiah Wells – And Stephen Bowen who can testify to my services as an officer of the revolution.

S/ Joseph Williams



Sworn to & subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Charles J. Shelton, JIC

S/ Henry Simmons, JIC

S/ James A. Rogers, JIC

S/ Thos. S. Swain, JIC

[Charles J. Shelton, a clergyman, and John Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Georgia, Telfair County

Personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court of said County Stephen Bowen who on oath duly administered deposes & saith that he was a regular soldier in the United States service in the Revolutionary War and that now in virtue of that service is a pensioner and that when in service was well acquainted with Joseph Williams (Ensign) or second Lieutenant under Captain Aaron Williams in North Carolina, in the Militia service against Great Britain.

That himself and Joseph Williams frequently saw and conversed with each other in the years 1780 & '81 (and that the foregoing applicant for a pension is the same) and that after the resignation of Lieutenant Bowen Father of deponent he the said Joseph Williams succeeded to the office of first Lieutenant and continued therein as near as said deponent can recollect & verily believes for the space of two years.

S/ Stephen Bowen

*Stephen Bowen*

Sworn to & subscribed in Open Court the seventh day of January 1833

S/ Thos. S. Swain, JIC

S/ Henry Simmons, JIC

S/ James A. Rogers, JIC

S/ Charles J. Shelton, JIC

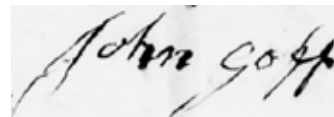
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Georgia, Telfair County

Before me Lott Warren Judge of the Superior Courts of the Southern Circuit, personally came and appeared John Goff a resident of the County of Lowndes and State aforesaid who being duly sworn, on oath saith, that in or about the month of March in the year 1779 he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in a company commanded by Captain Aaron Williams attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Owen Kenan of General James Kenan's Brigade: That deponent first served in said company as Sergeant, but was soon promoted and commissioned as Ensign; and that upon deponent's being promoted, Joseph Williams who was then acting in the capacity of Ensign in the aforesaid Company, was at the same time appointed and commissioned first Lieutenant in said Company: This deponent cannot from the great lapse of time since that period state positively, but he states that according to the best of his knowledge and recollection that said Williams served as much or more than two years as aforesaid.

That the said Williams when he entered the service lived in Duplin County North Carolina, and now lives in Telfair County Georgia. Deponent further saith that his commission as well as the said Williams's were so injured in the rain and water that they were greatly worn and were not preserved.

S/ John Goff



Sworn to & subscribed before me 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833

S/ Lott Warren, Judge Superior Court Southern Circuit Georgia

[p 24: Detailed listing dated June 19, 1852] given by William J Clarke, Comptroller of the state of North Carolina detailing the disbursements made to Joseph Williams as Lieutenant Captain in the company of Captain Aaron Williams. Another listing appears on p 121 dated 1858.]

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The affidavit of Joseph Williams, more in circumstantial detail, designed to render his claim to a pension more clear

Georgia,

Telfair County

Sir, it appears you are not satisfied with my claim we raised a Company of volunteer State's Troops for 12 months and received our commissions in March 1779 I received a Commission as Ensign and in a short time not more than six or eight weeks I think I was promoted to the office of First Lieutenant and Bowen's Commission was endorsed to me by Major Gillespie by order of General Kenan our marches were in different parts of North Carolina and some time in South Carolina mostly on Pedee River where was a large Scope of Country thickly inhabited with men by the name of Truce men but generally called Tories here we took a number of prisoners which was sent on to Duplin goal [sic, jail] we was in Fayetteville up and Down Cape Fear River Black River South River and many

Different parts I cannot Recollect, and these and other routes we were commanded by Colonel Owen Kenan and Major Gillespie a man who died after the war in the City of Washington a member of Congress also by Major Abraham Molton [sic, Abraham Moulton] of General Kenan's Brigade. Near the Close of our year when stationed for a few weeks at Major John Treadwell's in the fork of Coharie River we received an express from Colonel Thomas Bludworth Stating that himself and one Scarborough a Tory Captain had met at ~~Black~~ South River and after some fighting he found the Tories was over his power agreed to capitulation and was to meet on such a day at Mrs. Devaun's [sic] on Black River for the purpose of agreeing on terms of Peace they had agreed to meet with 10 men each our company was sent Secretly to ly [sic] in ambush until the hour they were to meet and then to Rush on them which we did and took the whole of them without the fire of a gun – we marched them on all under guard until we came near Captain Merit's [sic, Merritt's] in Sampson County where we paroled [them]. Colonel Bludworth and his man carried on Captain Scarborough and his 10 to Duplin Courthouse where they were confined in the Bull pen for some days until there was a guard fixed to guard them to Edenton for confinement but they all rather than go to Edenton consented to take the State oath and Serve as volunteers for the term of 12 months except Captain Scarborough and of such principally was it company formed in a few weeks and our time now expired General Kenan and Major Gillespie insisted on our taking Command of them which all refused for some time but our Captain after some days consented if myself and Goff our Ensign would continue with him he would take command of them and that we would not be safe at home we consented and under the same Commissions took Command of the Second Company without loss of time and marched commanded by Major Moulton to Neuse River and Down to New Bern NC at New River Trent and Limestone Long Crick [sic, Creek] and mores crick [sic, Moore's Creek] where we had an engagement with General McLeod's Corps of Tories though our company was not in the engagement being sent by Colonel Caswell to a bridge 2 miles higher up the Creek though we saw the Carnage, after pursuing them for some time we joined General Ashe at the Long Bridge after being there some weeks I and our Company with a few Regulars was sent with four or five wagons Down to New Bern to fetch on the magazine to the Long Bridge 10 miles above Wilmington soon after our arrival the Enemy came on Routed us with some loss perhaps 7 were killed some wounded General Kenan made another stand 30 miles higher up entrenched at Rockfish Bridge they routed us again with the loss of two, one of the enemy shot dead & this I think was in March 1781 – And in May 1781 I received my discharge from General Kenan.

This I wrote with my own hand and after being duly Sworn.

Subscribed my name

S/ Joseph Williams

Thus I was in the actual Service of my Country  
from March 79 until May 81.

Sworn to & subscribed before us this 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1834.

S/ Charles J. Shelton, JIC

S/ Thomas S. Swain, JIC

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Whereas I, Joseph Williams, of the State of Georgia, who was in Ensign and Lieutenant in the War of the Revolution, was placed on the Pension Roll on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1834 to receive \$318.33 per annum during my natural life, commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1831; and, whereas the Commissioner of Pensions has recently directed the pavement of said Pension to be withheld from me by the Agent at Savannah in consequence of a deficiency between my testimony given in favor of John Goff and the facts set forth in my own Declaration filed for the purpose of obtaining my Pension Certificate:

Therefore, I, the said Joseph Williams, do upon my oath make the following  
Declaration

in order to be re-instated upon the Pension Roll: That I did serve two twelve months tours, one after the other, first as Ensign, and was commissioned by General Kenan, and afterwards promoted a Lieutenant and received my Commission from Major James Gillespie, who afterwards died in Congress, a member of the House of Representatives from North Carolina: that after we had proceeded across Cape Fear [River], and made a stand for some time, Clifton Bowen, being Consumptive, gave up his Commission to Major Gillespie, and returned home, and some few days after, when we were about to leave that section, Major Gillespie took from his pocket Bowen's Commission, he erased Bowen's name and inserted mine – he then read it aloud to the Company and presented it to me, which Commission I retained during my service in the War, and have since lost or it has been destroyed. That when I first entered the Service, I received a commission as Ensign, and in a short time perhaps two months, I was promoted a Lieutenant by Major Gillespie, which commission I held until the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. I made these statements as near, as I possibly can, (being now in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of my age.) I entered the Army in the Spring of 1779 under Captain Aaron Williams, and Lieutenant Clifton Bowen, as in Ensign, and that during the whole time we were in the field about twenty-two months, and in Garrison, at different places, about three months; that during my service, we were at six different stands namely, Duplin Court House, Major John Treadwell's on the Coharie River, Mr. Connor's on Pedee River, Long Bridge, Rockfish Bridge and Major Stephen Anderson's on Black River, as nearly as I can recollect, which were about 130 miles from home; that the company Officers were Captain James Love, Captain D. Faragood,<sup>4</sup> Captain Aaron Williams, Captain James Ward, Captain Bryan Glisson, Lieutenant Stephen Miller, Lieutenant Robert Merritt and the field officers were General John Ashe, General James Kenan, General Linnington [Lillington], Colonel Thomas Bloodworth [sic, Thomas Bludworth], Colonel Richard Clifton, Col. Charles Ward, Major James Gillespie, Major John Treadwell, Major Stephen Anderson, that there were embodied about Three thousand men and then were quartered generally in open field without entrenchment, except at Rockfish where we had an entrenchment, and subsisted on Pork and Bread, and some days nothing but Cow Peas boiled in bay pond water without salt which caused about twenty men to desert of us in one night, to the best of my recollection. The company of which I was Lieutenant was sent on by order of General Kenan to New Bern after the Magazine to bring it on to headquarters at Long Bridge, ten miles above Wilmington.

And I do further declare upon oath, that I never intended to give my testimony in favor of John Goff, for more than six months service, and if more than six months service is stated in said testimony, I believe it was an error committed by the person who drew the papers, James N. McCall, as I think he was intoxicated at the time.

Sworn to in open Court this first day of July 1845.

S/ Joseph Williams

S/ D. B. Graham, JIC

S/ Thomas Fletcher, JIC

S/ S. S. Freeman, JIC

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#### Declaration of Joseph Williams

I joined the company of Captain Aaron Williams State Troops early in the year 1779. This company was called out by General Kenan, under whom I received my commission as Ensign at the

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<sup>4</sup> This may be a reference to Jorge Farragut (Anglicized George Farragut) (b. 9/29/1755 on Minorca; d. 1817), father of Admiral David G. Farragut (1801-1870). George Farragut is known to have been in North and South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. He served in the SC navy and was captured when Charleston fell on May 12, 1780. Exchanged, paroled or escaped, he is thought by some to have been at the Battle of Cowpens and later at Wilmington during the Revolution. J. D. Lewis notes that Farragut has commissioned a Captain of Infantry in the NC State Regiment under Maj. Bennett Crafton and Maj. Joel Lewis. 5/1/1782, a Major over the units of Light Horse within the State Regiment. (5/5/1783, the NC General Assembly back-dated this promotion.). Thanks to Hershel Parker for making this connection and calling it to my attention.

same time, that Aaron Williams received that of Captain, and Clifton Bowen, that of lieutenant, at Duplin Court House, which was the place of mustering or rendezvous.

That he marched from there, crossing Cape Fear River, and continuing in the direction of Georgetown, made a stand at Drowning Creek, where our lieutenant Clifton Bowen from ill health resigned his commission and I was appointed in his place. This was perhaps a month or six weeks after leaving Duplin Court House. My commission as lieutenant, I received from Major James Gillespie, and was the same commission that Bowen had had, but his name was erased from it and mine inserted in its stead. From this place we marched back to Duplin Court House and delivered a few prisoners whom we had taken, and who were called Tories or Truce Men, to General Kenan. The next route was to Long Bridge ten miles above Wilmington and there remained about two months. The number of men collected at this place was perhaps 3000, who were principally [words obliterated, probably "militia"] and a few regulars under the command of Major Dougherty there was also a company called the French Company under the command of a Captain Defarrygood, there was also a few called Dutch, all commanded by Generals Ashe, Kenan and Lillington, and Majors Treadwell and Gillespie, Colonel Bludworth was also there and other officers whom I cannot remember. From this place our company with about 15 regulars was ordered to New Bern to remove the magazine to Long Bridge, which was performed. While here we had a skirmish with the English, in which we lost nine or 10 men, and retreated thence to Rock Fish Creek about 30 miles distant. There was no cessation of active service during our first tour of 12 months, except whenever we were in Garrison, which was at Long Bridge in Rock Fish Creek as above stated and once at Major Treadwell's for a fortnight and once at Major Stephen Anderson's for a fortnight. Our officers were as above stated except that in my place, John Goff was appointed Ensign and I believe was accepted for six months, but at what period of our service he entered I do not remember. The same men and officers, or pretty nearly the same arrived again at Duplin Court House after the expiration of our years term of service, and we were induced by the representations of General Kenan to agree to serve another tour of 12 months. The officers who commanded our company in the second term were the same as in the first except that our Ensign was named William Sloane. The second term of service was rather more continued than the first, as I do not remember of being in Garrison but once, and that was for three or four weeks in the neighborhood of Mr. Connor's plantation in South Carolina, upwards of 100 miles from our place of residence. During our second term I received a furlough of 15 days: During the time of being garrisoned at Treadwell's was about 25 miles from home, and about the same distance when at Anderson's while at Long Bridge about 22 miles, and at Rock Fish Creek 10 miles from home. Major Gillespie was the greater part of his time with our company, but there was a few more companies of State Troops with whom he sometimes was. I remember a company of them under Captain James Love, one under Thomas Bludworth who had a the Captain William Wright under him. When we first left Duplin Court House, our company numbered upwards of 70 men, and when we returned, numbered upwards of 100. The reason was we frequently admitted worthy man who could not live in safety at their own homes, and who had not joined the British, for six months and sometimes even for three months. This was by the order of General Kenan. In regard to subsistence, when we came to a plantation at which [it was] judged provisions could be procured, the commissary with a few men would go and take what was called sufficient, for such time as they thought necessary, according to the supplies that could be obtained whither they were marching; that is, if the country in which we were was wealthy and that in which we were going was poor, they would fill the cart, or wagon, and if otherwise they would act with all possible forbearance, for we were frequently a day and sometimes two days with no food. To the persons from whom the provisions were got a certificate was given, stating the articles, the quantity &c and the holder of this, showed it be a set of men who were called auditors, who arbitrated the value, and I believe the auditors, had power to draw money such as was circulating to pay the demand.

The Commissary if I remember rightly was elected by the officers of the Company.  
State of Georgia

Telfair County

Personally appeared before us Judges of the Inferior Court of Telfair County Joseph Williams of the State and County aforesaid, who being sworn deposes and saith that the above declaration is to the best of his recollection just and true.

Given under our hands this second day of December in the year of our Lord 1845.

S/ Wm R. Manning, JIC

S/ Joseph Williams

S/ Thomas Fletcher, JIC

S/ S. S. Freeman, JIC

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To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

The Petition of Joseph Williams, of Telfair County, Georgia, humbly sheweth:

That your Petitioner served the United States in the War of the Revolution, for the space of two years in the States of North and South Carolina, first as an Ensign, then as Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Aaron Williams, the particulars of which service are set forth in his Declaration hereunto annexed; that on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1834, your Petitioner was admitted to the Pension Roll by the Secretary of War, at the rate of \$318.33 per annum to commence on the fourth day of March 1831, and to continue during his natural life; that said Pension was regularly paid up to the fourth of March 1845; that on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 1845, the Commissioner of Pensions caused the Pension of your Petitioner to be discontinued, and required him to produce testimony which cannot be obtained at this late day; that your Petitioner has, through his Attorney, in vain appealed to the Secretary of War, and urged his re—admission to the Pension Roll on the ground that had additional proof been required 11 years previously, when his claim was considered, your Petitioner might have obtained from his comrades then living, much more than was at that time required; and that your Petitioner has in vain urged with the Secretary the injustice of the principle of giving to new rules a retrospective bearing, or of requiring new testimony in an old case, where no fraud is alleged or proven. Your Petitioner would further state that in the correspondence which his Attorney has had with the Department, he cannot learn that the Secretary has examined his papers, as he was solicited to do, but presumes his decision was given upon the Report of the Commissioner of Pensions, thus allowing ex-parte testimony to govern, which is contrary to the principles of our Republican Government.

Your Petitioner, therefore, comes to your Honorable Bodies for that justice which is denied him by the Executive, and prays that your Honorable Bodies will call upon the Secretary of War for the papers and correspondence in this case, trusting that your Honorable Bodies will, after an investigation of his case, grant him that relief to which he is entitled by the Act of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832, and the Certificate of the Ward Department; and direct that he be restored to the Pension Roll from the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1845 when his Pension was discontinued.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

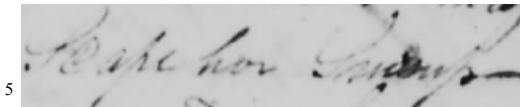
S/ Joseph Williams

by his attorney Edmund F Brown

[p 42 (pages scrambled)]

State of Georgia Telfair County: It be it remembered that on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 1846 before me D B Grayham [sic] one of the Justices of the Inferior Court in and for said County personally appeared Joseph Williams of the County aforesaid who is well known to me as a credible witness Aged 86 years on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 1845 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he made his former Declaration previous to March 1834 and produced prove by Stephen Bowen of Service, that on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1834 a Certificate of Pension did issue to this deponent granting

him pay as Ensign & Lieutenant (in the Revolutionary War) during his natural life at the rate of \$318.33 – that he continued to draw said Pension till 1844 that he received a letter from Commissioner of Pensions in March 1845 Stating his Pension would be discontinued until further proof of Service, Grade &c could be furnished, that he has sent more proof since then of such facts as he could procure from North Carolina & Statement &c to Mr. E. F. Brown Agent at Washington (DC) but has not yet been able to recover his pension. That he knows of no person living whereby he can procure any further proof that he has and all the means he could to satisfy the Department at Washington that his Circumstances affords. That he is infirm & poor – that he knows of no person in his vicinity that is used to drawing Declarations or making proof in Such Cases. That from memory and without any records from his former Declaration or any papers whatever to strengthen his mind he will once more till his Story as plain as he can of the events of the Revolution and Circumstances attending his own Services. That he was the Son of Joseph Williams Senior – that he was born in Duplin County North Carolina December 20<sup>th</sup> 1759, that he was the Second Son that lived to be grown in his Father's family, their names were Aaron, Joseph, David, & Byrd Williams, that he continued to live in Duplin County and was going to School (he thinks in March) 1779 when his brother Captain Aaron Williams came to the Schoolhouse to get deponent to join his horse company, that he was making up for 12 months service. After being promised and Ensign's Commission he agreed to join that they rendezvoused at Duplin Courthouse – that we remained at Duplin Courthouse for a short time till we recruited 70 men or upwards. That he received his Ensign's Commission from the hand of General James Kinnon [James Kenan] by whom it was Signed, that said Company marched from Duplin Courthouse through Sampson County up to Major John Tredwell's on Coharie River, that we remained there for some time as we could get a plenty of forage for our horses – from there we marched towards South Carolina crossed Cape fear River and turned down the River to Scapehor [?] Swamp<sup>5</sup> so-called. Major James Gillespie marched with the Company. That at the Swamp Clifton Bowen Lieutenant in said company was an old man & was consumptive he could not stand the service & he resigned & rendered up his Commission to Major Gillespie and returned home – that on Scopehor Swamp we took many Tories some we enlisted as ordered others who would not enlist we took to General Kinnon of Duplin Court house. That some days after bowling resigned Major Gillespie road up to him while the company was on parade and asked for his Commission that he pulled out of his pocket – handed it to the Major who then told deponent that he must be promoted to Lieutenant and he took the Commission made out to said Bowen, Erased Bowen's name and inserted my own (this Deponent) in its place. That Said Major Gillespie then read the Commission to the Company to inform them of his appointment as Lieutenant. That this Appointment was about six weeks from the time said Company was first made up (according to the best of his opinion and belief at this time) that we remained without an Ensign for some time till the company marched back to Duplin Courthouse – when John Goff was appointed Ensign of said Company – That said Company continued constantly in service and was constantly Scouting and away from their homes that they marched down Black River to a large Swamp (called Coly Swamp) [Colly Swamp in Bladen County, NC? or Colly Marsh in Pender County, NC?] that was said to be a hideout for Tories that they were attacked one evening by them from the Swamp in this term of service. Colonel Thomas Bloodworth [Bludworth] sent an express to them that he & a Captain Scarborough (Tory) had agreed to meet in an old house owned by the widow Devann in Bladensburg Co. [Bladen County] N. C. to hold a talk each to take 10 men without arms – That they marched there Company to the field the night before they were to meet and lay hid till the parties had met when they charged upon the house and took Scarborough & his 10 men prisoners, that they first took the prisoners to Captain Robert Merits [Robert Merritt's] in Sampson County afterwards to General Kenan's at Duplin Court



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[Schoolhouse Swamp? in Bladen County, NC?]



house. That they continued scouting till the year of their Engagement was out. That he carried his Commission in his pocket till the expiration of two years Service, it had been wet many times and was completely worn out, that he remembers to have carried it home & put it into his desk but it was worn to rags, that he does not know if he ever saw it after nor does not know what ever became of it. That the usual way of foraging there Company was by purchasing or pressing and the Officer in command would usually give a receipt for the article received. That on our first return home to Duplin Courthouse after the first 12 months Tour – General Kenan was anxious that they should continue on for another year his brother Captain Owen Kenan had been killed by the Tories in a large Swamp called Gothan Swamp [probably Goshen Swamp] near where they lived (and three men carried off at the same time) General Kenan told them that they were the only Company then out to keep the Tories back & if they would not continue in Service they would be killed at their homes by the Tories. That some of the men quit & went home & others took their place & they commenced for another term of service of 12 months & actually served out the same faithfully in their Countries Service. That this deponent actually did serve as aforesaid for 25 months and was positively first Lieutenant 23 months of the time and the balance as Ensign, that he has always considered he was a Lieutenant in active service 23 months & Ensign 1 ½ . That the last 12 months Tour they scouted through the Country in North Carolina & down into South Carolina. Towards the last part of their service they joined General Rutherford's Command near the bridge on the Cape fear River 10 miles above Wilmington (North Carolina) Generals Rutherford, Caswell, Ash & Kenan & Major Daugherty of Regular Army (as was stated) had a command of about 3000 men at the Bridge – this deponent was stationed with a detachment about 2 ½ miles above the entrenchment at Rock Fish Creek. This position was Commanded by General Kenan & Major James Gillespie after driven from the Bridge below Deponent was at the Bridge before mentioned at the time the British came up with their Cannon and drove them off that General Kenan & Major Gillespie then took the position referred to. That Deponent cannot at this late day state all the places where they were stationed nor the marches they took by reason of old age & consequently [sic] loss of memory he cannot define dates names &c as accurately as formerly but does know that his statements have all been made honest in all evidence heretofore given. As to his character for truth, honesty & veracity he is willing to furnish the opinion of any Gentlemen that ever knew him (that is living) that may be required if any such evidence further is wanted. That he had a discharge from under the hand of General Kenan & (General Kenan) requested Deponent to write discharges & give the men that applied for one, That this deponent never received any pay for his Services nor does not know of any of the Militia did at that time, that all of their Company was mounted men – That he would respectfully ask that his Pension may be continued. If the Commissioner at Washington DC cannot consider the claim and honest & just one, he wishes all the objections pointed out that he may lay the case before his Country. That his discharge received from General Kenan has been lost or destroyed, that he has no recollection of what ever became of it.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned before me

S/ D. B. Graham, JIC

S/ Joseph Williams

[Veteran died December 28, 1850 in Telfair County, Ga., survived by William H., David J., Joseph B., Mary Rawlins, Rebecca Parker, Phoebe Boney [sic, Bowen?], Nancy White and Elizabeth Williams.]

[p 7: On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1858, in Telfair County Georgia, David J Williams, Mary Rawlings [Rawlins] formerly Mary Williams, Rebecca Parker formerly Rebecca Williams, Elizabeth Williams and Joseph B Williams executed a power of attorney in which they identified themselves as the sons and daughters of Joseph Williams, a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$318.33 per annum which was paid at the Georgia agency up to September four, 1844 when further payments were suspended.<sup>6</sup> Their father died

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<sup>6</sup> A note in the file indicates that the pension was suspended "upon a re-examination of his claim, it was decided that his

December 27, 1850. They empower their attorney to seek the pension due their father from the time his pension was suspended until his death.

J. Williams  
Wm. Rawlins  
Rebecca Parker  
Elizabeth Williams  
Joseph Williams ]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$318.33 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for service as an Ensign & Lieutenant in the North Carolina service; two months as Ensign and 22 months as Lieutenant in said service.]

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pension had been allowed without sufficient proof of service as required by the pension laws; consequently on March 14, 1845, his name was dropped from the pension rolls.]