

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension app of Nathan Williford S32066

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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. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Georgia, DeKalb County

On this day personally appeared in open court before the Superior Court of the said county of DeKalb now sitting Nathan Williford a resident of said county and State of Georgia aged Seventy five 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. Sometime in the month of January or February in the year 1779, this declarant entered the service as a volunteer under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Wofford in the company of Captain William Smith as an ensign. He resided in what was then called the District of Ninety Six and State of South Carolina and marched to the city of Augusta in the state of Georgia, and from thence went down below Augusta and joined the Army of General Lincoln and from thence to the battle of Stono ferry where the Americans were defeated by the British about the 15th or 20th of June 1779. He was then in several scouting parties but no battles of importance until the battle at Musgrove's middle on the Enoree River under General Elijah Clarke. He was also in the battle at Blackstock's on Tiger River in the Regiment of Col. Benjamin Roebuck commanded by Genl. Sumter. He was also was at the battle of King's Mountain under the command of Col. Williams who lost his life at this place. He was also at the battle of the Cowpens under the command of Genl. Pickens—Genl. Morgan commander. At the Battle of Stono his colors were shot all to pieces notwithstanding which he still held them up and in consequence of his bravery on that occasion he was presented with a sword by Colonel Wofford by order of General Lincoln and also with a lieutenant's commission which he bore until the end of his services. He further states that he was not in the Battle at Eutaw Springs in consequence of his having been sent off by General Pickens after deserters. The last battle which he was in was the Battle of Cowpens as above stated which was fought on the 17th January, 1781. He further states that he served on horseback the whole of the time and found his own horse and was engaged a great deal as a spy and frequently sent on expresses. He also states that he had a severe conflict

with three Tories in the month of February 1781 who had taken Captain John Lawson prisoner at which time Lawson and a man by the name of Holcom [sic, William J. Holcombe?] who was in company with him were killed. He further states when he first went into the service as herein stated, he went as a volunteer for a tour of six months and continued in the service part of the time against the British and the balance in scouting parties against the Tories until the latter part of the year 1781 having served in all about three years and that he has no documentary evidence of his service.

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 of the Agency of any State.

S/ Nathan Williford

Sworn to & Subscribed this 10th day of October, 1832.

S/ Wm. Colquitt, JLC

[Elijah Bird, a clergyman, and James Philips gave the standard supporting affidavit.]
[File documents indicate: Veteran was born September 15, 1757 and died January 3, 1842.]

Georgia, Cherokee County

Personally came & appeared before me Henry Holcomb of said County who after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he is well acquainted with Nathan Williford Esq. of the County of DeKalb in said State and that he knew said Williford in the State of South Carolina in the time of the Revolutionary war and that he frequently saw said Williford in the service as a soldier and afterwards as a Lieutenant of a company of militia in said service, I first became acquainted with him shortly after Ferguson's defeat at the battle of Kings Mountain-- the said Williford was sent out in company with one Joseph Holcomb as a spy -- by Captain John Lawson & Lawson himself was taken prisoner by them Tories -- and Williford & Holcomb came across them & attempted to rescue Lawson & he Lawson & Holcomb and one of the Tories by the name of Dorset [sic, Dorsett?] was killed in the struggle and the other two Tories made their escape and Williford succeeded in taking two of the horses belonging to said Tories & brought them all. I knew the said Williford from that time till the end of the Revolutionary war and he was always reputed or known to be a brave Whig -- and my impression is that after Captain Lawson was killed as above stated the said Williford was brevetted to command the said Company & I think he continued to serve -- more or less -- until the termination of the war. I lived at that time in what is now Union District South Carolina & was about 15 years of age, & frequently saw said Williford in the section of the Country in which I lived in the service of the Whig party were in the Revolution.

S/ Henry Holcombe

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 25th day of September 1832.

S/ Wm B. Malone, JP

Georgia, DeKalb County

Personally came before me Daniel Gober [?] a Justice of the Peace for said County Thomas Betterton¹ who being duly sworn saith and deposed that Nathan Williford did serve in the revolutionary war in the same company with this deponent six

1 No one by this name filed for a federal pension for services in the Revolutionary War.

months or more and this deponent further states that the said Williford was a good and faithful patriot of that day and did actually fight in defense of this country.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this night day October 1832.

S/ Daniel Gober [?], JP

S/ Thomas Betterton, X his mark

Georgia, DeKalb County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for said County Nathan Williford who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades. For six months in the year 1779 I served as a volunteer in the Army of the United States [? word obscured] months of which service I performed [text obscured] two months as an Ensign. For six months in the latter part of the year 1779 and fore part of 1780 I served as a volunteer & lieutenant in the Army of the United States. For six months in the year 1780 I served another tour as a Lieutenant and volunteer in the Army of the United States. For six months in the year 1781 I served as a volunteer & Lieutenant in the Army of the United States, but not being able at this time to prove that I held a commission for either of the offices above mentioned, I claim a pension for my services as a private only, and this much I do claim, during the above periods of service I was in the Army of the United States as a volunteer in actual service, and was not during any part of said time engaged in any civil pursuit.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 17th day of March 1834.

S/ H. B. Latimer, JP

S/ Nathan Williford

State of Georgia, DeKalb County

On the Eighth day of July in the year 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Inferior Court of the said County of DeKalb, now sitting, Nathan Williford a resident of said State & County aged 75 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in addition to the one which he made at the Term of the Inferior Court held in & for said County in October last, in order to obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed on the 7th June 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States as and Ensign in January or February in the year 1779 and served in that capacity until the battle at Stono ferry which he believes was on the 15th or 20th of June in the same year he cannot say positively how long he served in that capacity but he is certain that he served at least four months as an Ensign. He further states that he served from that time until the battle of the Cowpens as a Lieutenant he cannot from the lapse of time & the loss of memory state the precise length of time but he is certain he was at the least 18 months, after that time he was in no general engagement but was engaged for a considerable length of time in scouting parties against & in pursuit of the Tories. He further states that he is certain he served two years at the least in the capacity of an Ensign four months, and as a Lieutenant 18 months. The Declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his Services, and cannot at this time obtain the testimony of living witnesses, as the witnesses whose affidavits he procured before do not reside in this County, nor is there any person residing in said County who knew him in the Army except John Woodall whose affidavit he will endeavor to procure. He states that he was born in South Hampton County in the State of Virginia on the 15th day of

September in the year 1757 – has no record of his age except a memorandum in his Bible which was transcribed from his father's Bible. The declarant further states that he is known to Daniel Gober Esq. Reuben Martin, William Conn, John Isham & Jacob R. Brooks & Joseph Powers in his immediate neighborhood, and Major Jesse F. Cleveland, James Lemon, General William Ezzard, Col. Thomas Akins, Col. George D. Anderson, Tully Choice, Jephthah V. George and Thomas Stevens, all of the Town of Decatur in said County all of whom can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Lodowick Tuggle, JIC

S/ Nathan Williford

S/ Thomas Ray, JIC

S/ Edward Jones, JIC

[Jephthah V. George, a clergyman, and Robert Malone gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Georgia, DeKalb County

Personally appeared before me John Woddall² [sic] who after being duly sworn Deposeth & saith that he was acquainted with Nathan Williford in the revolutionary war in the year 1781 & knows of his having served in the revolution & had the name of a true Whig.

S/ John Wooddall [sic]

Sworn to & subscribed this 13th day of July 1833.

S// Daniel Gober, JP

2 No one with a name remotely similar to this filed a claim for services rendered in the Revolution based on services rendered in South Carolina.