

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Joseph Terry Williams S32604

fn28VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 9/24/11

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

State of Illinois, Jackson County

On the 3rd day of September, 1832, personally appeared in open court before the County Commissioners Court of Jackson County now sitting, Joseph T Williams, a resident of the said county in the state of Illinois, aged Seventy Six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declarations in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That in the year 1776 as near as he the deponent can recollect, he was a resident of Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia and on the 2nd day of April of said year he turned out as a volunteer to go against the Cherokee Indians. The Captain of the company to which he belonged was of the name of John ~~Dollison~~ Donelson [Donaldson?] under the command of Iven Shelby [sic, Evan Shelby] on a tour of three months. The force marched to the Long Islands in the River Holston. To this place a great many of the Cherokees came and there they made a treaty with the Americans, then the force was discharged and sent home. In this expedition against the Indians his assignment was an orderly sergeant.

In the month of February 1779 this deponent was called out for a five months tour as a drafted militia man in a company commanded by Captain William ~~Weiber~~ Witcher in a regiment commanded by David Mason and was immediately marched down south and joined the Continental troops under General Linkhon [sic, Benjamin Lincoln] at a place called Stono, a place South West of Charleston not long before the battle at Stono. He and the militia with him were attached to and served with the regular troops during the whole campaign. He was discharged at Camden S.C. by a written discharge by his captain which said discharge he still has, of which the following is a true copy:

"Camden South Carolina

"This is to Certify that Joseph Terry Williams a

"Sergeant in my Company of Militia from Pitt-

"sylvania has served his Tower of Duty and is

"discharged. Given under my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup>

"day of July 1779. Wm Witcher, Capt."

In the winter of 1780 and '81 whilst Gen. Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was retreating through the country before the approaching British under the command of Lord Cornwallis, Greene called on the militia for a tour of duty. This deponent turned out as a volunteer in a company commanded by Capt Steven Coleman under the command of Col Peter Perkins and joined the army of regulars under Gen Greene at Dan River in the State

of Virginia. Greene continued close to the enemy during the whole tour but saw no battle but some slight skirmishes such as the one Whitsill's Mill [sic, Wetzel's or Weitzel's Mill] and was discharged about three days before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse [sic, Guilford County Court House]. He acted as quartermaster Sergeant during this tour. He served out his tour of Duty and received a written discharge, a copy of which is as follows and the original still remains in his hands—"Jos Terry Williams is hereby Discharged from my Company of Militia—Given at Camp, Guilford County, North Carolina 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 1781---Stephen Coleman, Capt."

During the last mentioned tour this deponent served as quarter master sergeant.

During the year 1781 or 1782 this deponent was called out on a tour of duty and put to driving public wagons and teams transporting public stores to and from Halifax old town, was regular and constant in the said employment, subject to the order of the Deputy quartermaster in the regular service, served the tour out of three months as he believes and was regularly discharged by Wm McGraw, the said Deputy quartermaster but whether he received from said officer a written discharge or not the deponent cannot say. If he did it has been lost. It might have been in this as in his first tour that he never thought it worth his while to apply for a written discharge as the officer who would give it lives in his immediate neighborhood.

This is all the service this deponent did and he has no documentary testimony then to offer in proof of such service. The original of the discharges he has herein copied are still in his hands subject to the inspection of anyone and the deponent says he has no one now within his power by whom he could prove his actual service as there are so few of the old Revolutionary soldiers yet living and they so scattered over this widely extended country.

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 any agency of any state.

Interrogatories propounded by the court:

Question 1: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in the county that was afterward Pittsylvania but at the time it was Halifax Co, in the year 1756.

Question 2: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have it was on a leaf of my father's Bible and the book was about to fall pieces. I took out the said leaf and now have it in my possession. It is in my father's handwriting and I have no doubt it is correct.

Question 3: Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer: In the county of Pittsylvania Virginia when first called out. From thence he moved to Tennessee, Sumner Co. Thence to Wilson Tennessee; thence to Jackson Co Illinois where I now live.

Question 4: How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute and is so for whom?

Answer: He volunteered three tours and was drafted for one to wit his tour of five months above mentioned.

Question 5: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of you service.

Answer: General Greene commanded in the retreat before Lord Cornwallis in his third tour. In his second tour his commander in chief was General Lincoln. He was at Salisbury soon after the defeat at Briar Creek and saw some of the men who were in the battle one by the name of Frost a Lieutenant [&] a citizen of Salisbury.

Question 6: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

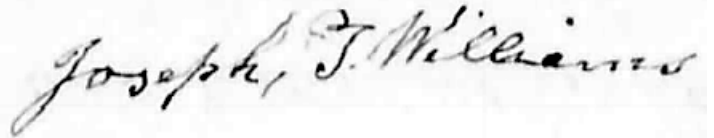
Answer: He refers to the former part of this his declaration in answer to this question.

Question 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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

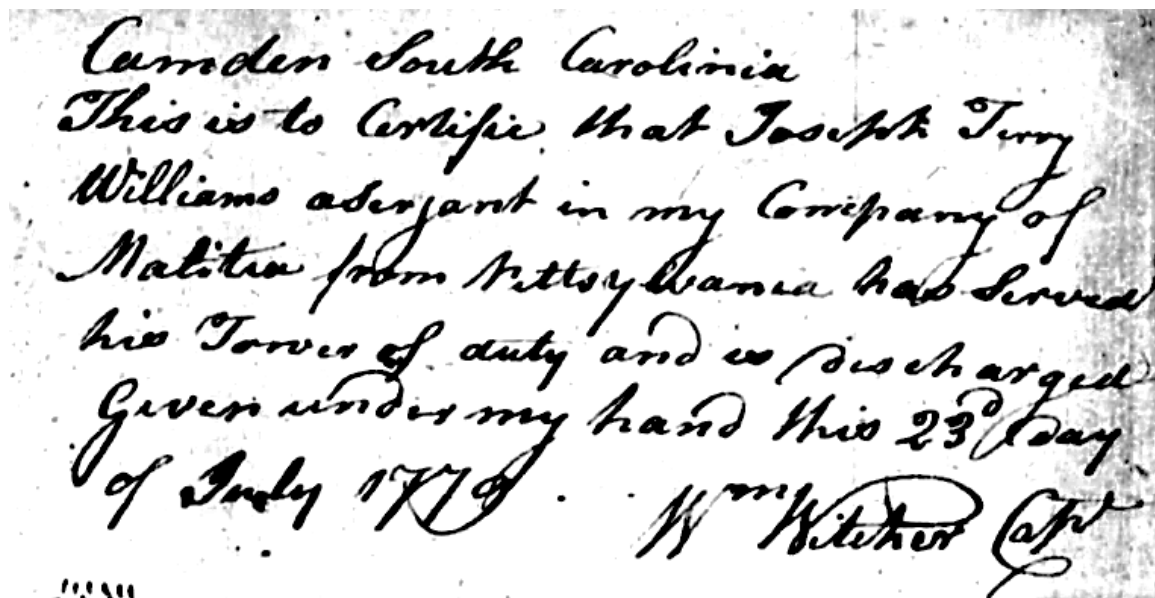
Answer: He refers to and gives up Green Lindsey a clergyman and Crowder [?] Hill a citizen of this county.

Subscribed and sworn to in open court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph T Williams



Attest: J. Manning, Clerk



Camden South Carolina  
This is to Certifie that Joseph Terry  
Williams a serjant in my Company of  
Militia from Pittsylvania has served  
his Term of duty and is discharged  
Given under my hand this 23<sup>d</sup> day  
of July 1779. Wm. Wether Capt

Jo's Harry Williams is  
hereby Discharged from my  
Company of Militia given at  
Camp Guilford County  
North Carolina 12<sup>th</sup> Month 1781  
Stephen Coleman Capt. 1781

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$50 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months service, 8 of which were served as a sergeant and 3 of which were served as a private in the Virginia militia.]