

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Williams: S3576

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee     }       On this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1834 personally appeared William  
Hawkins County        }       Williams a resident of the County of Hawkins and State of  
Tennessee aged seventy seven years before me Lewis Mitchell an acting justice of the peace for  
said County and after being duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following  
declairation —

I entered the service of the united States under the command of Captain [Flour] Swift some time in the spring of 1780 and went against the Indians that were making Inrodes upon the frontear of Virginia I was then liveing in the State of Virginia in Montgomery County. I returned home the last of July being gone four months. We ware command by Colo. [William] Campbell during our Campaign and ware marching from place to place guarding the back settlements of Virginia from the Indians. I entered the service as a volenteer and was the Orderly Seargent of the Company in which I searved. I received no discharge upon my return. In a short time after my return I vallertered myself again under Captain Brison [sic: Bryson] and joined the regiment of Colo Campbell and started to join general gates [Horatio Gates] in South Carolina. We marched on in the States of North carolina by Salem and on to a town called Bethlehem possibly Bethlehem in present Alexander County NC] as well as I recollect where we received news of Gates being defeated [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] we then marched back to Salem and then lay stationed for some time during our stay there we ware briefly employed in roaming over the country in different parts taking a great many tories and puting them in jail hanging some and punishing them as we could catch them. I received a discharge from Colo Campbell which I have since lost and returned home being gone five months. In this tour[?] I was also an Orderly Seargent. I still resided in montgomery County State of Virginia. In the first of the year 1781 there was a vallerter company organised in Montgomery County State of Virginia and Called minute men I was among the number and served as an Orderly Seargent. This Company was Commanded by Captain Brison and was allways to be in readiness in case of the Tories ariveing in any part of the Country We agreed to stand in reddiness for one year for the purpose of keeping the tories in awe. we were in the first of the year ordered to join General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] at the battle of guilford Courthouse [15 Mar 1781] but the battle was over before we got there. during the year of 1781 my terms of service was so frequent and many times of short duration consisting of marching and hunting outlying tories and keepin them in subjection that owing to Old age and the Consequent loss of memory It is impossible for me to recollect them seperately but I am verry certain that they amounted to at least six months during the year 1781 that I held myself a minute man under Capt. Brison in which service I allways acted as an Orderly Seargent in the Company at the expiration of the year 1781 we were released and I never was out any more. He says he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no one who he can prove the same by. He here by relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity what ever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year before mention before me.

William hisXmark Williams

Questions propounded to William Williams applicant for a pension

1<sup>st</sup> Question

Ans'r. I was born in the state of Pennsylvania Chester County in the Year 1757

2<sup>nd</sup> Question

Ans'r. I have it [record of his age] in my Bible

3<sup>rd</sup> Question

Ans'r. I was liveing in the state of Virginia Montgomery

4<sup>th</sup> Question

Ans'r. I vallertered myself every time

5<sup>th</sup> Question [Name regular officers who were with the troops where he served.]

Ans'r. Colo. Williams, Colo. Bell, Colo. Campbell, Cap't. Brison, Capt Swift, Mj'r. Lewis

6<sup>th</sup> Question

Ans'r. I received one [written discharge] from Col Campbell but have lost it

7<sup>th</sup> Question [Names of persons in his neighborhood who can testify as to his veracity and his reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.]

Ans'r. Solomon Milikan, Henry R Crawley, William Reece, Martin Reece, John Green, Eli Hodge Esq'r. General John Cocke, Henry Boatman Esq'r

State of Tennessee        }  
Hawkins County            }        Personally appeared William Williams before me Lewis Mitchell an  
acting Justice for said County and made Oath that owing to old age and the consequent loss of  
memory he cannot swear positively to each term of service performed in the year 1781 but is  
certain he served not less than six months in the year 1781 under Capt. Brison 4 months under  
Capt. Swift and five months under Capt. Brison a second time for which service I claim a pension  
and further says that owing to being able unable to fo about he is not acquainted with any  
clergyman who can testify of his age and veracity sworn to this 4<sup>th</sup> March 1834  
William hisXmark Williams

Addition to the foregoing decliration of William Williams. On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834  
personally appeared William Williams before me Lewis Mitchell one of the Justices of the peace  
for Hawkins County and State of Tennessee. and after being duly sworn according to law doth  
on his oath make the following amendments to the foregoing decliration in Order to claim the  
benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832

After mature deliberation I think I entered the service of the united states under Capt. Swift the  
last of march 1780 I do not know that I can give more full detail of my service in the campaign I  
first was out than I give in the foregoing decliration. My next tour under Capt Brison I entered  
the service as a vallenter in a few days after my return and often marchin fifteen or twenty days  
as well as I recollect we received news of Gates be defeated. I think I started near the first of  
Aug't. I know I returned home a few days after Christmas. A short time after my return 1781 I  
vallenteered myself as a minute man under Capt Brison. My Colo was Williams we ware to be  
ready at any time to march when called on we ware to hold ourselves as minute men for twelve  
months Our business was to prevent mischief being done by the tories. Frequently the tories  
would pass throug the country and burn houses, murder and steal from the whigs and flee in to  
the blue ridge for refuge. About first of April 1781 we were ordered to Join General Green at a  
place called the high rock ford we march off but on our way we received news of Green being  
defeated at the battle of Gilford Courthouse. We returned home about the first of may as well as  
I now recollect being gone one month Some time shortly after my return there was a waggoner  
killed an his waggon robed In the neighbourhood by one Riddle a tory [probably Capt. William  
Riddle of Riddle Knob in Watauga County NC, later hanged] and his party and about the 20<sup>th</sup> May  
we ware ordered to go in search of him we march under the command of Capt Brison we  
marched In to the south of Montgomery County up to the head waters of a creek called Chesnut  
Creek [sic: Chestnut Creek in present Grayson County, headwaters near Low Gap in the Blue  
Ridge Mountains] we lay there some time after which we scouted a bout waylaying certain gaps  
in said ridge which we supposed Riddle and his men would pass we found where they had  
camped and but we never saw them we returned home about the 20<sup>th</sup> July being gone tow  
[two?] months. Owing to the cituation of the Country where I lived it being mountainous the  
tories ware verry troublesome. and Capt. Brison and his men were frequently searching after  
them in short tours that I cannot after the lapse of so many years recollect each trip sepperately.  
And in the summer of 1781 we ware in search of one Short and his party at an other time we  
ware out after one Birk we caught Birk and put him in jail at Montgomery Courthouse it was  
then called fort Chisel [sic: Fort Chiswell in present Wythe County] at an other time we went in  
pursuit of one Loggin a tory but did not find him. Then I served while I held my self as a minute  
man in 1781 at the expiration of the year 1781 our time being out as minute men I never was  
called on any more

During my service I resided in montgomery County State of Virginia from there I mooved to the

state of Tennessee where I now live

In my different tours of service, I served an Imbodied corps called in to service by competent arthority, and for the time during which my service was performed I was not Imployed in any civic persuit. I have no documentary evidence of my service nor do I know of any one who I can prove it by

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the preasent and declare my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state

Sworn to and subscribed the date before mentioned before me

William hisXmark Williams

State of Tennessee }

Hawkins County }

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834 personally appeared William Williams resident in the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee before me Lewis Mitchell an acting Justice of the peace for said County and after being sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth 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 four months I served as an Orderly Seargent under Capt. Swift. for five months I served as a Orderly seargent under Capt. Brison For six months in the year 1781 I served as an orderly sergent under Capt. Brison a second time for which service I claim a pension sworn to and subscribed the day and date before mentioned before me William hisXmark Williams hanged