

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of James Williams S3590

MD PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The State of Ohio, Adams County Sct

On this twenty fifth day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Adams and State of Ohio, now sitting, James Williams, a resident of Jefferson Township in said County of Adams and State of Ohio, aged Seventy three 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.

Shortly after the Capture of Burgoyne's Army [at Saratoga NY, 17 Oct 1777; see endnote] part of the prisoners, having been marched to Fort Frederick in the State of Maryland – I entered the service in Washington County Maryland, as a substitute for a man whose name I have forgotten a drafted militia man in Captain Jacob Lendrig Company, for a four months tour of guarding said prisoners at Fort Frederick. I was marched to Fort Frederick, and served the four months tour, guarding said prisoners, according to engagement. From Washington County Maryland I moved to Washington County Pa. During my residence in Washington County Pennsylvania I volunteered in several scouting parties against the Indians, but never came up to any of them. The number and length of time of these several scouting expeditions, against the Indians, I cannot state with any tolerable certainty Colonel [David] Williamson and Major McCullough were generally in those parties Major McCullough was at last killed by the Indians In October, 1780 [see endnote], a campaign of mounted men was prepared, to rendezvous on the Ohio River, and march thence against the Sandusky Towns, near Lake Erie. I volunteered in this proposed expedition against the Indian Towns, & marched to to the Ohio River near the mouth of Big Beaver [at present Beaver PA], where we lay nearly a week. It was then the conclusion of the officers (Colonel Williamson Major McCullough & my Captain Eleazer Williams being of the number) that we were not in sufficient numbers to perform the proposed service, and the projected expedition against the Sandusky Towns was abandoned. Without returning home from the rendezvous near the mouth of Big Beaver, Colonel Williamson and Major McCulloch beat up for volunteers, for a short tour through the Indian Country. I volunteered in this expedition; and the party to the number of about one hundred men, all mounted, crossed the Ohio, and marched a westerly course till we reached the Muskingum River. We then marched down the River to the middle Moravian Town, near which we took an Indian prisoner, who called himself Jim Jillaway. He informed that there were six Indians & a white man about eight miles up the River. We went in pursuit and took them prisoners. We then marched about twenty miles down the River, and making no further discoveries, we concluded to return home. We shaped our course for Wheeling Fort on the Ohio River. Our Eight prisoners, seven Indians and one white man, we took with us and delivered to the Commanding Officer at Pittsburgh Colonel Gibson [John Gibson, pension application S41578], as well as I can recollect. From the time of our setting off from Big Beaver aforesaid, till we reached Pittsburgh, was about Thirty days, as well as I now recollect. The Officers of the expedition besides Colonel Williamson and Major McCullough, were Captain Williamson and others, whom I don't recollect

In the Spring of 1781 there was a draft in Pennsylvania for Militia men to guard for a two months tour the frontiers on the Ohio River. On this occasion I again entered the service as a substitute for [blank] McCoy in Lieutenant Lindley's Company – a Lieutenants Commanded only being called I serve the two months faithfully in capacity of a spy; marching and spying out, from Cox's Fort [at Mingo Bottom N of Wellsburg] to the mouth of Cross Creek where we were met by the spies from Decker's Fort [at present Follansbee], four miles up the Ohio River.

Some time in May, 1781 [sic], another Campaign against the Sandusky Towns was proposed, to rendezvous about the first of June of that year. I volunteered in this expedition, with my horse, rifle and

provisions. I was in the Mingold [sic: Mingo] Town a few days before all the forces collected. When the whole force had collected at the place of rendezvous, it was agreed that we should elect our Commanding Officers. The choice fell on Colonel William Crawford first, and Colonel David Williamson second in command; my Captain, Timothy Downing, my Lieutenant, Thomas Ellis. We marched from Mingold Town the place of rendezvous, on the 11th of June, with 405 men, officers and soldiers. We took our course for the Indian Town on the Sandusky River, piloted by Nicholas Slover and Jonathan Zenes. We marched the vicinity of the Towns on the 22 or 23 of June [sic: 4 Jun 1782]; & halting for dinner, sent forward an light horse to make observation and discoveries. They soon returned in haste, informing that the Indians would soon give us employment. We immediately mounted, formed in three columns, and galloped off to meet the enemy. We met and drove them from the "vantage ground," and, as was said, took eleven scalps. At night it was thot prudent for the whole of our men to stand guard, which we did. The next day we had some distant firing; but the enemy re-inforcing very strong, it was thought best by the officers to make a silent retreat that night, that we might carry off our wounded men such as [two or three undeciphered words] & our baggage. We commenced the retreat, but the enemy firing on us for a considerable distance, our Army got very much scattered in the night. Next morning about 9 O'clock the enemy came in sight, and demanded a surrender, which being refused, they commenced the battle in flank and rear. We fought, firing and retreating till dark. We then camped, having about fifty wounded men, whom we saved and conveyed home. I never saw Colonel Crawford after the retreat from the first battle ground. This expedition occupied about thirty days from the time of leaving Mingold Town till our return homes. In 1786, I went from Ohio County, Virginia to St. Louis; and while gone was called out against some Indians who had killed two white men, Cowen and Springer, on Silver Creek.

I returned in September of the same year. In 1790, January 17 I went again to St Louis. While in that section Major Doughty, who belonged to the United States Army, arrived at Kaskaskia, in Illinois. He had been sent up the Tennessee River to treat with the Cherokees – had met them, and got all his men, consisting of fifteen privates and three officers, killed or wounded, except four; and not being able to return without a stronger party, I volunteered to go with him to Marietta. I was appointed one of the spies and went before the boat to Marietta. On the 20th of June, I reached my home, Ohio County, Virginia.

The American guard at Fort Frederick was commanded by Lieutenant Henry Shryhawk [sic: Henry Shyrock]. This Declarant was acquainted at Pittsburgh with Captain Brady, Captain Springer [possibly Uriah Springer], Captain Biggs [possibly Benjamin Biggs, pension application W1366]. He has seen Colonel Gibson. He cannot state the different numbers of Regiments. The service in the Western part of Pennsylvania &c was so irregular that particulars cannot easily be stated. This declarant served at least Eight months, besides scouting expeditions, and his services in the St Louis Country &c and for eight months service at least he claims a pension Except by Benjamin Peak, I know not that I can prove my service

The said James Williams 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.

And the said applicant, James Williams, being interrogated as prescribed and required by the War Department, made the following answers to the interrogatories put. viz.

1st Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Chester County, State of Pennsylvania, on the 22nd day of February, 1759 (seventeen hundred and fifty nine)

2nd Have you any record of your age, & if so where is it?

I have no record of my age.

3rd Where were you living when called into the service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War. and where do you now live?

At the time of first entering the service, as a substitute for one whose name I have forgotten in the Militia, to guard the prisoners at Fort Frederick I lived in Washington County, Maryland. About the year 1778 I removed to Washington County, Pennsylvania, where I resided about three years. From Washington, Pennsylvania, I removed to Ohio County, Virginia, and resided there until 1793, when I

moved to the State of Ohio, and have lived in the bounds of Adams County ever since.”

4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Twice I entered the service as a substitute, first for one who I have forgotten and next for — McCoy; the rest of my services were as a volunteer, as already stated in my general Declaration.

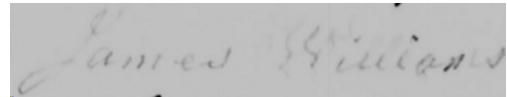
5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I was acquainted at Pittsburgh with Captains Brady, Springer, Biggs, Colonel Gibson. My services were generally irregular – Scouting and Indian fighting except the guarding of the Prisoners at Fort Frederick. For particulars, I submit a statement in my own hand writing

6th Did you ever receive a Discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I have no recollection that I ever received a written discharge

7th 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. Henry Caraway, Henry Waites, Andrew [last name undeciphered] At the time of entering the service I lived in Washington County Maryland – then I moved to Washington County Pa in 1778 – thence to Ohio County Va in 1891 – thence in 1793 to the bounds of the present County of Adams Ohio Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

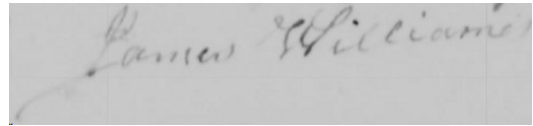


the State of ohio Adams County Ss

I James Williams was born in Chester County State of Pennsylvania on the 22nd day of february 1759 my father moved from thence to Merriland in the County Washinton and Resided there until after Burgoins army was taken in the Revolutionary war a part of said army was marched to to fort fredrick there to be gaurded by the malitia I then Substituted under Capt Louder for four months to guard said prisansors from thence I Removed to Washington County Pennsylvania when I was about Eighteen yers old while I lived in said County I volonerrd on several scouting parties after Indians but never came up with any of the enmy in october 1780 there was a Campain proposed of mounted volonteers to meet on the on the ohio River near the mouth of Big Beaver we lay there nearly a week and it was Concluded by the the officers that there was not a Suffisient number of men to go the Campain as it was Designed to go to the Sindusky towns near lake Eary Colol Williamson & Mager McCulloch Beet up for volonteers for a short tower through Indian Country I then volunteerd on this Expedition we then crossed the ohio River to the number of about 100 men all mounted we Marched a west course until we fell on the Mukingom River thence Down said River unto the middle Moravian town not far from there we took an Indian prisoner who called himself Gim Gilaway he Informed us he Informed us that there was six Indians and one white man about 8 miles up the River we went in porsute of them and took them prisoners we went then about 20 miles Down the River and made no Discoveries we then concluded to Return home and we Steered our Cours for wheling fort on the ohio River and took 7 Indians and one white man with us and Delivered them up to the Commanding officer at pittsburg I think Colonel Gipson

In the Spring of 1781 to the best of my knolege there was a draft in pensylvany for men to guard the frunteers on the ohio River I then subsituted for two months as a Spy Some time in may the same year 1781 there was a Campain proposd to go against the Sandusky towns the men was to Randivous some time about the first of June 1781 I volunteerd on this Expedition with my horse and provision we ware in the Mingold town some five days before all the orce ware collected when all was at the place appointed for Randvouse it was agreed to Elect our Ginrel Commanding offisor and it fell on Colonel William Croford and Colonel David Williamson second in command my Captains name was Timothy Downing the Lieutenant Thomas Ellis we marched from the place of Randivuse on the 11th day of June with 465 men officers and soulders and steerd our cours for the Indian towns on Sandusky river Nicoles Slover and

Jonathan Zenes was our pilets We got near the towns on the 22 or 23^d June we halted to eat Dinner and sent our light hors forward to make Discovery the had not Been long absent when they Returnd in hast informing us we would find enough to do shortly we mounted Immediately and fomed in thre colloms and went of in a gallop to meet the Enemy we met at the Edge of a wood. the Enemy had the advantege as we ware in the praree we forsed forward on them and drove them in a short time and took the woods it was said our men took 11 scalps in this charg the Batle was then ginrel untill Dark we ware then Every man to stand gard all night two and two together least one should fall assleep next day we had som fighting at a Distance that day the Enemy Reinforced verry Strong it was thought Best by the officers to make a silent retreat that night and take our Baggage and wonded men with us Such as could ride we started and was fired on by the Enemy for a considerable Distence our army got verry much scaterd in the night in morning about 9 oclock the Enemy came in sight and Demanded a Surrender it was not agreed to and the Enemy Commenced the Battle in flank and Rear We fought and Retreated untill Dark and Campd we had about 50 wonded men with us which we saved safe home we never saw Colonel Croford after the Retreat of the first Battle Ground from the time we started from home untill we Returned was about 30 Days I Resided in ohio County in Virginia from that time untill 1793 in the year of 1786 I went from virginia to Sent lue was on scouts while gone from home I Returned safe home in September following I lived still in the same County until the 1790 the 17th of January I went on Business to Saint Lue while there Mager Doughty arrived at Cuscusky in Elonoise he Belonged to the united States army had been sent up the tennessee River to treat with the Cherikees met them and had all his men killed and wounded but four out of 15 and 3 officers and was not able to Return to Meriata with out a stronger party I then volunteerd to go with him to meriata I was appointed on of the Spise to go Before Boat to meriata I got home the 20th June in ohio County and Resided there until 1793 when I moved to the State of ohio and have lived in the Bouns of Adams County Ever sinc

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "James Williams". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

NOTES:

Burgoyne's army was kept for about a year at Cambridge MA before being sent south.

The campaign said by Williams to have begun late in 1780 appears to have been part of the campaign that led to the Gnadenhutzen Massacre of peaceful Lenape Indians on 7-8 March 1782.

On 19 April 1855 Elizabeth Williams, 70, applied for bounty land stating that as Elizabeth Millar she married James Williams on 26 May 1805, and he died on 11 July 1842.