

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Winstead S3607

fn30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/9/11

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

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: August Sessions 1832

On this 30th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County Francis Winstead a resident citizen of said County and State aged as appears by his father's register 73 years on the 17th day of last November, 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 into the service of the United States as a minute man in November 1776 (at the age of 18) under the following named officers of the same County and State with himself viz. Northumberland County Virginia and served as herein stated. Viz. He volunteered under Colonel Thomas Jones, Major Peter Thornton, Captain John Crawley & Captain George Escrige [sic, George Eskridge?], he was himself the first Sergeant of the company of minute men to which he was attached and often acted as a superior officer bearing the men through the manual exercise, seeing their provisions apportioned and again as Sergeant, settling and releasing the [indecipherable word], They were stationed in the Bend of the Potomac River in Northumberland County at Captain John Crawley's in the place called Cherry Point to keep the enemy from landing. Their march lay entirely in said County three or four miles up and down the River while the British fleet lay in the River, in order to prevent their landing. He lived in the Bend and had frequent opportunities of going home for a short time, but would not sometimes get off for a month or two at a time. During the time the British fleet occupied the River Captain George Hale Opie [George Heale Opie ?] having enlisted a company of regulars lay with us in the Bend during which time I served in his company, this was he thinks, but is not certain, in the year 1778 or 1779. The company was not discharged until 1782 when Captain Escrige verbally discharged it by order of Colonel Thornton. He states that he was in no engagement but was kept prepared for one which was expected. He lived in Northumberland County about 11 years after the termination of the war when he removed to Edgecombe County North Carolina where he remained 12 years, he then removed to Hawkins County Tennessee where he has ever since resided. He states that as he had frequent opportunities of returning home he cannot certainly say that he was more than 18 months or 2 years in actual service but he can safely say he was not less than that time. He moreover considered himself as bound to do service from the time he volunteered in 1776 until the close of the war. He further states that he has no documentary evidence by which to prove his service and knows of no person who can testify to his service, other than the affidavits hereto annexed.

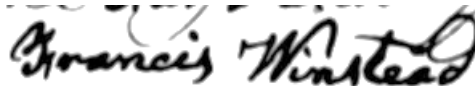
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state and states that Daniel Howry, a clergyman of the Baptist order is a resident Minister within his vicinity. He further states that the paper he

hereby affords to the Department is a certificate furnished him by citizens of Edgecombe County North Carolina and forwarded as evidence of his character the paper is marked G.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ W. B. Mitchell, D. Clk

S/ Francis Winstead



[Daniel Howry, a clergyman of the Baptist Church, gave the standard supporting affidavit. Samuel Wilson gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Supplemental declaration of Francis Winstead in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832 sworn to and subscribed before Richard Mitchell one of the Justices of the peace of Hawkins in said State.

This Applicant states that he was born in Northumberland County Virginia on the 19th day of November 1758 according to the report of his parents and his remembrance of the register in the family Bible of his father, but the Bible was sold at the sale of the property of his father which was before the revolutionary war and the Book was purchased by some person but this applicant cannot now remember who and he has not seen it since and therefore he has not any record of his Age.

This Applicant served as first Sergeant in the company to which he belonged and he cannot state the officers more certainly than he has done already in his declaration except that Captain George Hale Opie commanded a company of regulars who served part of the time where the company to which this applicant belonged were stationed.

He states that he served as first Sergeant fully a year during the war and he further states that he served 18 months in the Army of the revolutionary war and is confident he could qualify to a much longer time if his recollection was perfect.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of May 1833

S/ Richard Mitchell, JP

S/ Francis Winstead

An additional statement of Francis Winstead of Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee made on oath before me John Mitchell a Justice of the peace in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832

This Applicant states that he remembers being stationed at Captain Crawley during the time he was in service and the duty of the company consisted in guarding the River to prevent the enemy from landing as high up the River as Barren Point.

This applicant states that owing to his age and infirmity and consequent decay of memory it is not in his power to state the precise time when he was in service but he knows that he will was often in service and continued in service when required and his service as to time is not over rated in his declaration.

He further states that he served many times both night and day being sometimes at the place of rendezvous four weeks and at different times he believes he was in service for a month or more as the British fleet lay in the River a considerable time and after the main fleet left River the neighborhood was much annoyed by British vessels which continued to ascend and descend the River and at such times the company was continued in constant service. When the British vessels of war would disappear the company would be permitted to disperse and sometimes the men would not be at home more than a few hours until they would receive word to return me immediately and often this applicant had to return without staying at home one night. The

service was nearly incessant during the whole time the British fleet and vessels of war continued to occupy and annoy the River and the inhabitants on shore.

S/ Francis Winstead

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 11th day of September 1833 Attest
S/ J. Mitchell, JP

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the peace for said County the Reverend Francis Winstead the declarant above named, who being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, in addition to the foregoing statements, – that he served as a minute man from November 1776 to the close of the war 1782, though he was not in actual service all that time, but as before stated he states he was in actual service frequently a month at a time, at other times, more than a month, serving actively against the Enemies of his Country as a faithful Soldier, called out by competent authority. And he avers most solemnly that the time he was thus in actual service amounts to eighteen months and for such service he claims a pension. – He states furthermore that he considered himself in the service as a minute man more than five years and was during that time liable to be called out every minute and was always prepared and did perform his duty as a true & faithful soldier. Nor can he conscientiously say that he served less than eighteen months actively as before stated.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 20th day of January 1834
S/ J. Mitchell, JP S/ Francis Winstead

State of North Carolina Edgcomb County

To all persons to whom these presents shall come

We do certify Some time in the year of 1793 Francis Winstead mov.d from the notherd parts of Virginua with his family and Settled in the county of Edgcomb and their Lived as a peaceble orderly Sitizen also a preacher of the Gospel and he being well known in Defrent parts of the county and We further say that when he went off to the Western Contry that he went without any auuzation of any thing being laid to his charge more than what was Fair and Honest as to our knowledg or Expectation For which Reason we hereunto Subscribe our names this 14th of March 1800

['cleaned up' verson of the above document:

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County

To all persons to whom these presents shall come we do certify sometime in the year of 1793 Francis Winsted moved from the northern parts of Virginia with his family and settled in the County of Edgecombe and there lived as a peaceful orderly Citizen also a preacher of the Gospel and he being well known in Different parts of the country and we further say that when he went off to the Western Country that he went without any auuzation [?] of anything being laid to his charge more than what was Fair and honest as to our knowledge or expectation. For which reason we hereto subscribed our names this 14th of March 1800]

Thomas Wells, JP

Nathan Gilbert, JP

J. W. Battle

James Pitt

Amos Johnston, JP

Thomas Pitt

Nathan Mayor, JP

Elijah Moor [Elijah Moore]

Sam Ruffin, JP

Edward Cobb

John Horn, JP

Jordon Sharve

Isaac Battle, JP

W ?m White [William White?]

Mathew Whitehead

Abraham Taylor

Solomon Cooper

Jno Robbins [John Robbins]

Littbery Land

William Robbins Senior

John Williford Junior

Benjamin Williams

Z. W. Baker

Wm White

William Gardner

Jonthan [?] Webnore [?]

Benjamin Thornhill

John Williams

John Taylor

Britton Barnes

John Wells

John Williford Senior

Joseph Taylor

James Draughon

Thomas Williams

Drewry Williams

Joshua Williams

John Weaver

Edwin Pender

Lewis Todd

Wm Droughon

William Mars

Exum Drake

Rowling Robbins

Stephen Robbins

William Robbins

Creighton Eidson

William Dixon

Thomas Sharp

John Bedand [John Belland??]

State of North Carolina, Edgecomb County

Be it remembered that these presents shall come
to the assembly some time in the year of 1793
For as Winstead moved from the
northern part of Edgecomb with his family and
settled in the county of Edgecomb and there
lived as a respectable and industrious citizen also a
preacher of the gospel and he being well
known in different parts of the county and
we further say that when he went off to the
Western Country that he went without any
recommendation or vouching from any thing
being laid to his charge more than what
was said and honest as to our knowledge
or reputation. For which reason we
hereunto subscribe our names this 1st

Thomas Mills Jr
Isaac Battle
Amos Johnston Sr
Nathan Mayall
Gideon Ruffin Sr
John Hogg Sr
Isaac Battle Jr

March 11 1793
Nathan Gilchrist Sr
James Pitt
Thomas Pitt
Elijah West
Edwards Cobb
Jordan Sherrod Sr
John Williford Senior
Joshua Cobb

<p> William White Thomas White head Abraham Taylor Solomon Cooper Mr. Robbins Little Coy. Capt. William R. Williams John Williford Junor Benjamin Williams T. W. Baker a P W. White Jun William Gardner Benjamin Wilson Benjamin Thornhill John Williams John Taylor Breithart Barnes John Wells </p>	<p> James Draughton Thomas Williams Drewry Williams Isaac Williams John Head Edwin Pindus Lewis Cole Wm. Draughton Benjamin Weaver Senor William Ward Caum Drake Rowland Robinson Stephen Robbins William Robbins John Crichton Wilson William Dixon Thomas Sharp John Belland 52# </p>
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[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a Sergeant and 6 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]