

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Pelham S3678

f41VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/8/12

[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.]

I William Pelham, Native of Virginia, but at present residing at Zanesville in the State of Ohio, do declare on oath, and say, that in the time of the revolutionary war, I served at least three years, as a Surgeon's mate and Junior Surgeon in the Continental Hospital established in Virginia under the direction of Doctor William Rickman; – that I am unable at this time precisely to ascertain dates, having no documents at hand to refer to; – that about the month of March, I think, in the year 1780, I resigned the appointment of Junior Surgeon on Continental establishment, and afterwards entered as Surgeon in the Virginia State Hospital in which capacity I was present at the siege of York; – that the Governor and Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia, on satisfactory proof being exhibited to them of my having served three years in the Continental establishment did allow my claim of bounty land, and that patents were accordingly issued to me from the General Land office at Washington, as may be correctly ascertained by reference thereto; – and moreover I am in reduced circumstances, and therefore needing the assistance of my country, whose cause I have never failed to support with my utmost ability.

S/ Wm Pelham



(Note) the Patent for 1200 acres of land is thus endorsed

"1200 A. W./ D. No. 2778"

"Recorded in the General Land Office
in Vol. 6, page 154, of Patents of
Land granted to the Virginia line
on Continental Establishment.


Ns. B. Van Zandt"

"I Certify that William Pelham
was originally entitled to the
Bounty Land granted him by
The with in patent
Given at the General Land Office
of the United States this 4th day
of June 1812

S/ Edward Tiffin"

[f p. 6: On January 12, 1847 in Posey County Indiana, the clerk of court certified that letters of administration were issued to Victoria C. Pelham as administrator of the estate of William Pelham (surgeon) late of Posey County who died intestate.]

[f p. 9: power of attorney dated February 24, 1848 granted by Victoria C Pelham, administratrix and signed

Victoria C. Pelham 
Administratrix]

[f p. 40: On January 17, 1848 in Posey County Indiana, Louisa evidence of said County gave testimony that she was acquainted with Doctor William Pelham the father of William C Pelham late of Posey County deceased and that the said Doctor William Pelham died in the house of Otis Hinckley in said County the 3rd day of February 1827.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing April 21, 1818, for service as a surgeon for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: Most of the documents in this file relate to an unsuccessful claim made by the heirs of Doctor Pelham to obtain commutation pay in right of his service as a surgeon in the Continental service. J L Edwards denied that claim based upon the Doctor having resigned his office in the Continental line in 1780 – thereby not serving in the Continental line to the end of the war as required under the act of July 5, 1832 for the liquidation of certain claims of officers against the state of Virginia.]

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Addendum to William Pelham S3678

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 24 Dec 2020.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

It appears by the books in this Office that a certificate issued on the 10th June 1784 for Two hundred eighty seven pounds 4/9 in the name of William Pelham for his services as Surgeon in the Virginia Line on Continental establishment

S. Shepard

Aud[itor]s Office/ 9th Aug't 1808

On examining the files in the Office it does not appear that Dr. Pelham has drawn his bounty in land for his services last war

Wm Price Reg[iste]r L. Off.

Aug't 11 1808

City Richmond Sc.

I do hereby certify That I was well acquainted with Doctor William Pelham, prior & during the revolutionary War, & that I am very certain He served as a surgeon in the Medical department in the Virginia line on Continental establishment three years & upwards.

Given under my Hand in the Council Chamber this 11th August 1808/ John Heath