

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Godman [Goodman] S39600

f32MD/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/6/15

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State and District of Virginia, Frederick County Sct.


On this 14th day of May 1818, before me the subscriber, sole and presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Law for the said County in the State and district aforesaid personally came William Godman aged four [could be sixty-five]¹ years, resident in Berkeley County in the said State and district, who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said William Godman enlisted in the County of Baltimore in the State of Maryland in the company of artillery commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Smith of the Maryland Artillery on Continental establishment but afterwards attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Charles Harrison of Virginia in which Regiment he was afterwards appointed a Captain Lieutenant in the company commanded by Capt. Drewy Ragsdale [Drury Ragsdale]; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until the month of August 1779 when he was resigned at New Winsor [New Windsor] in the State of New York, that he was in the battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] and at the siege of York in Virginia [September-October 19, 1781] in which last affair he served as a Captain Lieutenant in a volunteer company of Artillery raised in Portsmouth Virginia and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services except the annexed certificate of the [indecipherable words].²

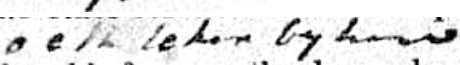
S/ Robt White [Robert White]

Sworn to and declared before me the day and year aforesaid

State of Virginia Berkeley County Sct.

On this 15 day of August 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for said County William Godman aged about sixty-six years resident in said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary War as follows to wit as a noncommissioned officer in a company of artillery commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Smith and afterwards as a first Lieut. in a company of artillery commanded by Capt.

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Will. Waters [William Waters] until the year 1777 and then by appointment as Capt. Lieut. in Capt. Drury Ragsdale's Company both belonging to the Virginia Regiment of Continental Artillery commanded by Col. Charles Harrison – that he made his original declaration on the 14th day of May 1818, and obtained a pension Certificate numbered 3.063, and the said Godman doth moreover solemnly swear that he was a resident Citizen to a good done of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed. The said Godman further declares that he is by occupation a farmer but is unable from age and infirmities to pursue it so as to make a livelihood for himself and family – His family consist of a wife named Allanor [sic, Eleanor?] between 50 & 60 years of age very infirm and not able to do much of anything a Daughter named Delilah 23 years of age in a decline, a son named Otho aged 14 years, a son named Bela aged 12 years, a Daughter named Elizabeth Anne aged 10 years, a son named Israel 8 years of age a part of whom are able to do something towards their support.
Sworn to and declared to be true on the 15 day of August 1820 before the court aforesaid.

Schedule

one old chest of Drawers

one old Walnut Chest

Two Common do Tables

Six do chairs

three pots, one oven and coffee mill 2 dishes one dozen plates one coffee pot, one tea pot, 1 dozen cups & saucers, Six knives & forks, Two Buckets and four Earthen Crocks –

S/ William Godman

[p 12: Oath of allegiance]

I William Godman Capt. Lieut. of Artillery do acknowledge the United States of America to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof oh no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do Swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support maintain and defend the said United States against the said King George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, affittants and adherence, and will serve the said United States in the office of Capt. Lieut. of Artillery which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

Sworn before me at the Artillery

Park this 12th Day of June 1778

S/ Wm Godman

[indecipherably faint signature], Artillery

I *William Godman Capt Lieut of Artillery*
do acknowledge the UNITED STATES of AME-
RICA to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and
declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obe-
dience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I
renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to
him; and I do *swear* that I will, to the ut-
most of my power, support, maintain and defend the said
United States against the said King George the Third, his
heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and
adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of
Capt Lieut of Artillery which I now hold, with
fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.
Sworn before me at the Artillery Co. Wm Godman
Done this 12th Day of June 1776
Thos. M. ...

[p 32: the following document is undated and unsigned, but I think it is in the handwriting of the veteran]

An account of services performed by Wm Godman in the regular service of the United States of America in the revolutionary war Against Great Britain =

In the year 1776 January entered into a company of Artillery commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Smith and served as a noncommissioned officer until October following at the Fort at Baltimore –

I was then appointed as the eldest first Lieut. in the first Regiment of United States Artillery commanded by Col. Charles Harrison Esq. in a company commanded by Capt. Wm Warters – in which station I served until spring 1777 –

I was then advanced to Capt. Lieut. in a company commanded by Capt. Drury Ragsdale in which Station I served until August 1779: And then left the Army –

In the year 1780 in the fall I assisted in raising a company of volunteer Artillery and served as Capt. Lieut. of the same under Capt. Laban Goffigan until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Virginia 1781 near or quite twelve months: –

After many Gross [?]³ Providences in life I have arrived to my 64th year of Age And find myself much declining in bodily strength am not able to supply myself with necessaries of life without some assistance. I therefore apply to my Country for a pension: –

An account of services performed by W. Godman
in the regular service of the United States of America
in the Revolutionary war ~~against~~ Great Britain =

In the year 1776 January entered into a company
of Artillery commanded by Capt. Nathaniel Smith and
served as an uncommissioned officer until October follow-
ing at the fort at Baltimore —

I was then appointed as the eldest first Lieutenant in
the first regiment of United States Artillery commanded
by Colonel Charles Harrison Esq. in a company com-
manded by Capt. Mr. Waters — in which station I
served until Spring 1777 —

I was then advanced to Capt. Lieutenant in a company
commanded by Capt. Drury Hogsdale in which station
I served until August 1777. And then left the
Army —

^{in the fall}
In the year 1780 I assisted in raising a company
of volunteer Artillery and served as Capt. Lieutenant
of the same under Capt. Saban Coffin until the
surrender of Lord Cornwallis at York Va. 1781 now
or quite twelve months? —

After many Crosses Providence in life I have now
to my 65th year of age and find my self much
declining in bodily strength am not able to supply
my self with necessaries of life without some assistance
I therefore apply to your country for pension? —

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing May 14, 1818, for service as a
Capt. Lieut. in the Maryland and Virginia Continental artillery.]