

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Pearson Williams S41354

PA [sic: VA]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Pearson Williams this day came into court and made oath that on the 2nd day of March 1776 he enlisted as a regular soldier on Continental establishment under Captain John Ashby of the third Virginia regiment for two years. that he continued in said Regiment until he was detailed to serve under Col. afterwards, Gen'l. Dan'l. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in the rifle service that he continued with that Corps until the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga [17 Oct 1777]. that he the said Pearson Williams had to serve until the 3rd of March 1778 to compleat his full term of 2 years for which he originally enlisted – but on the 12th day of Dec'r. 1777 he the said Pearson Williams had liberty to reenlist for 3 years in the horse service which he did in the 4th Regiment of horse then commanded by Colo. Moilan [sic: Stephen Moylan], and that he continued therein and served for the full term of 3 years and was finally discharged on the 12th day of Dec'r 1780.

The said Pearson Williams further makes oath that he is so reduced in his circumstances as to require the assistance of his country for support.

Captain William Mountjoy [VAS1809] who served as a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary war in the army of the United States came into court & made oath that the aforesaid Pearson Williams enlisted in the service of the united states in the year 1776 & that he served therein more than nine months to his knowledge.

At a Court holden for the county of Stafford at the court house of said county on Monday the 13th day of April 1818

the above declaration of Pearson Williams respecting his being a soldier of the revolution in the service of the United States was presented to the court sworn to, & being farther corroborated by the oath of Captain William Mountjoy the same is ordered to be Recorded.

Virginia, Stafford County to wit:

On this 14th day of August 1820 in open Court, being a Court of Record made so by Law, personally appeared Pearson Williams aged about sixty four years, resident of Stafford County, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. that on the 2nd of March 1776, he enlisted as a regular soldier under Capt John Ashby for two years of the 3rd Virginia Regiment and continued in said Regiment until detailed to serve under Colo. afterwards Gen'l. Daniel Morgan in the rifle service; that he continued with that Corps until the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, that the said P Williams had to serve until the 3rd of March 1778 to compleat his full Term of two years – but having liberty he re-enlisted in the horse service on 12th Dec'r. 1778, in 4th Regiment, under Col. Moilan for three years & that he continued & served therein for the full Term & was finally discharged on the 12th Dec'r 1780, & that the number of his certificate of pension, which commensed on the 13th April 1818, is 12, 460. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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 I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, necessary cloathing & Bedding excepted, viz: two Cows two yearlings, two Calves & two old Horses (not paid for, two old chests, one oven & two pots. The whole valued by the Court at fifty-nine dollars & fifty Cents. His occupation is that of a common Labourer without much ability to work, owing to his age & the debility consequent thereon – he has no other family than his wife & one daughter the former Elizabeth Williams aged fifty-four – the latter Hannah Williams aged twenty – and that they are all

living with his son John, who contributes to support them & that he has been aided by Mess'rs. W & J[?] Waller who have extended credit to him for articles for the support of his family to the amount of \$83.9. & also by William Ford to the amount of \$31.90, & the two horses mentioned in the Schedule were bought of Wm. H. Fitzhugh for \$25 all of which, with sundry small debts, unavoidably contracted, are justly due by him without any other resource to pay them, than the pension, which he humbly trusts, will be continued.
Pearson Williams

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The claim was probably rejected because Pearson Williams did not serve to the end of the war.]

State of Virginia }
Stafford County Towit }

This day personally came before me a justice of the peace in & for the county afores'd. Elizabeth Williams of said County, aged 70 years and upwards, and being first duly sworn deposed & saith, that she has a perfect recollection of her brother Pearson Williams, and that she well recollects of his enlisting in the first instance early in the War of the Revolution, and left home and as she believes marched to the North. That she has always understood that the 1st enlistment of her s'd brother Pearson was for two years. That about the expiration of that term of enlistment, she has always understood and believes that her said brother then enlisted for three years or for during the War. That the anxiety & distress caused to her mother who was then living by the s'd enlistment of her s'd son made a lasting impression on her mind. She further states that she was informed at the time that her said brother came home the last time that he was discharged from further Service. This affiant further states that the s'd Pearson Williams left five children at the time of his death which took place on or about the 23rd March 1824. His s'd children are all living at this time as far as affiant knows, and are by names as follows – Towit – Nathaniel P. Williams – John P. Williams – Walter Williams – Charles Williams – Hannah B. Williams. And further that they are the only heirs of s'd Pearson Williams. And further this affiant saith not. Sworn to before me as above stated on this the 17th day of May 1834. Given under my hand this day & year above written.

A. P. Williams

To his Excellency the Governor of Va.

You Memorialists N. P. Williams, John P. Williams, Charles Williams & Hannah B. Williams respectfully represent that they and one Walter Williams are the sole heirs at law being the children of Pearson Williams, and that he enlisted as a regular Soldier in the Virginia Continental line in the war of the revolution – that his first enlistment was for a specified time and that after its expiration, he being still in Service he enlisted for during the war and served to the end of the same as they have always heard and believe. They pray that they may be allowed land bounty for said services for the war – & they will ever pray &c.

Witness Alexander [undeciphered]

Nathaniel P. Williams/ John P. Williams/ Charles Williams/ Hannah B Williams

[Sworn before A P Williams on 4 Aug 1835.]

NOTE: The certification of the original application refers to Pearson Williams as a native of Virginia.