

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absalom Jenkins [Jenkins] S5616

f22VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/27/13 supp'd 5/9/15

[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.]

[Note: Images of the originals of the following documents can be found in both the federal pension records and in the [Digital Library of Virginia](#): Hanover County Legislative Petitions.]

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of Virginia now in Session in the City of Richmond

The Petition of Absalom Jenkins of the County of Hanover in the said State, most humbly sheweth: that he is one of the surviving revolutionary soldiers of the state line, who served in the revolutionary War; that he regularly served eight Tours of duty of three months each, To Wit:

First. Under Captain Elisha Meredith

Second. Under Captain Thomas Richardson

Third. Under Captain John Thompson

Fourth. Under Captain David Whitlock

Fifth. Under Captain Thomas White (afterwards General White)

Sixth. Under Captain __ Shields

Seventh. Under Captain __ Fowles

Eighth. Under Captain William Talley

But death has removed them all home except Captain William Talley, who he understands is yet alive, but neither has strength of body or length of purse enables him to seek him for information, upon this subject; This Petitioner further states, that part of the time he was commanded by Generals Mulenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] and Stevens [Robert Stevens]; and by Colonels Meriwether [probably Thomas Meriwether] and Call [perhaps William Call], and by Majors Jones, Boyce, William Mosby & Diggs – the Army was attended to part of the time by adjutant General Hardeman: all of these latter Gentleman he understands are all Dead;

That although he faithfully served these several eight Tours of duty, he never obtained a regular discharge, though never impeached for any default of duty, during the whole time; to prove this service, he introduces here the affidavit of Lieutenant Peter Foster to show that he served Part of the time (marked A) and introduces for further Proof the affidavit of Mary Ann Jenkins, to show he served the whole time (marked B) he here introduces the affidavit of Doctor James Drew McCaw, to show that a surgical Operation has been performed upon his body which renders him entirely incapable of maintaining himself by his labor (marked C), he introduces the affidavit of William J Clarke to show that he is at this time unable to maintain himself by his labor; and is an aged and infirm man (marked D), he here introduces the affidavit of Burwell Jenkins to show that he is in very indigent circumstances, and cannot from what he possesses, or

his bodily labor, maintain himself (marked E) all of which, he most humbly prays may be taken as part of this his petition and read and heard as part thereof: And this Petitioner most solemnly avers before Almighty God that he never received one cent in compensation for his services aforesaid: nor has he ever ask it, of any tribunal, whatever, before this present application; nor would he now asked it if he was able to maintain himself, by his property, or the labor of his hands: but without aid he must perish; and most humbly conceiving that he has just claims upon his country for those services rendered in the time of need and danger, and for which he has never as yet received one cent for; he now humbly comes before your Honorable body and most humbly employees assistance.

How grating it would be to his feelings as an old and faithful revolutionary Soldier to be turned off by his native state upon the charity of his country at the advanced age of near eighty years, he sickens at the idea; when he well knows in good conscience that he has been a faithful defender of those Glorious rights and liberties, we now so happily enjoy. This petitioner in good faith hopes this Honorable body will not suffer it to be so in the present case: and therefore most humbly prays that your Honorable body will grant to this War worn feeble disabled petitioner that portion of pay he may here prove to be due and unpaid to him; and placed him upon the Pension list, and allow him by law a reasonable Pension for the balance of his life, which cannot be long, and chargeable in any way whatever. Annual petitioner shall and will as in duty bound ever pray &c &c &c

S/ Absalom Jenkins, X his mark

[Attested by Reuben Meredith, JP January 19th, 1832]

A

City of Richmond, to wit

The affidavit of Lieutenant Peter Foster ¹of lawful age says that being called upon to state what he knows of the services of Absalom Jenkins in the revolutionary War says upon oath that he himself (this affiant) was a Lieutenant in the Continental line under Captain William Campbell and others from time to time, that by virtue of which commission, he now receives a pension from the United States Government, that he well remembers Absalom Jenkins during the late War, served in the Army during Arnold's [Benedict Arnold's] invasion of Richmond, and perhaps afterwards, at least between 3 & 4 months. They afterwards separated, and he never knew anything more of him during the War. And further this affiant saith not.

S/ Peter Foster, Lieutenant²

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Foster". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

B

City of Richmond to wit

The affidavit of Mary Ann Jenkins page 70 years saith that her Brother Absalom Jenkins who now applies to the Legislature for a pension entered the Militia Service in the revolutionary War in the 2nd call of Soldiers after the War was declared between Great Britain and these United States: that he was at the time he first entered service very little over sixteen years of age, and from that time until the end of the War he was almost constantly in service, and always ready when called upon to serve his Country. Sometimes he would stay no more than one or two

¹ [Peter Foster S46443](#)

² this is not the actual signature of the veteran since the documents are copies of the originals

weeks at home, and sometimes longer, but he must have served at least twenty-four months, if not more; he was at the taking of Cornwallis at little York, which ended the War, and he was engaged in it very shortly after it commenced, and indeed almost always in the Army: he is now nearly eighty years of age, and very infirm, and since the Operation performed on him by Doctor James Drew McCaw his weakness has greatly increased, and very poor and unable to get his living by his labor: and no property to support him & further this affiant saith not.

S/ Mary Ann Jenkins

[Attested January 18, 1832]

C

Richmond January 16th 1832

I do hereby certify that about 30 years ago, I was called upon to visit Mr. Absalom Jenkins residing in the County of Hanover. – I found that Mr. J. suffering from an obstruction of the Bowels. – It became necessary to operate immediately for Hernia. – This I performed with success. – Mr. Jenkins completely recovered – but was cautioned against using any violent exertion.

S/ James Drew McCaw

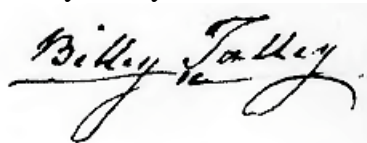
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Drew McCaw". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested January 20, 1832]

[p 10]

I Certify that while at the siege of little York at the close of the revolutionary War, I commanded a Company as Pro Tem and I have no doubt but Absalom Jenkins thought I was the proper Commission Officer at that time, and to which he alludes to in his petition to the legislature.

S/ Billy Talley³

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billy Talley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Attested January 23, 1832]

[p 11]

State of Virginia County of Hanover SS

On this 16th day of March 1833 Personally appeared before me Benjamin Wingfield one of the Commonwealth's justices of the peace for the aforesaid County of Hanover Absalom Jenkins a resident of the County aforesaid, aged seventy-four 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered in the Militia in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 or 7 with Captain Elisha Meredith, and served in the 4th Regiment of the Virginia Militia line under the following named officers: John Mayo who commanded as Colonel & from time to time under the following officers, Captain Thomas Richardson, Captain John Thompson, Captain David Whitlock, Captain Thomas White, (afterwards General White), Captain __ Shields, Captain __ Towles & Captain William Talley.

³ Probably the same man as [Billy \(Billey\) Talley W19434](#)

That at different times he was commanded by Generals Muhlenberg & Stevens & by Colonels Meriwether and Call, & by Majors Boyce, William Moseley & Diggs & Adjutant General Hardiman, he cannot recollect the particular periods going in and coming out of Service but always ready to go when called upon he resided then, & still does & has ever since the Revolutionary War, resided in the County of Hanover & State of Virginia, he fought two battles, one at Springfield & the other at Bottoms Bridge, his march was through the lower part of Virginia.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State, nor in any shape whatever, except what the enclosed documents will show; and he is advised that, that does not conflict with his present application.

S/ Absalom Jenkins, X his mark

[p 12: another version of the March 16th 1833 application]

State of Virginia County of Hanover SS

On this 16th day of March 1833 Personally appeared before me Benjamin Wingfield one of the Commonwealth's justices of the peace for the aforesaid County of Hanover Absalom Jenkins a resident of the County aforesaid, aged seventy-four 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered in the Militia in the Army of the United States in the year 1776 or 7 with Captain Elisha Meredith, and served in the 4th Regiment of the Virginia Militia line under the following named officers: John Mayo who commanded as Colonel & from time to time under the following officers, Captain Thomas Richardson, Captain John Thompson, Captain David Whitlock, Captain Thomas White, (afterwards General White), Captain __ Shields, Captain __ Towles & Captain William Talley. That at different times he was commanded by Generals Muhlenberg & Stevens & by Colonels Meriwether and Call, & by Majors Boyce, William Moseley & Diggs & Adjutant General Hardiman, he cannot recollect the particular periods going in and coming out of Service but always ready to go when called upon he resided then, & still does & has ever since the Revolutionary War, resided in the County of Hanover & State of Virginia, he fought two battles, one at Springfield & the other at Bottoms Bridge, he has no documents to show but the evidence here set forth. He entered in the service in 1776 or 7 and left it at the end of the War at the taking of Cornwallis at the siege of Little York [October 19, 1781].

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State, nor in any shape whatever, except what the enclosed documents will show; and he is advised that, that does not conflict with his present application.

S/ Absalom Jenkins, X his mark

[William Priddy, a clergyman, and Samuel Jordan Winston gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Questions propounded to the applicant by the aforesaid justice of the Peace

1st Where and in what year were you born?

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

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

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

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.

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

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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer to 1st Question. I was born in the County of Hanover in the year 1759

2nd. I had a record of my age but have lost it.

3. I was born in the aforesaid County of Hanover and have always lived there.

4th. I served my country by routine draft but never substituted for any man.

5. To this question, I answer by referring to the Bill before the Virginia Legislature now enclosed.

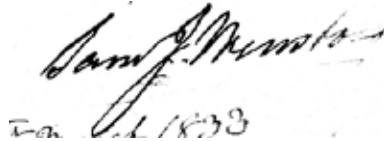
6. I never received any discharge the Officers never having offered any although demanded could not be obtained.

7. To this I answer by referring to the foregoing documents and the certificate of Samuel J Winston here annexed.

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The aforesaid Samuel J Winston further states that he knows of his own knowledge that the aforesaid Absalom Jenkins was at the Siege of York and that he was in Captain Thompson's Company likewise, and that he served in several other Companies he cannot now recollect & was reputed as an active good Soldier.

S/ Sam J. Winston



Sam J. Winston
Feb. 1833

[Burrell Jenkins, a nephew of the petitioner, also gave a supporting affidavit as to the petitioner being old and infirm and poor.



Burrell Jenkins

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]