

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jordan Williford¹ S6404

fn29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/28/11

[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 Rutherford County: SS

On this first day of August 1836, personally appeared in Open Court, before the County Court of said Rutherford County now sitting Jordan Williford a resident of McKnight's district No. 17 in the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, aged seventy-seven years the 30th of May 1836 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.

I, Jordan Williford, was born in South Hampton County in the State of Virginia on the 30th of May 1759, as I have learned from my parents & from the record of my birth in my father's Bible. I now have a record of my age which I copied from my father's Bible. At the time I entered the service of the United States in the Revolution, I lived in the said County of Southampton with my father, William Williford, with whom I had lived from the time of my birth, and with whom I continued to reside, when at home, until after peace was made.

1. I first entered the service of the United States in the month of May 1778, to the best of my recollection, in a militia company under Captain Lewis Joiner² [Lewis Joyner] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Blunt. My father lived some twenty-five miles from Southampton Courthouse, afterwards called Jerusalem, & in about fifteen miles from Smithfield then the County seat of Isle of Wight [County]. I first entered the service of the United States, under a draft, to prevent the landing of the enemy at Smithland [sic, Smithfield?]. The rendezvous was at a bridge on the Black water river at a place called broad water, thence went to Smithfield where we met other forces. Colonel Wells & Colonel Parker were there from the County of Isle of Wight. I also remember Colonel Richardson who seemed to be chief in command. Benjamin Griffin & Bowen were lieutenants in Captain Joiner's Company. I believe that Butts was Major of Colonel Blunt's Regiment, other field officers not recollected. I remained in service at Smithfield two weeks. During the time no fighting took place. I served on a guard at Mackey's Mills about four or five miles from Smithfield. It was said another guard was stationed near the mouth of Peggim Creek [Piggin Creek?] from whence the enemy's vessels were seen in Hampton roads. After the British ships or tenders as they were then called left, we were discharged. I received a written discharge from Captain Joiner, but have lost it. In this campaign I served at least two weeks.

2. I was again called into service of the United States sometime in the year 1780, I

¹ BLWt26148-160-55

² No officer by this or any similar name was found in any of the resources available to me other than this database in which (as of 9/28/11) there are 4 references to a Capt. Lewis Joyner and 1 to a Capt. Lewis Joiner, all of which appear to me to be references to this same officer.

believe in the spring of the year, but cannot state the dates precisely. I again entered & served under Captain Joiner in the Regiment of Colonel Blunt. The rendezvous of the Regiment was again on the Blackwater River at a place called Broad water. The British at this time were understood to be in & had possession of Norfolk & Plymouth. I understand our object to be to protect our people from the British scouting parties. Colonel Blount's [sic] Regiment moved in the direction of Norfolk. We met with Colonel Wells with the Isle of Wight Regiment. We moved in different directions, we were through the country of Nansemond, we were also in Norfolk & Isle of Wight counties. A detachment was frequently garrisoned at Mead's Mills, also at a little village called Jericho. I occasionally served in these detachments. In this tour of service I was engaged at least forty-five days. We had no engagement with the enemy. We were discharged at Crocker's old field in Isle of Wight County, about the first of July 1780, to the best of my recollection. I then also received a written discharge from service by Major Boykin, which discharge I have since lost.

3. I again entered the service of the United States in March I believe, 1781, in the Southampton militia Regiment commanded by Colonel Blunt, under my old Captain Joiner. The rendezvous was again at the Blackwater at the same place as before mentioned. We met the militia from the adjoining counties at Lawrence's field to the best of my recollection. General Muhlenberg was there & was chief in command. Colonel Meriwether, who it was said had been an officer in the Continental line, joined us & took command of our Regiment. Blunt then went home, but I believe he returned before we were discharged. Major De Cloman [Christian Charles de Klauman] , a Frenchman was an officer in our Regiment, & much esteemed as a gentleman & skillful soldier. Colonel Parker was along & had command of the Regiment from the Isle of Wight. In this tour Major De Cloman was put under arrest for insulting & assaulting Colonel Parker. I remember to have seen De Cloman under arrest, & was informed that in a conversation about the French assisting us in the war, Colonel Parker had said he believed the French were deceitful, that they talked of help, but had never done us any good, whereupon De Cloman seized him by the collar & in the scuffle, tore off a piece of Parker's coat. But De Cloman was again restored to command.

The Army went from Lawrence's through Suffolk and on towards Norfolk. We remained at Suffolk one or two days. The whole number under the Muhlenberg was supposed to be twelve hundred. The forces crossed a branch of Norfolk River on a bridge & took camps at a place called Shoulder's hill a half mile from the bridge. The British could not easily attack us here without crossing the bridge. About a mile before we got to the bridge we passed a British Fort some half mile to our left, & three cannons were fired at us from the Fort. But without effect. While stationed at Shoulder's hill, the Whigs of the neighborhood, as it was understood, gave not [paper torn, probably intended the word "notice"] that a party of the British had left the Fort & were out after Beef. A detachment was sent after them under Colonel Parker, who had a skirmish with the British party at a Church not far from the Fort. I did not go out with Colonel Parker, but was sent with others under a Captain Cummings to Parker's assistance. Captain Cummings met Colonel Parker returning. Colonel Parker had one man killed & his name was Hutchins, he was a true Whig; that lived in the neighborhood & was serving as a pilot. Parker's detachment killed & wounded 5 or 6 of the enemy and had them brought into camp in a cart. While encamped at Shoulder's hill we had many alarms but no more fighting. One evening just as the men were about getting supper, we received orders to march. We started about sunset & crossed North West River on a bridge at a place called North West Landing about midnight. There was a breastwork there called Gregory's Fort where we encamped 2 or 3 days. From this place the

infantry crossed the Dismal Swamp, & the baggage with a small company of horsemen went around the swamp. I crossed with the infantry & then on through Suffolk to Lawrence's field where, I think, we met with the baggage & horsemen, thence to Broadwater on Blackwater, where we found men ready to take our places in the service. We were then discharged. I received a written discharge from Captain Joiner, which I have since lost. In this campaign I served at least nine weeks, & was discharged, as I believe in June 1781.

4. In the last of July or first of August 1781, I was again called into service under Captain John Simmons and Colonel Blount's [sic] Regiment. The rendezvous was at Surry old court house in what was then called Sussex County. We there met the militia from the adjoining counties. Colonel Judkin was there from Sussex, & Major Boice [Boyce?] from Surry County, who had been in the regular service. There was five or six hundred of us met at Surry old court house, thence we marched in two or three weeks, to Jamestown, remained there about two days, & thence to the New Magazine near Williamsburg, stayed there two or three weeks until the arrival of the northern troops under General Washington. I there saw General Washington on horseback. The regulars under Washington went on towards Yorktown & our militia followed on in a few days. We arrived at Yorktown before the [several words written over and indecipherable] in the siege of that place. The particulars of the battle of Yorktown are known from history, I was present & in service during the whole of that memorable battle. I remember only one out of Captain Simmons's company that was killed. After the capitulation of Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] & his Army, Colonel Blunt's Regiment went with the guard of the prisoners towards Winchester, but was [word written over and indecipherable] at Falmouth. We then marched back to Fredericksburg & were discharged. I received a written discharge from Captain Vaughan who had taken the command of our company in the place of Simmons who had returned home after the capture of Corn Wallace. In this campaign I served at least nine weeks.

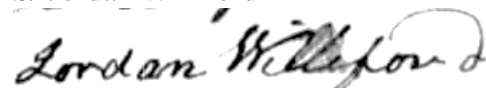
I stated that I had been drafted in the first campaign herein mentioned. I was called into service in the same way in each campaign in which I served. The County of Southampton was at an early period in the Revolution put into classes or divisions. Every man drew a ticket from a hat or box, which ticket when drawn designated the class or division to which he belonged. They were then called into service by divisions, & I suppose we were rather considered minute man than as a drafted. I always served as a private except during the battle of Yorktown I acted as Sergeant.

I married my wife Charity, formerly Charity Holloman in ~~Southampton~~ Surry County in February 1783. I continued to reside in South Hampton County until 1801 or 1802, then I moved to Guilford County North Carolina, resided there two years, and thence I removed to Tennessee, Rutherford County in which County I have ever since resided. I refer to Joseph Trimble, Robert Overall, Nace Overall, Abram Overall, Jesse Barton, Jacob Wright, Ezra Jones, Robert Saunders, David M Jarratt, Jarratt Cocke & Enoch H Jones, as my neighbors & to whom I am known & who can testify as to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

I do not know of any person living by whom I can make direct proof of my services in the Revolutionary war.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present & I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State.

S/ Jordan Williford



Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year first aforesaid.

S/ Robt. S. Morris, Clerk

[David Clark, a clergyman, and David M Jarratt gave the standard supporting affidavit.]



David Clark
D M Jarratt

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months & 5 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]