

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Worsham S6436

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 15 Oct 2014.

State of Virginia, County of Prince Edward Sc

On this 20th day of August 1832, personally appeared before the Justice of the County Court of said county, William Worsham, a resident of the parish of Saint Patrick in the county of Prince Edward and State of Virginia, aged eighty 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 enlisted in the 1st Virginia Regiment in the service of the United States in the summer of 1775 as a soldier, for one year, with Lieutenant Joseph Scott, and served in the said Regiment under the following officers, Colo. Patrick Henry, Major Francis Eppes. The officers of the company to which he belonged were Capt. [John] Markham, 1st Left. [Lt.] William Cunningham, 2nd Left. Joseph Scott & Ensign Tarlton Woodson [sic: Tarleton Woodson]. he was then a resident of the county of Amelia, but much of his time was spent in Chesterfield county. Shortly after he enlisted he marched to the Town of Manchester from thence to Williamsburg and on to Norfolk in this State. on their march to Norfolk in December 1775 an engagement took place at the Great Bridge [9 Dec 1775] between the advanced troops of our army under the command of Colonels [Charles] Scott & Marshall, and the British, when the british retreated and after several days irregular skirmishing and fighting they embarked on their vessels; that Norfolk was about this time burnt [1 & 2 Jan 1776] and the American Troops went to Kemps landing about eight miles distant from Norfolk [at present Kempsville in Virginia Beach County], where they remained untill the expiration of his Term of enlistment, when he was discharged. Afterwards he received a commission as Captain in the militia of this State, his residence being then in the county of Amelia, and he was ordered into Service, and in February 1780 he was a Captain of Militia, with Captains Roberts, Fitzgerald & Jones marched to aid the people of North & South Carolina who were then much annoyed by the British Troops & Tories. that they went to Halifax Town North Carolina where they remained some time & being joined by some of the militia of that State, they were placed under the command of Colo. Wylie Jones and marched near to Charleston, about the time the American Troops were defeated at Camden [in South Carolina, 16 Aug 1780], and the militia returned, the company he commanded to the county of Amelia where they were discharged, having served a Tour of six months. That in the fall of the year 1780, he was again ordered on duty as a Captain of militia, he still residing in Amelia County, and marched to Richmond, Wilton and the country about Richmond. he was then under the command of Major Phil Jones [Philip Jones] and Colo. Abraham Green. that after being in the service for about two months he was discharged near Richmond and having returned home there was another call for militia from the said county of Amelia when he again marched as a Captain of Militia to the town of Petersburg, where he was placed under the command of Colo. Edmund Booker and after serving for about two months he was again discharged at Petersburg. about this time Arnold and Phillips were invading the country about Petersburg and Richmond [Benedict Arnold and William Phillips, Jan 1781], and the militia was called out frequently to serve for short periods. In February 1781 there was again a call for troops from Amelia County, when he again went as a Captain of Militia, and marched to the head quarters of Marquis de la Fayette at Wilton near Richmond. Cornwallis, with his army from the South came about this time to Virginia [about 10 May 1781], that the British forces were at Petersburg, and it was the intention of La fayette to attack them at different points at the same time. one division of the American troops under Colo. [Ambrose] Barbour marched direct to Petersburg, & the other under Lafayette marched around to cross at Goose Island [in Appomattox River], this applicant acting as a guide to Lafayette, but Colo Barbour arriving before Lafayette attacked the british from Baker hill and the British retreated from Petersburg going to Richmond & up James river to Point of Fork [at the junction with Rivanna River]. That he served at this time as a Captain three months, and upon other Troops coming in, the militia from Chesterfield and Amelia Counties were discharged at a place called

Bird Ordinary near Point of Fork. on the day after his discharged he with Capt. John Knight & Lieutenant Archer Walthall [Archibald Walthall] with about one hundred soldiers, set out for their residence in Amelia and Chesterfield, when they fell in with and were taken prisoners by Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton] and Cornwallis, and the Commission which this applicant held as a Captain was taken from him by an officer of the British army. he was detained as a prisoner for Two months, when at Jamestown in July 1781, after the Battle was fought between the Americans under Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne and the British under Cornwallis [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781], he was discharged by the British and returned to his residence in Amelia with the small pox on him. The siege of Yorktown commenced immediately after [on 28 Sep 1781] and continued till October [19th] when Cornwallis surrendered, and this applicant was not again in the Service. The applicant further states that he does not know of any one now living, who can testify as to the particular service which he rendered, and having no documentary evidence in his possession upon which to rely, he having long since despaired of receiving compensation, he cannot at this distant period specify dates with particular certainty. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. William Worsham

State of Virginia, County of Prince Edward Sc

On this 22^d day of November 1832, personally appeared before the Justices of the county court of said county, William Worsham, a resident of Saint Patricks parish in the county of Prince Edward, and State of Virginia, aged Eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amendment & addition to his declaration made before the court of said county on the 20th day of August last, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 Viz:

He was born according to the best information that he can procure on the subject, and he believes, on the 16th day of June 1752, in the county of Chesterfield in Virginia.

He has a register of his age in a prayer book now in his possession, which formerly belonged to his mother.

He names as persons who know him, in his present neighbourhood and who can testify as to his character for viracity and their belief of his services as a soldier and officer of the Revolution Wm. T. Walker, Charles Woodson, James Morton, John L. Crute and Henry E. Watkins.

According to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, in the following grades:

For one year he served as a private or Soldier.

For six months he served as a Captain in the Virginia militia.

For Two months . . d'o. . . . d'o. d'o

For Two months . . d'o. . . . d'o. d'o

For three months . . d'o. . . . d'o. d'o. In this last tour, on the day after he was discharged and before he could reach home, he with others, as stated in his original declaration, were taken prisoners by the British Army & detained for a further period of two months; making his whole service as a soldier Twelve months, and as a Captain of militia including the time he was a prisoner Fifteen months.

That he knows of no Clergyman in his neighbourhood or in the county of Prince Edward whose evidence he can obtain, as to his belief respecting his age and general belief relative to his revolutionary services.

William Worsham

NOTE: Worsham's pension certificate states that he died 27 Aug 1836.