

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Jenkinson (Jenkins) S7068

f36PA

Transcribed by David Jenkinson

[p 7]

State of Pennsylvania

Westmoreland County

On this 13th day of January 1834, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County, now sitting, William Jenkins of Unity Township, in said county, aged 79 years, who being 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 7th June 1832, that he entered the service of the United States in the spring of 1776, in a company of Rangers, commanded by Captain McCoy of Cumberland County, Penn.

We marched from Old Town to Potter's Fort in Penn Valley. We were employed here in ranging the country between this place and Clark's Fort in Buffaloe Valley, keeping off the hostile Indians, and were under the command of Colonel Welhner (sp?? could be Welkner). I received a discharge from our Captain, but cannot now tell what has become of it. In this year I served a tour of seven months.

In the spring of 1777, I served a tour of two months duty as a substitute for Hugh McClelland in a company of militia commanded by Captain Willson, at a place called McCormicks Blockhouse in Standing Stone Valley, in Bedford County. In the month of June 1781, I enlisted in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment of Continental troops, then stationed at Carlisle, Cumberland County, commanded by Colonel Craig. I served in Captain Thomas Campbell's company. We marched from Carlisle to Little York, where we remained for sometime drilling the regiment. We were marched from Little York, to 4 Mile Run, near Philadelphia, and from thence to Philadelphia, where we embarked and sailed to Christeen Bridge where we were landed and marched to the head of Elk, in the State of Maryland. We there went aboard of several small vessels and started to Baltimore, from which place the company to which I belonged and another company embarked aboard a small galley, and sailed under convoy of the *Washington* Privateer to the mouth of James River, in Virginia. We passed through the French Fleet, which was lying off York harbour blockading Cornwall's (sic Cornwallis') Army. We landed and joined the American before Yorktown. That day or next, a draft was made on our Regiment to fill up an Artillery Company, two men were drafted from each company. I was drafted from Captain Campbell's Company and was enrolled in Captain Ferguson's Company of Artillery. The Regiment was commanded by Colonel Proctor, our Lieutenant Colonel was Tarleton. On the 9th and 10th of October, I was stationed on a battery, on one side of which the guns were directed against a battery that was erected between us and Yorktown and a mortar & two howitzer on another side were directed against the British vessells (sic) lying in the River. We burned two of their ships in the River. I was employed both days at one of the howitzers.

A few days afterwards Cornwallis Surrendered. We crossed James River & lay there for some time. The Pennsylvania Troops under the command of General Wayne & General St. Clair marched to South Carolina, where we joined General Greene's Army on Christmas Day, 1781, at

a place called Ponpon (sic, Pon Pon, now Edisto River). The advanced guard of G. Greene's army was at Bacons Bridge. We were encamped on the Cypress Hills and on James' Island. A bridge of boats was thrown across Cypress River, we crossed and destroyed a fort belonging to the British & brought off some of their cannon & returned to camp in Cypress Hills. The British about this time sent a number of row galleys up the Lumber River, a detachment was immediately sent from our camp, commanded by General Guess [sic, Mordecai Gist] of Maryland. The night got so dark we could not proceed. [paper torn, probably "proceed"] and at early dawn we heard the militia that had got ahead [of ] us firing. General Gess [Gist] ordered Captain Ferguson with his company of artillery, and a detachment of the Delaware troops, the whole were under the command of Colonel Lawrence [sic, John Laurens], we marched down and had to cross a pole bridge, and reached a battery on the bank of the river where we planted our guns. One galley had passed down and another was within range. We poured a volley of canister shot into her. They immediately took to their oars and pulled up the river. At this place, the river made a bend and the galley that had passed down cast anchor and began to play on us very briskly. We fired three shots at her, the last of which took effect. We played at her with a double fortified 12 pounder. At this time, Colonel Lawrence came galloping up and commanded Captain Ferguson to retreat immediately [paper torn] that the British had effected a landing up the river and that General Guess could not get forward to our support. We immediately limbered up our pieces and retreated, and the militia ran off entirely. We were met by Major Bell, aide de camp to General Guess, who told Colonel Lawrence to commence the attack on the British. We immediately unlimbered our pieces. I was stationed at a howitzer. We loaded with canister shot. The British came up under cover of two bayous that run out of the swamp into the river and were covered by low brushwood. They fired on us and Colonel Lawrence & his horse were both shot dead at the first fire. We then retreated across the pole bridge. My messmate was taken prisoner and I would have shared the same fate but I got among the Delaware troops who fought like as many devils, but they were terribly cut up. When we got over the pole bridge, we met General Lee with his detachment. We then went to camp.<sup>1</sup>

We had an engagement after this with the British on the main road to Charleston. They retreated, but we did not pursue them far. About this time, Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton had brought up clothing for us but in crossing the river, the clothing had got wet and was entirely rotten, and we were nearly naked and had no money and our troops were like to mutiny. A Sergeant by the name of George Gaines was shot and so the matter ended. General Wayne, or Greene, then issued orders for all those who had served out there 18 months to be marched home.

We were then marched home under the command of Captain Studsburry to Lancaster Penn. and lay there one month before we were discharged. We were then discharged by Colonel Hampton. It was just twenty-two months from the time I enlisted at Carlisle till I was discharged at Lancaster. My discharge was in print, & mentioned the time I had served over the 18 months of that I received no pay for any of the time, and I never received one cent for said Service.

I lost my discharge in Carlisle the year following. I advertised for it but never could hear any thing of it. I served during the Revolution thirty-one months in all for which I claim a pension

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<sup>1</sup> This veteran is describing the Battle of Combahee Ferry which occurred on August 27, 1782.  
<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/combaheefy.htm>

under the act of 7 June 1832. And I hereby relinquish every claim whatever, to a pension or annuity, except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state, except that of the state of Pennsylvania.

Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ William Jenkins

*y. w. jenkins*  
*William Jenkins*

Attest:

S/ Randal M. Laughlen

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In the spring of 1776, seven months in Captain Gilbert McCoy's Company in Colonel Welkner's Regiment; in the spring of 1777, two months in Captain Willson's Company' from June or July, 1781, twenty-two months in Captains Thomas Campbell's and Ferguson's Companies in Colonel Craig and Proctor's Regiment, he was in an engagement with the British on Combahee River, South Carolina, and one on the main road to Charleston, South Carolina.

From a letter written by a person at the National Archives concerning the name difference.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim S. 7063, it appears that William Jenkinson, pensioned Jenkins, was born in 1755, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and lived there until 1803 when he moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

He stated that his name was Jenkinson, but that during his service he answered the roll call as Jenkins and as he supposed that his name was written Jenkins on the army roll, he requested the person who prepared his declaration for pension to write it Jenkins.

He enlisted and served as a private with the Pennsylvania Troops as follows:

In the spring of 1776, seven months in Captain Gilbert McCoy's Company in Colonel Welkner's Regiment; in the spring of 177, two months in Captain Willson's Company' from June or July, 1781, twenty-two months in Captains Thomas Campbell's and Ferguson's Companies in Colonel Craig and Proctor's Regiment, he was in an engagement with the British on Combahee River, South Carolina, and one on the main road to Charleston, South Carolina.

He was allowed pension on his application executed January 13, 1834, at which time he was living in Unity Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

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Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/1/16

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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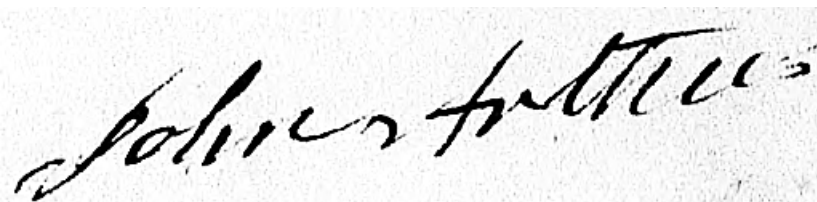
Westmoreland County

Personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the peace in and for the said County John Arthur<sup>2</sup> of the County of Bedford and upon his solemn affirmation saith -- That in the year 1780 William Jenkinson and myself served seven months as Rangers -- under Capt. Gilbert McCoy and Lieut. Joseph Chambers and Ensign Richard Johnston in Cumberland County and was legally discharged after serving for seven months at Clerk's Fort in Northumberland County further saith that the said Jenkinson was about 5'6" high stout bodied man -- very talkative and of sober habits -- and further saith that he knows the said Jenkinson and that he now resides in Westmoreland County The unity to Township on the Chestnut Ridge and was in his house -- about two or three years ago & further saith not.

Sworn & subscribed this 18th day of Marched 1828 Before me

S/ James Keenan

S/ John Arthur

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Arthur". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.

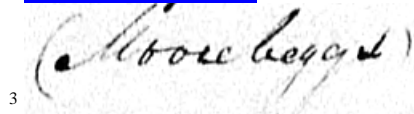
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State of Pennsylvania Westmoreland County: SS

On this 25th day of March 1834 personally appeared before James Keenan Esquire one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, William Jenkinson of Unity Township in said County aged 79 years who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832, -- That his name is William Jenkinson and that it was so entered when he enlisted with Capt. Campbell as he verily believes, but that the orderly Sgt. (Moosebeggs [?])<sup>3</sup> who called the Roll, always called him Jenkins, that he always answered to the said call, but often remonstrated with the Sgt., and told him that his name was Jenkinson, but the Sgt. always told him that he knew how to pronounce his name as well as he did himself. -- And that from this Circumstance this deponent was of the opinion that his name had been written on the Roll, Jenkins, and therefore requested the person who prepared his declaration to write his name Jenkins, and that he signed his name Jenkins for the same reason. Declarant further states that many persons write his name Genkinson -- that he is firmly of the belief, that his name will be found on the Rolls of the War office, viz., on the Rolls of the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment

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<sup>2</sup> [John Arthur S39944](#)

<sup>3</sup> A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Moosebeggs". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured paper.

commanded by Col. Craig and in Capt. Thomas Campbell's Company -- also on the Rolls of the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Col. Proctor and in Capt. Ferguson's Company -- written neither Jenkinson, Genkinson, or Jenkins.

Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid

S/ James Keenan

S/ William Jenkinson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Jenkinson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

[Richard Graham and Hugh Kells gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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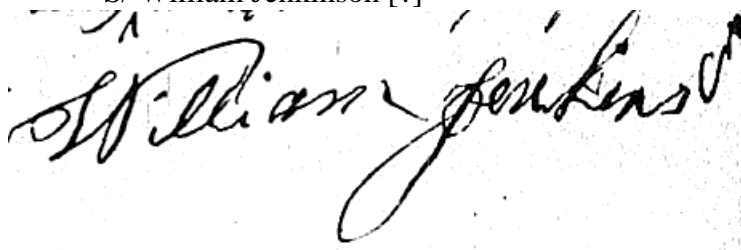
State of Pennsylvania Westmoreland County

On this 13th day of April 1835, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common pleas of Westmoreland County, now sitting, William Jenkinson of Unity Township in said County aged 80 years who being duly sworn according to law, doth make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain an augmentation of Pension under the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. -- That in the month of July (as near as declarant can recollect) 1781, he enlisted as a private for 18 months in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment then stationed at Carlisle in Cumberland County Pennsylvania and commanded by Col. Craig, and was enrolled in a company commanded by Capt. Campbell, and was marched with said Regiment to Yorktown in Virginia, that some days before the surrender of Cornwallis declarant was drafted into a company of Artillery commanded by Capt. Ferguson and that he remained attached to the Company during the remainder of the time for which he was enlisted. A more particular Statement of declarant's said tour of service is set forth in his former declaration now on file at the War office to which the "Commissioner of Pensions" is respectfully referred to, declarant not being able heretofore to prove his Services of said tour, received no pension for the same; but now having fortunately found out and old soldier & companion during the whole of said time of service, who can testify to declarant's enlistment & services, he now applies for an augmentation of his present pension which is \$30 a year for services rendered in the Militia of this State.

Sworn and Subscribed in open Court this 13th day of April 1835

Attest S/ Randal M. Laughlen, Prot.

S/ William Jenkinson [?]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Jenkinson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The handwriting is consistent with the signature above.

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State of Pennsylvania Westmoreland County

Personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County now sitting Jacob Grist<sup>4</sup> aged 72 years who being duly sworn according to law saith, that he is well acquainted with William Jenkinson a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, now applying for an augmentation of Pension -- that in the month of July 1781, stayed Jenkinson enlisted for a term of 18 months in the 4th Pennsylvania Regiment of Continental troops commanded by Col. Craig and stationed at the Town of Carlisle in Cumberland County, that said Jenkinson was enrolled in a company commanded by Capt. Campbell, and marched with said Regiment to Yorktown in Virginia; That a few days before the capture of Cornwallis & his Army, said Jenkins was drafted into an artillery company commanded by Capt. Ferguson & remained in said company until the expiration of his time of Service. Deponent further states that he saw said Jenkinson with the Pennsylvania troops in South Carolina, and knows of his own personal knowledge that he was in an engagement between the American troops and the British, not far from the Combahee River, and that after his term of service had Expired he marched in company with this deponent & others home to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was there discharged, -- that deponent had enlisted in the above named Regiment for the term of 18 months; and saw and conversed with said Jenkinson almost daily until they arrived at Yorktown, Jenkinson being then drafted into an Artillery Regiment or Company Deponent had not an opportunity of seeing him so often but knows that he served out his said term of 18 months, and that it was fully 20 months and more, from the time of his Enlistment until he was discharged and further saith not.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court the 13th day of April 1835

Attest S/ Randal M. Laughlen, Prot.

S/ Jacob Grist

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob Grist". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for service as a private in the Pennsylvania service.]

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<sup>4</sup> [Jacob Grist R4341](#)