

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

Pension Application of William Wamsley S7806

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 20 May 2015.

[The following are from [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Lewis County]

To the Honorable the Speaker and House of Representatives of the general assembly of the State of Virginia the petition of your petitioner Humbly Sheweth to your honorable Body that he)your petitioner(served six months a Soldier in the militia servise of the State of Virginia as a garde Chiefly in the City of Richmond for which your petitioner Never Rec'd any Compensation your petitioner having Now arived to the age of Near three score years and ten without any help But the labour of his own hands to support himself and a Companion as aged and infirm as himself the prayer of your petitioneor is that your Honorable Body would grant your petitonor his wages Earned through Extreme Hunger and Cold with interest from the year – 1781 - or 2 – Which would assist your petitioner to procure the Nessessarys that are wanting to Cherish Decaying Nature in full expectation of your Honorable Body Complying with the prayor of your petitioner he Rests Satisfyed and Shall as in duty Bound forever pray

NB your petitioner served under Capt. Thomas Hamelton [Thomas Hamilton]

Harrison County towit Dec'r 20th 1825

this day James wamsley [pension application S6323] of the County of lewis state of Virginia personally apeared Before me J Morris one of the Commonwealths Justises of the peace for the county of Harrison and made oath that william Wamsley the petitioner actuly done the Servise therin Mentioned and has good Reason to Believe that he Never Recv'd any Compensation for the same Given under my hand and seal the day above writen

Joseph Morris

Harrison County towit

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for said county, William Wamsley & made oath that the statements contained in the within petition are true & that he never received any compensation for the same. Given under my hand this 20th Nov 1826

Benj Stout JP

1826 Dec'r. 12 Laid on table

30 Rejected

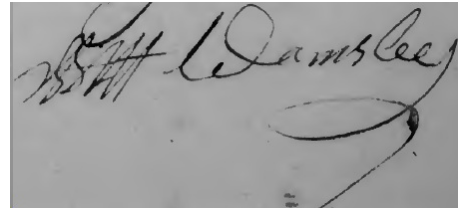
1827 Jany 1 Reported

To the honorable the Speaker and house of Representatives of the general assembly of Virginia the petition of your petitioner Humbly Sheweth to your Honorable Body that he did serve as a common soldier in the Revolution one year in Col Joseph Crockets Reighment [sic: Joseph Crockett's Western Battalion, pension application S46377] in Capt Thomas youngs [S11921] Com'y the Reighment were Call'd out to join Genaral Clarks [George Rogers Clark's] Campaign against the Indians your petitioner was placed on an Iland [Montour's Island, now Neville Island] fore miles Below fort pitt for the purpose of guarding Cattle for the Suport of the army a few days Before the Movement of the army from that place your petitioner was atacked with a volant fever and left Behind was taken to an inn By an hospitable famely where I lay three Months without the knowledge of what was lowing [owing?] after my Recovery I had to labour to Defray the Expence of my Nursing and for Cloathing to screen me from the inclemency of the weather I then Repaired to fort pitt to see the then Commanding officer – Col'l [John] Gibson – to get a Discharge he told me he was not Authorized to give me a discharge and told me to go home I told him that I was then more than two hundred miles from my fathers house and without

Money

he told me with a Scornfull tone to Begone – Indignant at the insult I set off

Digression I could not have Expected any Better from a man who had an Indian for his Companion true it is that I met with some friends of liberty and when I lost them I had to labour for provision to carry on – having a Wilderness of more than forty miles to pass through I suffered with Extream hunger and Cold – and for all this servise and suffering for the Blessings you and I now Enjoy I Never Rec'd any pay your petitioner at this advanced stage of life Near three score years and too distitute of any Suport But the labour of his own hands to Support himself and a Companion as aged and infirm as himself Doth ask your honorable Body to Give your petitioner his hard earned Wages – with Interest In full Expectation of your Compliyance I Rest Satisfied and will as Ever have Ever pray

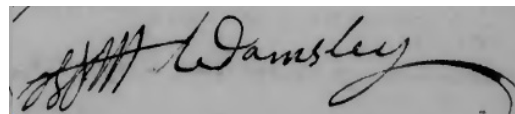
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Gamble". The ink is dark and the paper is aged and slightly yellowed.

Ref'd to Claims

1827 Decr. 31st Rejected

1828 Jany. 2nd Reported

your petitioner served in Colo Crockets Reigment in the place of Thomas Wamsley [pension application R11141] who enlisted I think in the year 76 under Capt Michiel Bowyer [sic: Michael Bowyer] – Lieutenant Robert Gamble [BLWt869-300] – on these conditions to serve on the frontiers against the Indians and if Called to the East to fight the British army to be at libertey to go or not – after serving six months Ranging in the Wester mountains – the Company were called to the East to meet the British – Thomas left the Company and Came home and took him a Wife after haveing two or three Children he was taken for a deserter – and adjudged to serve the full time of his inlistment – I had Compation for his famely – took his place and served the time stated in the above petition these are the facts that could be established by a cloud of Witnesses the year after my Return from the servitude I served the time stated in my petition to your honorable Body at the last Session which can allso Be proved by a Number of living Witnesses althow your documents may be lost or no Returns made your petitioner does Believe that your honournes Will from the Evidence Before you Give your aged petitioner his Just Clame I add no more Yours &c

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm. Wamsley". The ink is dark and the paper is aged and slightly yellowed.

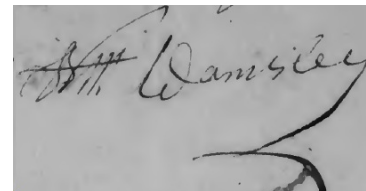
Harrison County V.a.

This day personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Jos. Britton [Joseph Britton S8087] who being duly sworn deposeh and saith that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War about the years 1780 attached to Col. Joseph Crocket Regiment. that he was well acquainted with Wm. Wamsley (the above petitioner) he recollects distinctly that he Wamsley, was attached to the same Regiment with himself, that they Marched together to Fort Pitt, after which Wamsly was left behind the Army in consequence of indisposition, and further this deponent saith not.

Given under my hand this 9th Nov'r. 1827

Jos. Johnson J.P.

To the honourable the speaker and house of Representatives of the Genaral assembly of Virginia your petitioner humbly shiuwith to your honorable Body that he did serve one year in the Revolutionary war in Colo Joseph Crockets Reighment in Capt Thomas youngs Company was Call'd from guarding the prisoners [Hessians captured at the Battle of Saratoga NY, 17 Oct 1777, and kept at Albemarle Barracks from Jan 1779 to Feb 1781] to serve under genral Clark in his Expedition against the indians where I suffered Extremely with hunger and Cold after your petitioner Returned from Clarks Company he served Six Months as a Guard in the City of Richmond under Capt Thomas Hammelton – after your petitioner had the Care of a famely he was Called on by Colo Jacob Westfall of Randoph [sic: Randolph] County to serve as a Spy six months in the year 1789. In the 1798 I served as a Ranger under Capt Cornelious Bogard [sic: Cornelius Bogard] Six month for all these servises and sufferings your petitioner Never Received any Compensation your petitioner is Now far advanced in years and destitute of any help But the labour of his own hands. Your petitioner Now in a state of indigence prays that your Honorable Body would grant your petitioner his hard Earned wages with Interest and your petitioner will as in Duty bound Ever pray



Dec'r 18th 1829 ref'd to Rev'y Claims
Rejected 28th Jany 1830

Harrison County (To Wit)

This day Joseph Britton personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the commonwealths Justices of the for the county aforesaid & being duly sworn deposeth and saith that some time about the year 1782 he became acquainted with Wm. Wamsley, who was at the time a regular soldier in Col. Crockets Regiment of the Virginia line that he the said Britton & Wamsley marched in Company in said Regiment from the County of Albemarl in Va. to Pittsburg at which place the aforesaid Wm. Wamsley fell sick in consiquence of which he was left behind while the ballance of s'd Regiment desended the ohio River. and further this deponent saith not

Nov'r 26th 1829

J. Johnson J.P

Harrison County to wit this day Came Before Me the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for the s'd County William Wamsley and made oath on the Holy avengalists of almighty God that he the s'd William Never Recieved one Cent as a Compensation for all his Servises done as a Soldier in the Revolusary War Given under my hand December the 21st 1829 J. Johnson J.P

The speaker and house of delegates of Virginia.

Your petitioners respectfully state they are some of them surviving soldiers of the revolutionary war and some of them are heirs of deceased soldiers who were entitled under several ordinances & laws of Virginia to bounties in land and money for their services and especially by a statute of Virginia passed in October 1780 see 10th Hennings Statutes at large page 331-32 [vagenweb.org/hening/vol10-16.htm]. see also 11th Hennings statute at large page 559 to 565 [vagenweb.org/hening/vol11-30.htm]. by the above recited law of October 1780 300 acres of land and one healthy sound negroe between the ages of ten and thirty or 60 pounds in gold or silver at the option of the soldier was agreed to be given and promised in lieu of all such bounties given by former laws. [See endnote.] And thereafter by and act of May 1782 officers and soldiers were promised an addition of one sixth for every year they served over six Those several laws our petitioners believes were enacted in good faith, and that the sages that enacted them relied that they would be faithfully administered. Have they been so administered, let facts decide. Instead of 300 acres as promised by the act of October 1780 above recited but 200 has been

given. nor has the young negroe or the alternative of £60 in gold or silver ever been given. Your petitioners are now greeted with the novel argument That the long and continuous refusal of Virginia (through her public functionaries to do Justice to such claimants, is to be now (after the lapse of half a century) considered as an abandonment of their claims – or that they have been commuted, or that the law has been repealed or was never in force. such are the arguments and such the reasoning used in opposition to the claims of the war worn soldier for services which has remained unliquidated for fifty years and these argument is used and opposition waged by the salaried functionary of Virginia – That state in whose defence some of your petitioners spent 20 years of the vigour of their manhood and can recount many hair breadth escapes from the Tomahawk & scalping knife, or the more dreaded fate of the unfortunate Col. Crawford [William Crawford, burned alive, June 1782] such arguments become well enough the technical Lawyer as a hired advocate. We however oppose to such views the decision of the highest Judicial tribunal of our state which declares that Lapse of time in no case can bar the Commonwealth and we believe that the rule to be Just must work both ways. Your petitioners still further complain that they think it hard to be taxed with officers fees in obtaining their warrants. Your petitioners therefore respectfully ask that your honorable body will make a declaration of what the law of October 1780 was and that the same is unrepeald and in full force and that they especially enact that the register of the land office are on application by the claimants their hiers or assignees issue additional warrants so as to make three hundred acres to all who served during the war & one sixth more than 300 acres for every year over six and that they further provide by law that those who have heretofore paid the registers fees have them refunded and that in future the fees of the Register be paid by the Commonwealth. And moreover that a sufficient fund be set apart and appropriated to the payment of the negroe or £60 “in gold or silver” To your intelligent and candid consideration your petitioners submit their case and ask the passage of a general law applicable to all.

T. Carney

William Wamsley

John Rains

James Brown

Jonathan Wamsley atto in fact for the hiers of John Brown [S6720]

Christopher Carpenter [VAS1743], Robert Brown and many others.

Dec'r 12th 1833 ref'd to C[lai]ms/ Feb'y 4th ref'd to Finances/ Feby. 14th Rejected/ 19th Resol[utio]n

Resolved that the Committee of Claims be discharged from so much of the petition of William Wamsley and others, as prays that an act may pass directing the Register of the land office to refund all fees heretofore paid by soldiers of the revolutionary war or their representatives, in obtaining warrants for the bounty land to which they were entitled for their services, and that in future all such fees be paid by the Commonwealth, & that the same be referred to the Committee of Finance.

Feb'y. 4th 1834

George W. Munford, C.H.D.

14th Rejected/ Resol'n reported

[The following are from the federal pension file.]

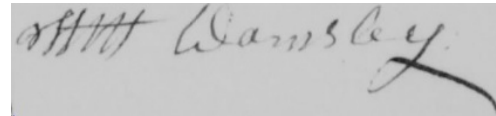
State of Virginia } SS

Harrison County }

On this sixteenth day of July 1832 personally appeared before the county court of Harrison county William Wamsley a resident of said county of Harrison in the said state of Virginia aged 72 years on the 5th of October 1831 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 to serve during the war in the State Militia of Virginia in the revolutionary war about the year 1778 or 1779 with Robert Gamble as a Lieutenant under the command of captain Michael Bowyer as a private that he was after his said enlistment put under the command of a certain Stephen Young as his captain in a regiment commanded by Col. Joseph Crocket. That he left the said service in

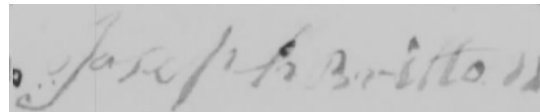
the year 1782 as well as he now recollects. whilst he was engaged under the above enlistment he guarded (for a while) British prisoners at the Barracks in Albermarle County in Virginia from thence he was marched to Fredericktown in Maryland with the said prisoners and there left them thence to Shepards Town in Virginia [Shepherdstown now in WV] continued there a short time. Thence to Martinsburg Va. Thence was marched to Pittsburg Pa. under the command of Major George Wails or Walls [Maj. George Walls], at Pittsburg Col. Joseph Crockett again joined the regiment encamped at a place near Pittsburg then called the New Store on the Eastern side of the Monongalia [sic: Monongahela] river now called Elizabeth Town (as affiant believes. whilst there was engaged in preparing boats flour &c. under the command of General George Roger or Rogers Clarke. affiant was lastly employed in guarding Bullocks for beef on an Island about five miles below Pittsburg where he was taken sick and left behind the army and continued sick for many months untill the army had completed its tour so that affiant could not obtain his discharge Affiant then returned to Virginia to Augusta county. There he again entered the army as a substitute for a certain Phillip Wimer Marched to Richmond City there guarded the Magazine and prisoners (Tories) at Richmond and Manchester obtained for this last Tour of six months from his captain Thomas Hamilton a discharge which discharge he gave to his son and cannot now procure it being lost or mislaid. When Affiant returned from the last mentioned campaign which he thinks was the latter part of the Year 1782 or beginning of 1783 He was next ordered out as an Indian Spie by Col Jacob Westfall in Tygarts Valley [Tygart Valley], now Randolph county, he went out in the said service as an Indian Spie for some time Affiant thinks about six months on the waters of Elk Valley river, Buckhannon, West fork and little Kenhawa [sic: Little Kanawha] in what is now Randolph, Lewis, Nicholas and Harrison counties. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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. That he has obtained his warrant from the state of Virginia for his military services first above stated which warrant is dated the 3 July instant.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.



Harrison county to wit

Joseph Britton personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said county and made oath That he was acquainted with William Wamsley a soldier in the Virginia State troops He first saw him at the Barracks at Albermarle county at a place now called Charlottesville where he was employed in guarding some British prisoners after some time spent there which affiant now thinks was in the year 1779 or 1780 That they proceeded from thence with their said prisoners to Frederick town in Maryland where they left their prisoners proceeded from there to Sheppards Town in Virginia Thence [hole in page] Martinsburg in Va. from thence to Pittsburg in Pennsylvania was stationed at a place called the new store now Elizabethtown. whilst there was engaged in preparing boats, flour &c to descend the river ohio under Genl. Clarke which affiant done leaving Wamsley sick at a place called Matures Island a little below Pittsburg this was about the mounth of July 1781. Affiant landed at Louisville in Kentucky in Augt. 1781. Affiant never saw said William Wamsley again in the army. he lives now a near neighbour to him the said Wamsley he knows him to be the same man



General Land Office February 19 1833

I certify that, it appears from the Abstract of warrants issued by the Register of the Land Office at Richmond Virginia, a Warrant No 7159 for 200 acres dated July 3^d has been granted to William Wamsley for his services as a Private in the virginia State Line A. L. McIntire Clk.

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

William Wamsley. draws \$80—

on July the 12th William Wamsley gave the narative following of his age and services in the war of the Revolution. — he was born in the year 1759 as a native of Maryland. at the commencement of the war he resided on the north branch of the Potomac river, – his Elder brother Thomas Enlisted in the year 1778 or 1779 under Capt. Thomas Young – his Brother Thomas served then three weeks then he William took his place under Captain Young and marched to Albemarle under the command of Col Joseph Crockett & Major George Wales. there joined the army and remained there (at Albemarle upwards of one year guarding british Prissoners. the Prissoners were Hessians. cant tell when and where they were taken Prissoners. – from the Albemarle Barracks he marched under the same officers and same Regt. to Frederick town Maryland, guarding the Prissoners from the first to the latter place. Stayed at Frederick town under the same officers for some time cant say how long – from Frederick town they marched to Shepherds town Virginia, staid there about two months and then he marched to the Monongalia river at a place called “New Store” (now Elizabethtown) was here taken sick and did not go any further with the army – after his recovery he went to Pittsburg, there applied to Col. Gibson to know what to do (he had been sent out to join Clarks army which had descended the river before he got well and reached Pittsburg) – Gibson told him he had nothing do with him & to go home. – and he accordingly went home. Cant recollect nor will he say how long he was out on this tour. thinks he left home in July and did not reach Pittsburg until late in the fall in the year following—

In the spring of 1782 seventeen hundred and eighty two – he substituted in the place of P. Wimer. – Wimer had been drafted for two months and refused to go. – Six months was then put upon him – he Wamsley substituted in the place of Wimer for the six months and in the spring of 1782 as before stated he marched from the south branch to Richmond City. “The men who were condemned to serve were sent down to serve their tours out” – he Wamsley joined Capt Thomas Hamiltons company at Richmond – guarded the Magazine and Jail. tories prissoners and continued there about three months and was then sent out to the head quarters (thinks augusty county) sixteen men, including himself went from Richmond to Greenbrier under the command of Sergeant John Wamsley. got his discharge which is lost and went home. – he refers to Joseph Brittain for proff of his services. – his son Jonathan Wamsley took his Declaration – gave him the same narative in substance he now gives – the forgoing statement was taken down in the presence of N Goff & A. Harrisson read to Wamsley in their hearing and acknowledged by him to be all right—

Joseph Brittain Pen (see his own statement of his Services) States that William Wamsley and himself marched from Albemarle in the same Regt. Wamsley was taken sick and left behind—

A Copy W. G Singleton

Note. this Pensioner is the Father of Jonathan Wamsley and is said to be a man not of good character. from his statement I should suppose he was not entitled to the amount he draws – owing to his near relationship to Jonathan his statement was taken with great care, almost in his own words. – let me know your decision in this case.

W. G Singleton Nov. 18, 1834

Harrison County to wit Before me this day came Wiliam Wamsley Jedadiah Waldo a Justice of the peace for said County and Made oath that he Searved Six Months as a Soldier with James Wamsley a Soldier in the State of Virginia in the year 1782 Captain Hamilton Company Sworn to before me the thirtyeth day of December 1834

Jdh Waldo

NOTES:

The Virginia statute of 1780 cited in the petition by Jonathan Wamsley applied only to soldiers who served to the end of the war. The obligation of Virginia was assumed by the federal government in

1828.

A Treasury-Department document states that “the child of Wm Wamsley” was given the final pension payment up to 16 Jan 1839, the date of William Wamsley’s death.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Addendum to William Wamsley S7806

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 5 Jan 2023.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Warmesley, William.]

State of Virginia }
Harrison County to wit }

This day Joseph Britton aged 68 or 9 years personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for said county and made oath that he was a soldier of the revolutionary war in the Virginia line of the state army. That he was attached to the command of Col. Joseph Crocket, Major George Wailes or Walls & Captain John Chapman [R13115]. That his said captain was killed & affiant was one of the men who helped to bury his captain in Kentucky. Affiant further states that he knew William Warmesley who belonged to the same regiment & was under the command of Captain Young. That affiant first became acquainted with said Warmesley at the Barracks in Albemarle guarding British prisoners, from thence to Frederick Town Maryland, from thence to Sheppards Town on Potomac, from thence to Pittsburg and attached to General Clarkes command against the indians. That said Wamsley fell sick and was left behind in the [part missing at bottom of page] to be the same man. affiant further states that William Wamsley was a faithful soldier That he [undeciphered] & obtained a regular discharge, but is lost the same by accident. affiant thinks said Wamsley did not obtain a discharge because he was left sick. subscribed and sworn to this 30 day of Aug't. 1830.