

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Williams S7922

f74NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/26/06 rev'd 6/8/14

[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.]

[p 13]

State of North Carolina, Pitt County

On this the ninth day of Aug. 1832 Personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the State and County aforesaid now sitting (being a Court of record Robert Williams a resident of this County and State aforesaid aged seventy-four the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst., who being first duly sworn according to law doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832.

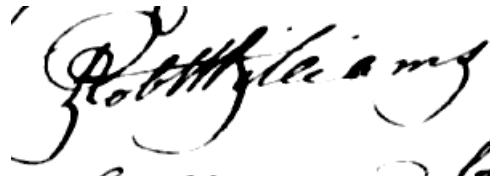
That he was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1758 by the record of his Father in County of Pitt & State of N.C. and raised in said county, that he has lived in said county and still and continued to live in ever since except some less than two years. That he lived in the town of Windsor in Bertie County in the above State upwards of forty-five years past; and except when he was in the service of the state or on some business a short time. That his first going into the service after the revolutionary War commenced was when a body of Tories up the Cape Fear River most in Cumberland County in said State, that the said Tories were making their way to the sea board below Wilmington where a British ship of war was then lying, that Col. Robert Salter Commanded the troops he was with who got to a bridge on the north Coast River of Cape Fear. That Col. Richard Caswell commanded another party of men who got to Moore's Creek Bridge, where the said Tories attempted to cross and were totally defeated [February 27, 1776] when we all returned home perhaps in one month. I then was appointed Quarter Master. These were the first troops that I believed marched in this state after the war commenced and expect it was the year 1775 or in the early part of the year 1776. I was then a short time in the Continental Line of this State acting as Surgeon's Mate under Dr. Asher. In the year 1779 as I believe I was appointed Surgeon to a Regiment raised by the State of North Carolina. That John Herritage was Col. and John Allen Major of said Regiment. That Bryan Whitefield, William Herritage, Herring and John Garland, Shadrach Allen, John Isler, & Gideon Edwards were Captains, and Benjamin Caswell Captain of Cavalry belonging to said Regiment, that they went across Pee Dee River perhaps two hundred miles from their homes; that they were some months employed in taking those Tories who had refused to comply with the laws of the State and would not take the oath of Allegiance. They then went to Fort Caswell below New Bern, which [was] erected to prevent small armed vessels of the Enemy from committing depredations on said Town. They afterwards removed to the neighborhood of Kinston where they mostly remained until discharged by the Legislature or the Governor's orders, which I believe, was in November, the

time I acted as Surgeon I think was about nine months. The next service I entered in was in I think August 1780, when Gates [Horatio Gates] went to the South there were about eighty men turned out volunteers in the County of Pitt under Col. James Graham to aid Genl. Gates but before we had gone far we met men that were in Gates' defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]. We continued on until we joined the remains of the defeated army at Ramsey Mills on Deep River in this State then under the command of Gen. Jethro Sumner who was a Brigadier in the Continental Line, James Cole Montfloreance was his aide. He gave me appointment of Surgeon General. Which I went and returned, because I was young and there was several Surgeons on the Continental establishment who had been several years in service. He then gave me an appointment as Surgeon to the Army as he said the Doctors he believed that were there were inattentive to their duty and some of them drank hard. We moved towards South Carolina and a few miles below Charlotte in Mecklenburg County near the South Carolina line, a reconnoitering party of ours took some British prisoners when we found we were near Cornwallis. We then retreated next day, our Horse had a skirmish at Charlotte, some were killed and several wounded. We retreated on this side [of] the Yadkin [River] where we lay a considerable time and where I kept a Hospital and continued until reduced by excessive fatigue and our times all nearly expired, which was three months. I then had orders from the General to discharge the sick and then come on home with them, which I did accordingly. I was a short time out when Lord Cornwallis passed through our State. Whilst I kept the hospital above Col. Washington [William Washington] with his Regiment of Horse and Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan] passed on by us. It would take up too much time to mention all the officers I then knew, suffice it to say General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] commanded the Horse, and William R. Davie was Col. of a Regiment of Horse, our whole numbers were about two thousand men, as I believe.

I know of no person now living nor have I any documents to prove the foregoing facts, only forepart of the time. Willis Willson who was in Captain Benjamin Caswell's company of Cavalry in the State Regiment was then with me and has known me ever since. We have never been on any pension list and hereby relinquish all claims to any such.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day above.

S/ Robert Williams



S/ Archd. Parker, Clk.

I Willis Willson of the State of North Carolina and County of Pitt do certify that I have long been acquainted with Dr. Robert Williams and that he did act as Surgeon to a Regiment raised for the State commanded by Colonel John Herritage and that time he acted was about nine months and that he the said Williams has been a resident of Pitt County nearly ever since I have known him and that I believe him to be about 74 years old & believed him to be a man of veracity.

S/ Willis Willson,<sup>1</sup> X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed this ninth of August 1832.

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<sup>1</sup> [Willis Wilson W6531](#)

S/ Archd. Parker, Clk.

[William Clark, a clergyman, and John Joiner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 21]

State of North Carolina Pitt County:

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1833 Personally appeared before me Hugh Telfair one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, William Jordan and maketh oath that he served in the company of Horse during the Revolutionary War commanded by Captain John Salter in the months of August, September and October in the year 1780 and that Robert Williams acted during that time as Surgeon, and that he left him in the Army when he quit it, that William R Davie was Colonel of the Horse, \_\_ Sumner General and \_\_ Seawell Colonel of Infantry, which this declarant declares his true and correct to the best of his recollection.

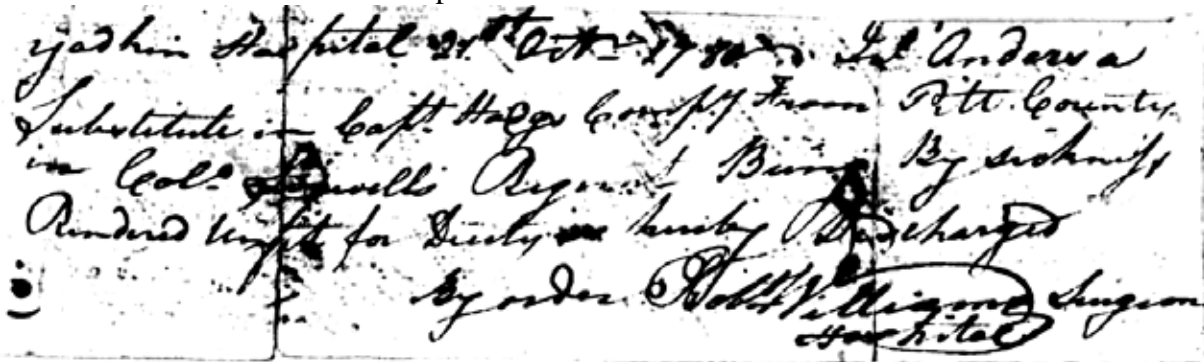
S/ Wm Jordan



[p 23]

Yadkin hospital 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1780 Jnl [?] Anders [sic] a Substitute in Captain Hodgs Company from Pitt County in Colonel Seawell's Regiment Being by sickness rendered unfit for Duty is hereby Discharged

by order Robert Williams, Surgeon  
Hospital



Yadkin Hospital 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1780 Jnl Anders a Substitute in Capt. Hodgs Company from Pitt County in Col. Seawell's Regiment Being by sickness rendered unfit for Duty is hereby Discharged by order Robert Williams Surgeon Hospital

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State of North Carolina Pitt County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term say 7<sup>th</sup> August 1833.

Personally appeared in open court Robert Williams of the same State & County and after being duly sworn saith that the statement here with appended or annexed, containing a statement of his services rendered during the Revolutionary War dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1832 is correct so far as he believes, but as a specified time is required to be given, and as he has no documents to enable him to say with precision the exact time he did serve in the State Regiment of North Carolina as set forth to have been in the year 1779, he believes it to have been nine months, but can venture to say it could not lack ten days of that time. That for his services

charged as a surgeon in 1780 under General Sumner for three months, he can venture to say it could not want more than five days (if any) of being three months from the time he left home until he returned again. And although at the time of making out the said claim, he had no knowledge of any person by whom he could make any further proof of his services there charged [?] yet after these papers was made up the same Court Mr. John Anderson came into Court, produced a discharge Given by me the said Robert Williams as surgeon to Yadkin hospital 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1780 which is here with sent, with such other proofs respecting the services he performed as hereafter appears.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day above

S/ Archibald Parker, CC

S/ Robert Williams

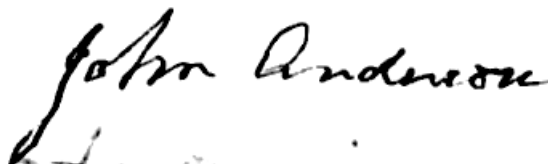
On the same day appeared John Anderson<sup>2</sup> in open court and being duly sworn saith that he the said John Anderson is now in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age, that he has been well acquainted with Doctor Robert Williams for the time of the service in which he received his discharge from the said Robert Williams until the present time, that that I believe he is nearly about 75 years of age, I also swear that the discharge given by him to me was at Yadkin Hospital that I have kept the same ever since which discharge reads as follows.

Yadkin hospital 21<sup>st</sup> October 1780 John Anderson a substitute in Captain Hodge's Company from Pitt County in Colonel Seawell's Regiment being by sickness Rendered unfit for Duty is hereby discharged.

By order of Robert Williams surgeon of Hospital

And that the said discharge is in the hand writing of said Robert Williams, and further saith that although he cannot state the precise time the said Robert Williams was on service the said tour but am confident it could not want more than ten days of three months, and further saith that from the time the troops met with General Sumner and his Troops which was the first stop was made after leaving Pitt County, the said Robert Williams acted as surgeon and was the principal one at the said Yadkin hospital, and that he supposes the said Hospital was about 200 miles from Pitt County where they resided.

S/ John Anderson



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On the same day appeared John Kinsaul<sup>3</sup> in open Court and being duly sworn saith that he the said John was a Soldier in Captain Herring's company in the North Carolina State Regiment in the year 1779 that John Herritage was Colonel of said Regiment and John Allen Major, that he recollects that Bryan Whitfiel [Bryan Whitfield?] was a Captain, Shadrach Allen, John Garland, William Herritage, Gideon Edwards, that Benjamin Caswell was Captain of a troop of Horse but does not remember Captain Inles, that William Whitfield was Commissary Robert White paymaster that Richard Timberlake was Sergeant major and Benjamin Hodges adjutant and that Robert Williams the person here claiming was Surgeon to said Regiment and there was none other, and that he served until said Regiment was discharged which he believes to be not less than 9 months.

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<sup>2</sup> [Willis Wilson W6531](#)

<sup>3</sup> [John Kinsaul \(Kensaul\) S8790](#)

S/ John Kinsaul, X his mark

[p 34: very faint image of the following document]

Deposition of Thomas Phillips<sup>4</sup> taken at his own house the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 1833 who after having been duly sworn to depose to the truth touching & concerning what he knows as to the services of Doctor Robert Williams in the Revolutionary War saith as follows:

That he was in service in the State Regiment with Doctor Robert Williams in the year 1779 which Regiment was called for twelve months: but was discharged perhaps a little before the expiration of that time – that John Herritage was Colonel, John Allen Major, Bryan Whitfield, John Garland, \_\_\_ Herritage, William Herritage, John Isle, Gideon Edwards & Shadrach Allen was captains of Infantry & Benjamin Caswell Captain of a troop of horse, William Whitfield was commissary, Robert White pay master & the said Doctor Williams was Surgeon to said Regiment. We went over Pedee River a few miles then recrossed the River and went among the Tories caught many of them who took the oath of allegiance; we was some time encamped at a place where we had nearly nothing to eat but parched corn & which place we called parched corn hill – from thence we went to Fort Caswell below New Bern where we remained some months, then moved up the River & encamped near Cobbs Mills for some time – The whole of the time amounting to about nine months, that I was in Service with said Doctor Williams – and I believe that said Williams was the only Surgeon in our Company during that time – and I further believe that the said Doctor Williams now living in Pitt County is the identical person as is [this document ends at this point. There is no evidence that the affiant actually signed the affidavit.]

[p 9: Copy of the last will and testament of Robert Williams of Pitt County in which he names his daughter Harriet Joiner (to whom he lends Negroes, Nan, Mary, Sabra and man William); daughters Adeline and Martha; daughter, Marietta Dilia Ann Eliza Singetary [sic] (to whom he gave all the Negroes and their increase that he has possessed her with along with a man named Joshua); Son Robert Franklin John Heywood Williams; daughter Elizabeth E Freeman and her 2 children John Ivey & Robert Richards (Negroes Foreman, Lewis, Sillar and her seven children, Maria and her three children); granddaughter Polly Ann Haughton daughter of John Haughton, Jr. (Negro man Ben his wife Ellen and her four children, young woman Uginia); son Richard Williams; daughter Elizabeth Foreman [sic, Freeman]; 'younger children' Richard, Emily A., & Adeline E. Williams. He named his "beloved sons, Robert F. J. H. Williams and Richard Williams" as his executors. The will is dated August 24, 1836.]

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State of North Carolina Lenore County

Personally appeared before me Pinckney Hardee a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Benjamin Cox,<sup>5</sup> who after having been duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth and saith as follows: viz.

That he was in service in the Revolutionary War in the state Regiment with Doctor Robert Williams in the year 1779, which Regiment was raised for 12 months: but was discharged perhaps before that time; that John Herritage was Colonel, John Allen Major, Bryan Whitfield, John Garland, Harmon Herring, William Herritage, John Isle, Gideon Edwards and

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<sup>4</sup> Perhaps the same man as [Thomas Phillips W5533](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Benjamin Cox S2440](#)

Shadrach Allen was captains of Infantry & Benjamin Caswell, Captain of a troop of horse; William Whitfield was commissary. Robert White pay master & the said Doctor Williams was Surgeon to said Regiment –

We went over Pedee River in pursuit of the Tories & caught many of them, but the principal one named Garns made his escape & fled over the mountains: we were sometime encamped at a place called Parched corn Hill, from our having nothing to eat while there but parched corn, which place was near Ramsay's Mills; from thence we marched to Fort Caswell below New Bern, where we remained sometime, then moved up & encamped near Cobbs Mills, where there was a good deal of sickness in our camp: and in which the said Doctor Williams was our only physician; and the said Williams was the only physician that was in our Regiment during the whole of the time, that we were in service together: which time amounted to something like nine months – and I further believe that the said Doctor Williams now residing in Pitt County is the identical person as aforesaid; having frequently heard from him ever since our services together – and that I the said Benjamin Cox was in service with Thomas Phillips, during the above specified time & that I am now on the pension roll of this State and receive regularly a pension from Government.

S/ Benjamin Cox, X his mark

[p 4: Finding by the clerk of court of Wake County in Raleigh North Carolina December 19, 1846 in which the clerk states that he is well acquainted with the surviving children of the late Doctor Robert Williams of Pitt County and that they are Robert F. J. H. Williams, Harriet Joyner, Elizabeth E. Freeman, Emily A. [?] Joyner, Richard Williams & Adeline E Williams.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$240 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831 for service as a surgeon in the North Carolina troops. His pension was later increased to \$300 per annum and ended October 12, 1840 when he died.]