

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Williams S7928

f14NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/6/17

[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 4]

State of North Carolina, County of Nash: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions May Term

On this the 14<sup>th</sup> of May in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court Court [sic] now sitting, Benjamin Williams, a resident of the County of Nash and State of North Carolina aged seventy-six years four months and sixteen days 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated --

In the year 1780 he was drafted for three months and served four months. His company was commanded by Captain John Peterson, H. Vincent Lieutenant and John Coy Ensign, he joined his Company at Halifax N. C. and marched through Halifax, Nash, Franklin, Wake & Counties to Ramsey's Mill on Deep River, from thence to South Carolina, under General William Caswell. After we went into South Carolina, General Gates [Horatio Gates] took the command of the Army. He was in the battle of Camden<sup>1</sup> where the American Troops were defeated under General Gates he was drafted for three months but owing to the troublesome times he was persuaded on by his officers to serve longer and served four [could be five] months – he received a discharge from Colonel Long but has lost the same has been lost or mislaid [sic].

He entered the Army again on the \_\_ of \_\_ in the year 1781 his company was commanded by Captain Brevard in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel Robert Peoples, he joined the Army at Halifax North Carolina and marched up the country in various directions and then turned South to Cross Creek, where we received about 50 British prisoners, we carried the prisoners to New Bern but the Jail there being full, we then carried them to Halifax Jail and in a few days we then carried them to Prince Edward Court House in the State of Virginia because the British was coming on towards Halifax. He served three months this time. After leaving the Army in the revolution he returned to his home in Northampton [County] where he resided a few years and then moved to Halifax County North Carolina and afterwards to Warren County, but for the last 17 or 18 years he has resided in the County of Nash where he now resides. He further states that he has no documentary evidence in support of his declaration, nor does he know of any person now living that can testify to the facts set forth herein. 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. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

Attest: S/ Benj. H. Blount, CCC

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1 The Battle of Camden (a/k/a the Battle of Gates Defeat) was fought on August 15-16, 1780 near Camden, SC.

S/ Benjamin Williams, X his mark

[Philemon Bennet, a clergyman and John Arrington, both residents of Nash County gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The following questions were propounded by the Court in the following answers given --  
Question 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: Agreeably to the record of my age I was born in the County of Northampton North Carolina on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1756.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: My age was recorded in a book. On a late examination I discerned it was torn out and it is lost or mislaid so I have no record of my age, but well remember it was entered as above stated, i.e., on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December 1756.

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: When I entered the service I lived in the County of Northampton North Carolina when I left the service I returned to the same County and there lived a few years afterwards I removed to the County of Halifax and in that County in the County of Warren, and a while in the County of Franklin, then I removed to Nash where I have lived 17 or 18 years and where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer: I was drafted both times.

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: in addition to those already mentioned I recollect General Allen Jones, General W. Caswell, son of old General Caswell [Richard Caswell], Major Dick Caswell and Colonel John Pugh Williams.

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I received a discharge and the first Tour from Colonel Long at have lost it. In the second Tour I was discharged verbally it being near the close of the war I received no written discharge.

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer: Frederick Battle and George Cooper

We whose names are hereunto subscribed understanding that Benjamin Williams of this County intends to apply for a pension to which he is entitled under the act of the last session of Congress granting pensions to certain persons engaged in the military service of the United States during the revolutionary war. And being requested by the said Williams to give a certificate of his character and standing we take pleasure in saying that we have been well acquainted with him for a great number of years and that he has always sustained an excellent character for honesty and truth and we believe him entitled to full credit on his oath of affirmation. It may be proper to the add that we have frequently heard him speak of his being engaged in the revolutionary war long before there was any expectation of pensions being granted. Nash County September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1832.

James N. Mann

Matthew Culpeper

Wm Burt  
Wm Drake  
J. H. Drake  
Henry Arrington  
Segeran [illegible last name]  
George Evans

J.S. Arrington, Jr.  
Willie Bunting

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina service.]