

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas P. Williams S7940

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/14/17

[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 'indecipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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North Carolina, Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

On this date the 19th of July 1832 Personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas P. Williams a Resident of the County & State aforesaid aged about Seventy 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 Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – Viz. -- That he entered the service in the year __ as a volunteer under Captain William Wall, Thomas Crawford Colonel and served under him considerably over twelve months, but the precise length of time is not remembered during which service he was in sundry engagements with the Tories that he served as a volunteer under Captain Gordon [Charles Gordon] for three months in the State troops were chiefly in Chatham County, that he served as a volunteer three months under Captain Easterling [William Easterling]¹ chiefly in Richmond County, that he served pretty generally during the War at the least two years, but is unable to name all his Captains, that he could prove by Lott Strickland of the County that said Strickland saw him frequently in service during the War and that said Strickland would swear to the best of his belief that said Williams served at least two years but that said Strickland having been quite recently thrown from his Horse he is so far disabled that he cannot be produced in Court – the affiant resided in this County at the time of entering the Service and has continued to reside here ever since. He would further state that the reason why the Militia in this part of the Country were kept so constantly in Service was that there unfortunately existed here an enemy within as well as without, the whole of the Surrounding Country being infested by a large Body of Tories who were continually committing murder and various depredations on the Whigs and who became particularly troublesome when the defeat² of General Gates [Horatio Gates] inspired their base and disaffected hearts with the hope of success to the armies of their Good Master his Majesty King George the 3rd.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a Pension or Annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State – he further states that he could prove by Captain Easterling a service of three months under him. Said Easterling being a resident of another State it is inconvenient to procure him in Court.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ M. D. Crawford, Clerk

S/ Thomas P. Williams

¹ Probably [William Easterling \(Esterling\) R14028](#)

² Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780

I Mastin D. Crawford a Clergyman residing near Rockingham Richmond County hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Thomas P. Williams who assigned [?] the above declaration that he is reported and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that I concur in that opinion.

S/ M. D. Crawford

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North Carolina Richmond County

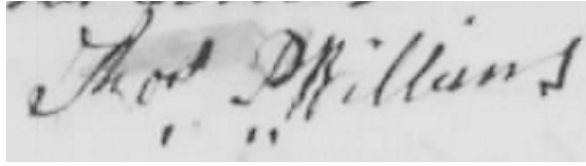
This the 11th day of December 1833, before F. T. Leak, a Justice of the Peace in & for said County town came Thomas P. Williams, who, being duly sworn, makes the following statements in reference to the objections taken by the War department to the 12 months service alleged by him under Captain William Wall in the War of the Revolution. The objections of the Department seem to go to the fact and to the character of said service. With regard to the first objection, the Declarant deposes, that he volunteered as a private at two several times under Captain Wall. The first time was for a period of three months, which he faithfully served. The next was for the residue of the War as a minute man, by which engagement he bound himself to repair to the standard of his Country whenever required so to do by his Captain. Whilst under this latter engagement, which was entered into shortly after the expiration of the three months service first stated, the Declarant was frequently called out by his Captain; and continued out sometimes for a month, sometimes for a longer, & sometimes for a shorter period. Some 9 or 12 months (nine at the least) after this latter volunteering as a minute man, the declarant, with the consent of Captain Wall, attached himself to a troop of Horse under Captain Easterling, under whom he served three months, as stated in a former declaration. Although the Declarant was not actually in the field during the whole of the nine months he served under Captain Wall as a minute man, yet he was bound to quit his home, at any time, upon the requisition of his Captain, and as these requisitions were so frequent as to suspend all other business, he would therefore respectfully maintain that he is entitled to compensation for the whole nine months. If, however, the Department should think otherwise, & should determine that compensation is due only for the time the Declarant was actually under arms, he hereby deposes, that he was thus in actual duty, in the course of those nine months, three months at the least.

The other objection of the Department is to the character of the service. By this objection the Department is understood as doubting the authority of Captain Wall to have acted as Captain. At this distant day it surely cannot be expected, that the Declarant should be asked, as proof of said authority, to establish to the Department the Commission of Captain Wall, or to show directly that any Commission did, in fact, ever exist. The only evidence which it is in the power of the Declarant to offer on that point is the fact that Captain Wall did act as Captain, & that he was then believed, and has ever since been reputed, to have been legally authorized to act as such. These are facts which the Declarant could establish (could he conveniently see them) by at least a half dozen witnesses; but it is hoped & believed that the subjoined affidavit of Walter Leak Senior, who resides in this neighborhood, will be satisfactory on that point.

In conclusion the declarant would remark, that if the Department should still doubt the propriety of embracing the 12 months service alleged under Captain Wall, or any part thereof, in the computation of the length of his services, he hereby waives all claim for compensation for the whole or any part of said time (according to the decision of the Department) – and this he does not because of any doubt of his own with regard either to the fact or the character of the service objected to, but partly because he is heartily tired of urging, as no doubt the Department is of examining, the claim; and chiefly because, being very old, infirm & poor he is very much in present need of the pittance, whatever it may be, that may be allowed him for his other services.

Test: S/ F. T. Leak, JP

S/ Thos. P. Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. P. Williams".

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Walter Leak,³ a Revolutionary pensioner, maketh oath that he was personally acquainted with William Wall as early as the Revolutionary War & from that time to the time of the said Wall's death. That said Wall acted as Captain during part of said War, & afterwards as Major; & that he was then believed to be, & has ever since been reputed to have been a legally constituted officer.

S/ Walter Leak

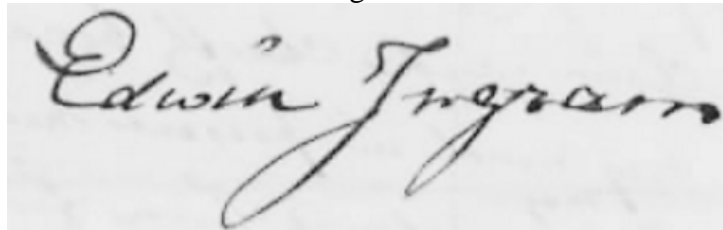
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Leak".

Test: S/ F. T. Leak, JP

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Edwin Ingram⁴ a Revolutionary soldier maketh oath that he was personally acquainted with William Wall as early as the Revolutionary War, & from that time to the time of his death; That said Wall acted as Captain during part of said War, & afterwards as Major; and that he was then believed to be, & has ever since been reputed to have been, paid legally appointed officer.

S/ Edwin Ingram

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin Ingram".

Test: S/ F. T. Leak, JP

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North Carolina, Richmond County

William Thomas⁵ came into Court and made oath that he was well acquainted with Thomas P. Williams during the War that he saw him frequently in the Service and believes he was pretty generally in service during the last five years of the War.

Test: S/ M. D. Crawford, Clk

S/ William Thomas⁶

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North Carolina Richmond County

Personally appeared before F. T. Leak a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Thomas P. Williams, who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that, by reason of old age, & the

³ [Walter Leak S7136](#)

⁴ [Edwin Ingram S9741](#)

⁵ [William Thomas S7711](#)

⁶ Not the actual signature of the veteran—clerk's copy

Consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service; but, according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades, viz.: for three months he served under Captain Edward Williams (Thomas Crawford Colonel) as a private, chiefly in Richmond County; for 12 months, he served under Captain William Wall (Thomas Crawford Colonel) as a private, in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond & Cumberland Counties, but chiefly in Richmond; for three months, he served under Captain William Easterling (Thomas Crawford Colonel) as a private, chiefly in Richmond: for three months he served under Captain Gordon as a private, chiefly in Richmond --: & for said service I claim a pension.

The Deponent further states that, in consequence of the very impaired state of his memory, he had, in his original declaration, erroneously represented his service as commencing under Captain Wall, whereas he is now satisfied that it began, as represented above under Captain Williams. He would further explain, that, in consequence of his alluding to the fact of Captain Gordon's residence in Chatham County, he was misapprehended by the gentleman who drew up his original declaration as alleging that his service was rendered in that County, whereas it was rendered, as represented above, and Richmond County.

S/ F. T. Leak, JP

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North Carolina Richmond County

Personally appeared before F. T. Leak, a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid, Thomas P. Williams, who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that the 12 months Service under Captain Wall, stated in his amended declaration, & to which the Department has taken exception, did not consist of one continuous period of service, but of several. From the lapse of time & consequent loss of memory he cannot state certainly the number & length of those several periods – but he feels himself justified in saying that it was made up of several different terms, amounting altogether to 12 months at the least.

As to the nature of his service it consisted in defending his Country from the Tories. He was at the capturing of several parties of Tories, one at Drowning Creek in this County, and another near Deep River in Randolph County. He assisted two or three times in carrying the prisoners, so taken, to Salisbury, in this State. He further states that during the whole time of the various periods of service of aged, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Sworn to & subscribed before me at Rockingham the 29th October 1833.

S/ F. T. Leak, JP

S/ Thos. P. Williams

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$32.50 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]