

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Williams¹ W26060 Nancy fn62VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 9/22/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 18]

The State of Virginia Surry County, to wit

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before us the Court of Surry County aforesaid now sitting John Williams Senior, a resident of the County of Surry aforesaid, & State of Virginia, aged seventy-one 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated – that he was born in Charles County, Maryland then a resident of this County before & ever since the Revolution – That in the year 1778 he entered the service at Surry Court house, under the command of Captain William Edwards, & thence marched to Hog Island in said County where he was stationed at & served there & on the banks of James River, a tour of six weeks & in the same year, served another tour of six weeks under command of Captain Willis Wilson, met at Surry Court house & marched to Lawns Creek in said County, where he was stationed – and in the year 1779 he served another tour of six weeks, under the command of Captain Jacob Faulcon, met at Surry Court house, & thence marched to Bab's old field [Babbs Old Field] in Isle of Wight County, & there joined the 4th Regiment of Virginia militia, commanded by Colonel Bock Wells [Buck Wells? or Book Wells or Book Wills?]- & in the same year he served another tour of six weeks under Captain William Bailey, met at Surry Courthouse and marched to Babs where he was stationed – & in the same year, he served a third tour of six weeks under command of Captain Lemuel Cocke, met at Surry Court house, & thence marched to Babs old field in Isle of Wight County – the Regiment being then commanded by Colonel Blunt [Benjamin Blunt] – the whole year Major Ewell of the Continental Army had likewise a command there – and in the same year he served a fourth tour of six weeks, in the same County of Isle of Wight under the command of Captain Thomas Fearne [Thomas Fearn] of said County was stationed at the Cyprus Mills below Smithfield in said County, the Regiment being then commanded by Colonel Book Wells and Major Thomas Wells [Thomas Wills] – & in the same year he served a fifth tour of six weeks under the command of Captain Emanuel Wells [Emanuel Wills] brother of the said Colonel & Major Wells, & marched to the said place the Cyprus Mills, when the said Colonel Book Wells & Major Wells commanded, occasionally Colonel Josiah Parker had command for a short period at this place the Cyprus Mills, they were stationed, from which they frequently made short excursions to Suffolk in Nansimon [Nansemond] County, & to Shoulders Hill below Suffolk and to South Quay. In the year 1781

¹ BLWt26743-160-55

about September, he enlisted under Captain Anthony Diggs – rendezvoused at Surry Courthouse, thence marched to Hog Island in said County, at which place crossed James River, & marched on to the old field adjoining York Town – he has no recollection of the name of the Regiment to which he was attached or the name of the Colonel who commanded it, but Major William Boyce commanded as Major. He served there until Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington, and then was transferred to the Company commanded by Captain or Lieutenant Josiah Wilson and marched as a Guard with the prisoners taken at York Town, to the Barracks several miles beyond the Town of Winchester in Virginia & there they were relieved by the County Militia – thence marched to the town of Winchester where he was late in the month of November finally discharged, making a tour of 2 1/2 months – the whole Service taking a period of at least one year of actual service – He was in service nearly three years, he was then young & made the Army his home – as one period of duty would expire, he did often forthwith reenlist – but having no recollection of the names of all of the captains, under whom he served, he has chosen to fall greatly below the time he actually served rather than to run the risk of going one day beyond it. Since the above was written the said John Williams recollects & states that in 1779 he served a tour of six weeks under Captain Henry Pitt of Isle of Wight stationed at Cyprus Mills in said County attached to the same Regiment which was commanded by Colonel Book Wells – & in the same year served another tour of six weeks under Captain Thomas Wrenn of said County of Isle of Wight stationed at that place last mentioned, & was commanded by the same Colonel. That he was in a small skirmish with the enemy on Lawns Creek as he thinks about 1781, when the enemy descended the said Creek, and burnt to ships, one belonging to Major Samuel Hardy of Isle of Wight & the belonging to Anthony Diggs the Captain heretofore named – the whole service making thus at least 15 months – that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony who can testify to his whole service. 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 & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Williams Senior

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Williams Senior". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Beverly Booth, a clergyman, and Thomas Browne gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: the veteran died in Surry County Virginia August 9, 1833; he married in Surry County Virginia, November 1, 1824 Nancy Holloway; she was allowed a pension on her application signed June 26, 1854 while living in Surry County Virginia, aged 79 years; the following children survived their father: Mary Ann, Susannah & Nancy Williams.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$39 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months 21 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]