

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Williams W26063 Bidianee (Bediana) Williams f64NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 2/10/17

[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.]

[p 9]

State of North Carolina, Duplin County: SS

On this the twenty day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Duplin County August Term 1833 Stephen Williams a resident of said County of Duplin and State aforesaid aged sixty-eight years and nine months who first being 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, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1780 under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulten [John Moulton].

That he entered the service under Captain Aaron Williams, Lieutenant Joseph Williams, John Goff, Ensign, that he does not recollect the day or month that he entered the service but that it was in August or September, he rather thinks it was in September because he helped to save some fodder as he returned from Goshen and because he had been in service he thinks five or six months he thinks six therefore he heard of the battle at or near Guilford Court House between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis. That he left this Tour of service, the last of October or first of November, that he resided in Duplin County North Carolina about fifteen miles from Duplin old Court House when he entered the service, that he was in no battle during this Tour of service: that he enlisted for three months though more properly speaking he was a volunteer that he rendezvoused at Joseph Williams', that he was marched from thence up the North East River to the mouth of Maxwell's Creek thence down said River to one Captain Razette's [?],¹ that he marched from thence back to the place of rendezvous in pursuit of Tories. That he marched to Bull Tail Swamp and up said swamp to its head, that from thence he marched to Island Creek thence up and down said Creek in pursuit of Tories, that from thence he marched to Black River in New Hanover County thence back to Rockfish that he then marched back to Black River the second time, that after crossing Black River he marched to one Mrs. Mary Devane's where we took seven Tories prisoners who were sent to Duplin old Court House and after being kept under guard several days they were sent to Halifax jail, that he stood as a guard in part to keep the Tories, that he assisted in taking of the Tories and marched as one of the guard to Duplin old Court House, that we marched to Rockfish, that his marches during the Tour of service were in New Hanover and Duplin Counties in pursuit of Tories. That he marched to the

Razette's

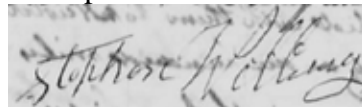
places already mentioned he thinks about 10 times, that his marches were confined in this tour to those routes ordered by General Kenan.

That he entered the service again under the aforementioned officers viz. Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Aaron Williams Captain, James Williams Lieutenant, John Goff Ensign that he entered this tour of service in the year 1780 and he thinks in the first of November because he entered the service as soon as his first tour had expired, he knows it was in 1780 because he had been in service five or six months before he heard of the battle between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis in March that he left this Tour of service he thinks in December 1781 because it was after the capture of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], that he served in this second and last Tour he thinks 13 or 14 months that he still resided in Duplin County North Carolina on Rockfish Creek about 15 miles from Duplin old Court House; that he was a light horseman, that his entrance with the service was called enlisting though more properly speaking he was a volunteer that he enlisted to serve as long as his Captain viz. Aaron Williams would serve or till the end of the war; that he served until the militia in this (Duplin County) was discharged; that he rendezvoused in the first at Duplin old Court House; that from thence he marched to Bear Swamp, that from thence he marched to Goshen Bridge that here he was routed by the British, that he retreated to Neuse River to one Mr. Joseph Green's on the river bank in Wayne County, that the British desisted pursuit, that he marched to Nawhunta [sic, Nahunta] at Colonel Axcomb's [sic? Exum?]; that he marched to Captain Raiford's on Little River in Wayne County: that he marched down Little River to one Arthur Jonekins [sic, Jenkins?], that he marched up Neuse River to Basses Ferry and crossed at that place that he marched down new River to Falling Creek in Wayne County and from thence to Duplin old Court House, that the above marches were in pursuit of Tories, that he marched to Black River in New Hanover County and of said Black River to Colonel Thomas Duane's in pursuit of Tories, that he marched to Island Creek, and from thence to Maxwell Creek and from thence up the North East River in pursuit of Tories, that he marched several times to the North East and Black Rivers, that [he] marched to Bull Swamp the dividing line between New Hanover and Duplin Counties. That he marched down the North East River towards Wilmington to reconnoiter the British line, that a place called the Red House 12 or 15 miles from Wilmington in New Hanover County at this place he met Generals Rutherford and Butler – that he joined their Regiments and marched with them to New Bern the distance being about 90 or 100 miles as a guard to their baggage wagons, that on his way back from New Bern to Duplin soon after he crossed Trent River he heard of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army at Yorktown Virginia. That Generals Rutherford & Butler were United States officers, that he served with Captain Hardy Holmes of the Continental line at Duplin old Court House two or three weeks, that previous to his march to New Bern with Generals Rutherford & Butler's regiments he marched down the North East River to a place called the Red [? House?] in New Hanover County about 12 miles from Wilmington to meet Col. William Washington's Regiment of Cavalry of the Continental line that he joined Colonel Washington's Regiment of Cavalry which in a short time marched towards South Carolina – that he served with and knew Generals Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and Butler] John Butler] and their Regiments, that he knew Hardy Holmes, that he has no documentary evidence but can prove 12 or 13 months of this last tour of service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any Agency in this State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen Williams", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Test:

S/ Jno. Watkins, Clerk

[George W. Hufham, a clergyman, and Alfred Ward gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Interrogatories proposed by said Court to Stephen Williams and applicant for a pension on account of Revolutionary Services.

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: On Rockfish Duplin County North Carolina in 1764

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

Ans: I have, it is at my brother John Williams.

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

Ans: In Duplin County N. C.

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

Ans: I enlisted as a volunteer in all my service

5th 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.

Ans: Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Generals Rutherford & Butler and their Regiments, Col. William Washington and his Regiment of Cavalry and Captain Hardy Holmes all of the Continental line, except Col. James Kenan and Major John Moulton who were Militia officers. Of the militia officers and regiments Captain David Dodd, Pipkins, Devane, Williams and their regiments, the general Circumstances of my service are stated in the above declaration

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

Ans: I received two verbal discharges by Captain Aaron Williams

7th 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.

Ans; Reverend William Wells, River in George W. Hufham, how Ward, Esquire, William W. Rivenbark, Gibson Sloan Esq., Williams and the others I could name.

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On this the 20th day of August 1833 personally appeared before Alfred Ward and William W. Rivenbark two of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Duplin N. C. Briton Powel² a witness in behalf of Stephen Williams an applicant for a pension on account of revolutionary services who first being sworn according to law deposeth as follows, viz.

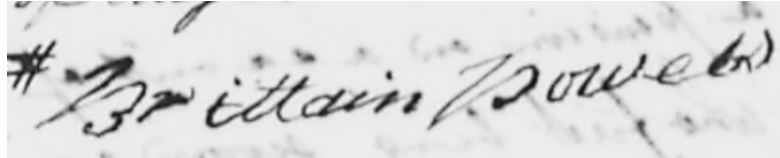
That in the year of 1780 Stephen Williams entered the service of the United States, that he entered the service under Colonel James Kenan, Major John Moulton, Captain Aaron Williams, Joseph Williams Lieutenant, John Goff, Ensign, that he served he thinks from the best of his recollection about 12 or 13 months in the company with me, that he was in service probably five or six months previous to our hearing of the battle between General Greene and Lord Cornwallis at or near Guilford Court House and that he served and marched with our company (viz. Captain Williams's) until after the Capture of Lord Cornwallis, because they were returning from New Bern, and soon after they had crossed Trent River, they received this intelligence, that he served after this but cannot recall how long, but the hostilities seemed to

2 [Britain \(Briton, Brittain\) Powel \(Powell\) W4768](#)

have ceased in the last of 1781 or first of 1782, that they left the service when all the Militia in this (Duplin) County were discharged, that our marches are recorded in the body of the preceding declaration. Sworn to and subscribed this 20th day of August 1833.

S/ Wm. W. Rivenbark, JP

S/ Brittain Powell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "# Brittain Powell". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ A. Ward, JP

[p 4]

State of North Carolina, Duplin County

On this 14th day of November A.D. 1845 personally appeared before me W. R. Ward one of the acting Magistrates in and for said County Bidianee Williams a resident of said County & State, Age 85 Years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838 "Entitled an granting half pay and Pensions to certain Widows" and also the Acts of March the 3rd 1843, and of the 17th of June 1844. That she is the Widow of the late Stephen Williams of the State & County aforesaid who died on the 19th day of January A.D. 1841 aged 77 years and seven months who was a private of Cavalry in the War of the Revolution, and served as such in the Militia of North Carolina and in the Continental Service for the period of nine months under Captain Aaron Williams, Col. Kenan & general Lillington as she has frequently heard her husband say but does not remember the exact date but remembers it [was] about the time of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and near the Close of the War.

She further declared that she was married to said Stephen Williams in the Summer of the year 1786 and she herewith sends the marriage license as the best record she can procure proving that fact. That her husband the aforesaid Stephen Williams died on the 19th day of January in the year 1841, that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place before the first day of January 1794 that he is at the time above stated, that she has resided in Rockfish District Duplin County about 60 years. Previous to this time she resided in New Hanover County N. C. that she is herewith sends the deposition of James Blanton³ a Revolutionary Pensioner to prove his Stephen Williams, service in the deposition of Robert Knoles – to prove her marriage to and having lived with said Stephen Williams her late husband and that she has not since intermarried but continues to be a Widow as by the depositions here with transmitted will more fully appear.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year first-above written.

S/ W. R. Ward, JP

S/ Bidianee Williams, X her mark

[p 7: Robert Knoles, 68, a resident of Duplin County gave a supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina, Duplin County

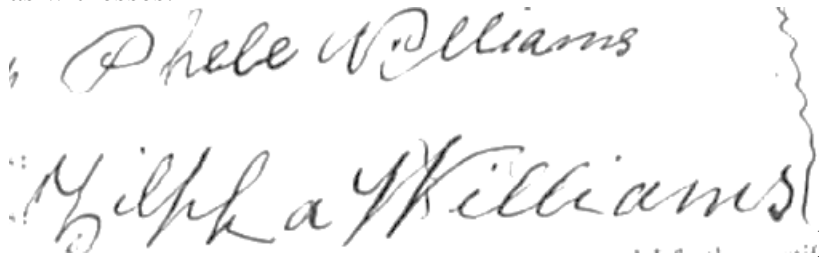
This day personally appeared before me William R. Ward one of the acting Magistrates in & for the County aforesaid, James Blanton a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States aged 83 years & seven months who being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God does depose and say that he has lived in Duplin County for the space of 70 odd years, that he was

acquainted (familiarily) with Stephen Williams late of said County ever since he (Stephen Williams) entered the Service of the War of the Revolution, as a private in a Company of Cavalry (or horse) Commanded by Aaron Williams Captain, about the first of April of the year in which Cornwallis was taken and continued in the Service till about the middle of November of that year, making about seven & a half months during which the said James Blanton and said Stephen Williams served together in the company of Cavalry commanded by Aaron Williams Captain our Superior Officers being Col. Kenan & General Lillington, that the said Stephen Williams was not married til after the War was over that the said Stephen Williams was married to Bidianee Williams who is the person now making application for a pension some two or three years after the Close of the Revolution and he is certain it was previous to the year 1794 that he was acquainted with said Stephen Williams till the time of his death some four or five years since and that Bidianee is his widow whom he married sometime between 1780 and 1790 and has not since intermarried but continues to be a widow.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of November A.D. 1845.
S/ W. R. Ward, JP

S/ James Blanton, X his mark

[p 22: On October 30, 1852 in Duplin County North Carolina, Elizabeth Williams, 63, executed a power of attorney in which she states she is the daughter of Bidiana Williams at applicant for a pension. She signed this document with her mark. Phebe Williams and Zilpha Williams served as witnesses.



The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads "Phebe Williams" and the bottom signature reads "Zilpha Williams". Both signatures are enclosed in a decorative, wavy border.

[p 24: order dated January 17, 1853 entered in Duplin County North Carolina in which the court found that Stephen Williams died January 19, 1841 survived by a widow Bidianna Williams and the following children: Bidianna Johnson, Anna Wilson, Elizabeth Williams, Phebe Williams, Zilpha Williams and Mary Williams wife of Stephen Williams Junior; that Mary Williams the order of Stephen Williams has died survived by George W Williams, a man of full legal age; that the widow Bidianna Williams died October 7, 1852 survived by the following children: Bidianna Johnson, Ann Wilson, Elizabeth Williams Phebe Williams and Zilpha Williams.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$83.93 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]