

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rowlet W26412 Rebecca f75VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/10/12

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Chesterfield: Sct.

On this 11th day of March A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open court, before the court of Chesterfield County now sitting, William Rowlett senior a resident of the aforesaid County of Chesterfield and State of Virginia, aged seventy-seven 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 was drafted and called into service as a private in the Militia, in Chesterfield County State of Virginia (where he then resided) in the early part of the revolutionary war; that during the progress & continuance of said war, he was frequently called into military service as a private in the militia, from the County and State aforesaid; and served according to the best of his recollection, as many as five or six tours of duty; that he was always regularly and honorably discharged, but if he received written discharges, (which he thinks, he sometimes did), they have not been preserved, but were lost or destroyed, being deemed of no value: –

That from age and infirmity, the memory of the applicant, as well as his body, is considerably impaired, in consequence of which, together with the great length of time which has elapsed since the Revolutionary war, he cannot distinctly recollect the precise dates when he was called into service, or was discharged; nor does he remember with accuracy they names of the company officers, by whom he was commanded during each Tour; he however remembers that he was more than once attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Goode of Chesterfield County; he also well remembers, that he was during said tours, generally marched from Chesterfield County, down towards the lower part of Virginia, he recollects being at Smithfield, McKey's Mills [Mackey's Mills], Jamestown, Williamsburg, Hampton and little York; that he was a soldier in the American Army during the siege of the latter place, and present when the British Army under Lord Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781]; which was the last tour of service he performed: – Although the applicant does not distinctly remember, and therefore cannot state, exactly and precisely how many tours of duty he performed during the Revolutionary war, nor how long he served in each particular tour; yet he is positively certain that, he must have served in all together, at least twelve months; and thinks he probably served fifteen or eighteen months: – He was born in Chesterfield County Virginia, on the 13th day of August 1755, as appears by the register of his birth in the family Bible, and continued to reside in that County until after the close of the Revolutionary war, that he then removed to Mecklenburg County Virginia, where he resided about thirty years, and then removed back to Chesterfield County about twenty years ago, where he has resided ever since: he is well known by many persons in the neighborhood where he at present resides: who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution two of home Richard

Burton and John Rowlett, will so testify; there is no clergyman residing in the vicinity of the applicant, consequently he will not be able to procure the testimony of a clergyman in support of his claim; he has no documentary evidence to support his claim: he does not remember the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where he served, except those of high grade, viz.: Washington & Lafayette at York town.

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 the day and year herein 1st written.

S/ Wm Rowlet

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Rowlett". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

I Richard Burton¹ aged eighty years, residing in the County of Chesterfield and state of Virginia hereby certify and depose, that I am and was during the Revolutionary war, well acquainted with William Rowlett senior, who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration; That I well remember he was a soldier of the revolution, having served three tours in the Virginia militia as a private in the same Regiment with me; viz. about the 1st of January 1781 we were marched to the town of Winchester in Chesterfield County, from thence to Petersburg, from thence to Smithfield, and from thence to McKay's Mills, where we were discharged: – That in the month of February 1781 the said Rowlett & myself were called out in the same company, and marched from Chesterfield court house to Goode's bridge, from thence to Dinwiddie courthouse and from thence to Petersburg where we were discharged, after serving a tour of three or four weeks.

That about the first of April following, the said Rowlett and myself were again called out in the same company and were at the battle of Petersburg [April 25, 1781], and think we served about five weeks and were discharged & further I am of opinion that the said William Rowlett is a man of veracity.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid, before the court aforesaid.

S/ Richard Burton

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Burton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

I John Rowlett of Chesterfield County Virginia, aged 65 years, hereby certify and depose, that I am now, and was during the Revolutionary War, well acquainted with William Rowlett senior, who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration; I was during the revolutionary war from 7 to 14 years old, and resided in William Rowlett's immediate neighborhood; I distinctly remembered that he served several tours of duty in the Virginia militia as a soldier of the revolution, but cannot state with precision, the particular dates when he was called into service; or when he was discharged; I do however clearly remember that he was at several periods a long time absent from home, and verily believe, that at the several times he was in military service, he must have served 12 or 14 months & further I am of opinion that the said William Rowlett is a man of veracity.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid before the court aforesaid,

¹ [Richard Burton S8114](#)

S/ John Rowlett

scribed on the day and year



[f p. 29]

Petersburg Virginia 8th March 1833

I hereby certify that William Rowlett was a soldier in Militia Service, at York Town, when the British Army under Cornwallis surrendered, that he served all that tour faithfully, as far as I know or believe, but I do not recollect the term that we were in service on that occasion, but suppose it to have been more than two months. I was attached to Captain David Patteson's [David Patterson 's] Company & from the frequency with which we were associated on guard & detachments I think it very likely that he belonged to the same company of this however, I am not sure.

Given under my hand this date above mentioned

S/ Wm Clarke [William Clarke]



[f p. 37]

In the year 1780 we were called out into service and assembled in Manchester; from thence to Booker's old field; from thence to Cabin Point, from thence to Surry Court House, from thence to Smithfield, from thence to Bab's old field [Babb's old field]/ from thence to Mackey's Mills at this place we were discharged by our Captain Benjamin Ward. The time occupied by the above movements occupied 3 months –

In 1781 we were called to Chesterfield Court House, thence to Williamsburg, thence to little York, and after the Siege to Winchester with the prisoners, and were there discharged. David Patterson was our Captain, Luke Toller Lieutenant – 3 months Tour – The above Tours was Performed by Josiah Blankenship & William Rowlett Senior. Given under my hand & seal this 9th day of March 1833

S/ Josiah Blankenship,² X his mark

Town of Petersburg to wit

Personally appeared before me, an Alderman for said Town and made oath that he performed the above Tours with William Rowlett Senior and were discharged at the same time. Given under my hand this 9th day of March 1833

S/ Francis Pace, Alderman

I hereby Certify that Josiah Blankenship named in the Certificate is a resident of Petersburg & State of Virginia is a credible man and that his statement is entitled to credit.

S/ Frances Pace, Alderman

² [Josiah Blankenship S8072](#)

[f p. 19]

State of Virginia: Mecklenburg County to wit: On this 18th day of August 1840 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Rebecca Rowlet a resident of said County and State who being first duly sworn according to law, makes the following Declaration: That she is the widow of William Rowlet formally of Chesterfield County, and late of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, who was an applicant for a Pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 – That her said husband at the time of application for a Pension was a resident of Chesterfield County, and his Declaration presented in the Court of that County, and thence forwarded to the Pension Office – That shortly after the said William Rowlet with his family, removed to the County of Mecklenburg, where he resided until the 2nd day of June 1839, the date of his death – That during the lifetime of said William Rowlet, she honestly believes, the said Pension Certificate never was received, which she understands issued, or was admitted on the 4th of May 1833, and sent to Petersburg, Virginia – That due search and inquiry has been made for said certificate and that it cannot be found –

She further declares that she is the widow of the said identical William Rowlet of Chesterfield County Virginia, to whom said Pension Certificate issued the 24th May 1833, and the only person entitled to the amount allowed said William Rowlet, from the 4th of March 1831, to the 2nd day of June, 1839, the day of his death.

S/ Rebecca Rowlet, X her mark

[f p. 10: On February 2, 1855 in Mecklenburg County Virginia, Rebecca Rowlett (or Rowlet), 69, made application for whatever pension may be due her as the widow of William Rowlett a revolutionary war pensioner under the act of 18 to; that she was married to him by the Reverend George W Charlton, a Methodist Minister, on May 7th, 1825 as recorded by her husband in a notebook in his hand writing which reads "the 7th of May 1825 William Rowlet and Rebecca Short was married;" that her husband died at his residence in Mecklenburg County June 2, 1839; she signed her application with her mark.

[Facts in file: the widow died May 9, 1857; in 1855 James H Dodson of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, gave testimony that he married a daughter of the veteran and his widow but he does not name his wife.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the Virginia service. His widow was pensioned in a like amount