

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McWilliams W3026

Martha McWilliams f77NC/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 15]

State of Kentucky Hardin County

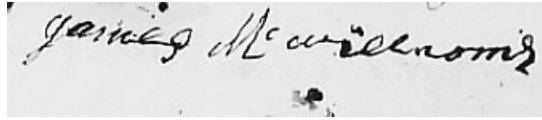
On this the 20 day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the Hon. Justices of the peace for the County of Hardin in Kentucky now sitting James McWilliams a resident of the County of Hardin and State of Kentucky, aged 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath 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. Capt. McDonald [sic, Eli McDaniel] had the command of the company, Lieut. Williams was the next officer in command. He entered the service in the fall of the year 1778, he forgets the month. He served three months and was discharged. He was engaged in guarding the barracks at Cross Creek in North Carolina. He resided in Orange County in North Carolina; where he entered the service. He was drafted with the militia by order of General John Butler. He was in no battle. He was marched from Hillsborough in Orange County North Carolina, down to Cross Creek the place in which he was stationed.

He was just sixteen years old when he was drafted, his [? what, he does not say] also went along with him. He received a written discharge but he lost it and knows nothing about it now. Also he states he served another tour of three months. Thomas Doggard was the Capt. -- Major Duval and Col. Tucker commanded the Regiment and Robert Lawson was the General. He entered in the summer 1781 -- he forgets the month. He served three months and was discharged. He was in no battle. He resided in Henry County, Virginia when he entered the service. He was drafted with a militia company. He was marched under Capt. Doggard by order of Col. George Penn, from Henry County Virginia, through Pittsylvania County down to Prince Edward Court House where he joined the Army under the command of General Marcus [sic, Marquis] de Lafayette, who reviewed the Army on the 4th of July 1781. General Robert Lawson was one of the commanding officers. From Prince Edward Court house he was marched with the whole Army in pursuit of the British, under Lord Cornwallis, down James River towards Little York and he was marched to the Maupin Hills [sic, Malvern Hill in Charles City County] near old James Town where he was discharged some short time before the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. He received a written discharge but has lost it. He knows of no body by whose testimony he can prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension 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 above written.

S/ James McWilliams

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

[David Carr, a minister of the gospel, and James MacCullum gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 4: On October 11, 1843 in Hardin County Kentucky, Martha McWilliams a resident of said County aged upwards of 82 filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James McWilliams a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that she was married to her husband about the year 1780 or 1781; that her husband served in the militia for 3 months after they were married; that her husband died August 26, 1843 and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 8]

The deposition of John McWilliams taken at the office of Stephen Elliott in Elizabethtown Hardin County Kentucky on the 30th day of March 1846.

The deponent being of lawful age and first duly sworn deposeth and saith: That he is the brother of James McWilliams deceased who was a Revolutionary Soldier, and drew a pension from the United States at the rate of twenty dollars per annum. That he the said James McWilliams died on the 26th day of August 1843. He was married to Martha Jameson sometime in January 1780. This I could not of course state from my own knowledge, for I was born in the following August. But my mother has often told me that Martha McWilliams, my brother's wife, suckled me when a child. She, Martha, has often told me the same thing. I can remember as far back as 1786, and know that my brother and his wife Martha were living together as man and wife at that time. And will state a circumstance which happened about that time. They then had only three children, Molly, Jane and Samuel. I had at that time a game rooster or chicken cock & had learned him to fight my hat when I would crawl at him, and hold the hat to him. At that time Samuel, the youngest child named above, was crawling about in the yard, and came in contact with the rooster which flew at him and stuck his spur into his forehead, just above his right eye, and came near putting his eye out this circumstance I remember well, though I was only 6 years old. At the time this circumstance occurred, my father and my brother James lived in the same neighborhood in Franklin County Virginia, about 2 or 3 miles apart. About 6 years afterwards (in 1792 or 1793), I boarded with my brother James and went to school in the same neighborhood.

I knew them as man and wife as far back as 1786, upwards of 60 years ago, and they lived together as man and wife until he the said James McWilliams died. His widow never married and still lives in Hardin County Kentucky where her husband died. They had ten children, Polly, Jane, Samuel, Hannah, Betsey, James, Sally, Anna (who died & they called one born afterwards by the same name), Anna, and Martha. I stayed all night last night at the house of James McWilliams, the son of the said Martha, where she is at this time staying and she told me she was now trying to get a pension.

I do not live in this County. I live in Mead County Kentucky about 15 miles from this place.

And further this deponent sayeth not.

Described & sworn to before me this 30th day of March 1846

S/ S. Eliot, JPHC

S/ John McWilliams

John McWilliams
z.S

[p 37: On May 28, 1847 in Hardin County Kentucky, the widow filed another application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act; in this document she states her age as 86; that she is the widow of James McWilliams a revolutionary war pensioner at the rate of \$20 per annum; that her maiden name was Martha Jamison and "was married by publication at the hand of Michael Billingham in Henry County Virginia by a Baptist preacher by the name of William Lorell on the 1st day of January 1780;" that she and her husband remained at her husband's father's, Hugh McWilliams, house for about 7 months after their marriage; that they then moved to their own house in Henry County Virginia on the waters of Smith's River where her husband was drafted under Captain William Cowden in the spring of 1781; her husband was stationed at Jamestown;..."The said James McWilliams was taken suddenly sic and stopped by the wayside. But as his strength will allow, followed his Company – When he overtook them, they had had an engagement in which about 40 of the Americans were wounded & were put into an old Church, and he was appointed to guard them at that place, where he remained some days...."]

[Facts in the file: James McWilliams was the son of Hugh McWilliams of Henry County, Virginia; veteran died August 26, 1843 at his residence on Mill Creek in Hardin County, Kentucky; veteran married January 1, 1780 in Henry County, Virginia Martha Jamison; she applied for her pension October 11, 1843 while living in Hardin County Kentucky and aged 82 years; the couple had 10 children, Mary (Polly), Jane, Samuel, Hannah, Elizabeth, James, Martha, Sarah and two named Anna, one having died; a son-in-law by the name of Washington Smith lived in Hardin County Kentucky in 1848 and was then aged 61 years.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]