

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Willoughby Williams¹ W36

Nancy McMinn² f122NC³

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/19/17

[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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State of Tennessee, Davidson County}

On this 8th day of March 1848 personally appeared before the Worshipful County Court of Davidson County and the State aforesaid Nancy McMinn aged seventy-seven 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4th 1836, and the act explanatory of said act, passed March 3rd, 1837; That she was married to Willoughby Williams who was an officer in the revolutionary War against Great Britain, as she was informed. That sometime in the year 1776, the said Willoughby Williams Joined the Army of the United States in Doubs [sic, Dobbs] County in the State of North Carolina that she does not at this time recollect his Captain's, nor Major's, names, that Abram Sheppard [Abraham Sheppard of Dobbs County, NC, was colonel of the 10th NC Regiment until he retired June 1, 1778] was his Colonel, and George Washington was his General. She states that said Willoughby Williams her said husband enlisted and went into said service above mentioned as a regular soldier or private and at the time he Joined the Army one of the United States he resided in Dobbs County in the State of North Carolina. That after he Joined the Army of the United States as aforesaid he marched, from Dobbs County in the State of North Carolina to the County seat of Halifax County in the State last mentioned. That after he arrived at the County seat of Halifax County, he continued there for several days, at the expiration of said days, he left the County seat of Halifax County and marched off with the Army of the United States, but she does not at this time recollect in what direction he marched. He marched through different parts of the United States serving against the British and Tories, and continued to serve till peace, was made, between, the People of the United States and Great Britain in 1782 And that he left the Army of the United States after peace was made in 1782. That he served in all about seven years or near that time. That he served but the one tour, and that was seven years or near that time. That during the tour aforesaid he was in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781], in which battle he was very badly wounded in the right arm & thereby greatly disabled. And he was in several other battles, besides the battle of the Cowpens and in one of said battles he was likewise wounded in the right leg, and thereby considerably disabled. That after said Willoughby Williams first Joined the Army of the United States, he received a commission as Lieutenant in the service, as a regular officer and afterwards was promoted to two, or more higher offices, or commissions, as she was

¹ BLWt15177-160-55

² Former widow

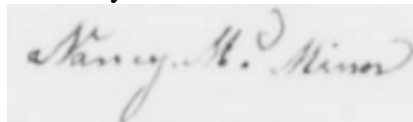
³ As of 6/18/17, this file was misfiled by Ancestry.com under the name "Willought Williams" and was under the Pennsylvania index.

informed that she did hear gentlemen, who served with him in the Revolution call him, Major & Colonel. And consequently she has reason to believe and does believe that he at least served, and held the offices, or commissions, of Lieutenant, of Major, and of Colonel during the service aforesaid. She states that on the first day of January 1786 in Dobbs County in the State of North Carolina she married the said Willoughby Williams. That she believes said County of Dobbs is now called Greene County. That previous to her marriage the said Willoughby Williams applied for and obtained license, from the clerk of the County Court of Dobbs County, and after he obtained said license the rights [sic] of matrimony were solemnized by Benjamin Sheppard Esq., a Justice of the peace of Dobbs County. She states that Governor Martin who was at that time Governor of the State of North Carolina and Col. James Glassco, who was then the Secretary of the State of North Carolina and was her father, and General Parsons, General Nichol, General McDowell and the two Generals Armstrongs in all five Generals, all came up from the town of New Bern at which place the Legislature of North Carolina was at that time sitting, and were all present at her wedding. That after her intermarriage with Colonel Willoughby Williams she continued to live with him as his wife till the 6th day of June 1802 at which time, he died. That he died while this declarant and him the said Willoughby Williams were moving from Greene County in North Carolina to the State of Tennessee. He died at a little town called Rutledge, in the office of Judge Samuel Jackson in East Tennessee. That when said Willoughby Williams, her husband, died he left this affiant with four little children, all of which she by her own exertions raised till they were able to do business themselves and make a support for themselves herself without any person whatever to assist her. That after said Willoughby Williams left the Army of the United States he embarked into the mercantile business in Dobbs County, and his storehouses caught on fire, in his absence and burnt up all his papers, and amongst other papers, all his commissions which he had received in the Army, as she has reason to believe & does believe were burnt up in said store houses. She states that after the death of the said Willoughby Williams, she continued to be a widow till the 4th day of August 1816 at which time at Kingston in Roane County in the State of Tennessee she married Joseph McMinn, Esq. who was Governor of the State of Tennessee. She states that after she married the said Joseph McMinn, he said McMinn continued to live till the ___ day of ___ in the year 1826 or 1827⁴ at a place called Calhoun an Indian Cherokee Agency in the State of Tennessee he died. And she was a widow on the 4th of July 1836, and still remains a widow, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She at this time resides in Davidson County in the State of Tennessee. And she prays for a pension on account the services of the said Willoughby Williams her first husband in the Revolutionary war.

Declarant states that at the time said Governor Joseph McMinn died she was 140 miles from Calhoun the place at which he died and consequently she cannot at this time recollect the precise date in which he died, but she believes it was in 1826 or 1827. That he died at the house of J. G. Williams her son's house.

Sworn to in open court this 8 day of March 1848.

S/ Nancy McMinn



S/ R. B. Castleman, Clerk of Davidson County Court Term

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4 Joseph McMinn died on November 17, 1824. He served as Governor of Tennessee form 1815 to 1821.

North Carolina

Newbern District

No 1243

This may certify, that Willoby Williams of Dobbs County, for Militia Duty, as per Captain Dav[*text missing*] Pay Roll, was allowed the Sum of Seven pds ten Shillings specie this [illegible] Day of January 1783

Thom Coor

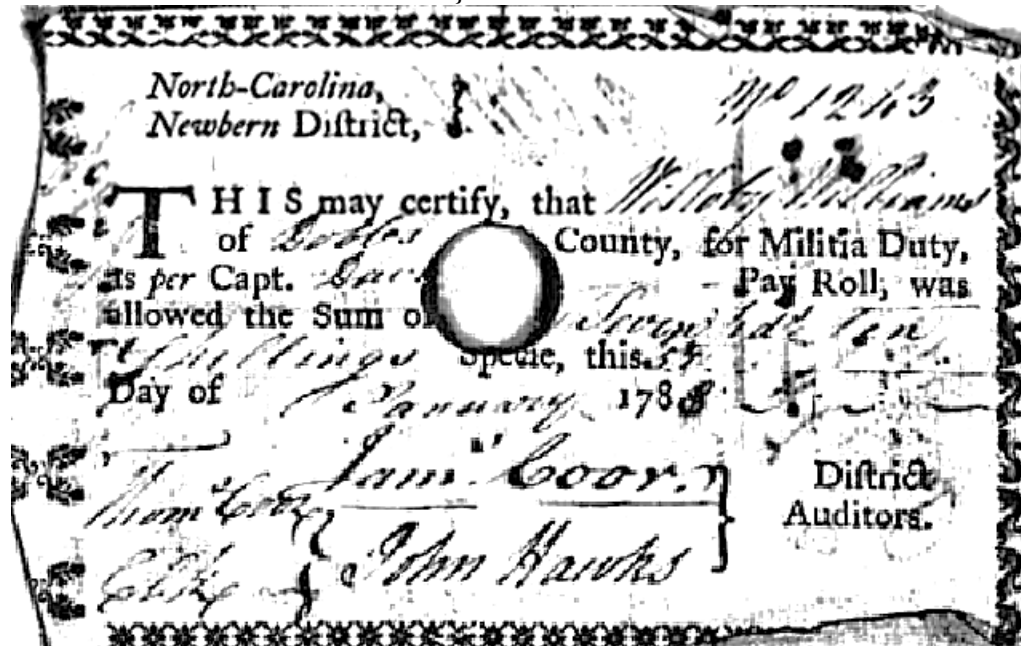
Jams Coor }

District

Clk

John Hawks }

Auditors



[p 13: March 8, 1848 in Davidson County Tennessee, Phereby Sheppard Whyte, 72, widow of Judge Robert Whyte, and sister of Nancy McMinn, gave an affidavit supporting Nancy McMinn's application.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phereby Sheppard Whyte".

[p 7: On January 24, 1850 Willoughby Williams gave testimony that he is the son of Nancy McMinn formerly the widow of his father Willoughby Williams; that he has often seen the family Bible of his father containing the ages of his children as well as the date of his marriage to the affiant's mother; that the date of the affiant's birth as shown in said record is June 14, 1798; that his parents had 5 children older than himself recorded in said family record; that the affiant remembers the record of an older brother (not named) who he thinks was born in 1793; that the family record when the affiant last saw it was in the possession of an older brother (not named) who moved to Mississippi about 10 years ago and died there; that a letter attached to the affidavit and marked "A" is from his father in his father's handwriting addressed to his mother at the time his father was serving as a member of the Legislature of the State of North Carolina.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willoughby Williams".

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A

Fayetteville December 6, 1790

Dearest Nancy

I herewith take the liberty of informing you that myself and your dadda are in good Health & Spirits.

Only my Bill for dividing poor Dobbs died Saturday last a most hard death 45 against it 43 4 it when it was on a 2nd reading.

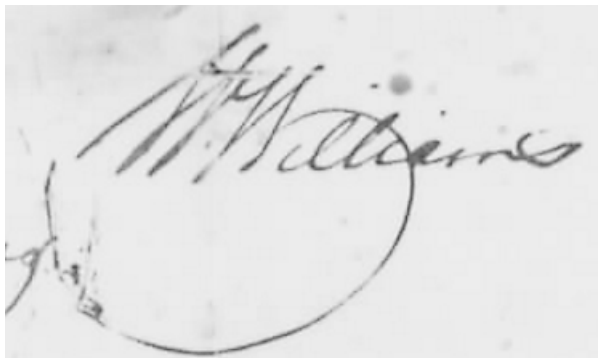
= Tho what makes amends for that is New Bern has Got the Assembly which is to set [sic, sit] in December & it is not determined whether the last day or the first Monday.

I am done on that Head when Desnce [?] & P. Collier comes I shall send you what you Wrote for, they will set off from this place on Wednesday next. Give my Compliments to your Momma, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Martin, Miss Pheddy & all the rest.

My son not excepted mind and Honor & obey him and not let him have anything to tell me of his ill Treatment when I come home only that he has lost the Tit:

I expect to be at Home about Tuesday week next.

I have nothing more
only I remained Your
Loving Husband
while life lasts
S/ W. Williams

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "W. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

Mrs. Williams

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State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from a Book of Settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary War, that Willob. Williams, A.C.I [Assistant Commissary of Issues] was allowed the sum of £260.1.1 by a board of Commissioners that sat in the Town of Halifax in 1784-5.

Given under my hand this 28th day of January 1850

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 54]

State of North Carolina, Raleigh 9th February 1850

I William Hill of the State and City aforesaid, do hereby certify that I was acquainted with Colonel Willoughby Williams and his wife Nancy, formerly of the County of Glasgow in this State (the name of which County has been altered to that of Green) and I do certify of my own knowledge, they were living together as man and wife in the year 1795, and had at that time

several children some of which were several years old. The family removed to Tennessee in 1799 or 1800, or shortly after. I heard of the death of Colonel Williams and the marriage of his widow Nancy to Governor McMinn of the State of Tennessee, but when those circumstances, or occurrences took place I cannot say.

Given under my hand this 9th day of February 1850

S/ Wm Hill [then Secretary of State of North Carolina]

[Nancy McMinn died June 27, 1857. In addition to the son named in her application, Willoughby Williams and Nancy Glassco had a son, their sixth child, named Willoughby Williams, born June 14, 1798, who was living in Nashville Tenn. in 1851.]

[p 5: On May 2, 1855 in Davidson County Tennessee, Nancy McMinn, 85, applied for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of Willoughby Williams, who acted as a Commissary of Issues for the North Carolina militia during the revolution. She signed this document with her mark.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$600 per annum commencing March 4, 1836, for her husband's service as a commissary in the North Carolina service. She was initially pensioned at the rate of \$325 per annum which was increased to \$375 per annum and then to \$559.33 per annum and then to \$577 per annum.]