

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Declaration of William Jesse, W3825 (wife Elizabeth)

f35VA

Transcribed and annotated by Roy Randolph, February 6, 2012.

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading. A bracketed question mark [?] indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Not all the material in the Pension File is included in the transcription.]

State of Virginia Prince Edward County &c.[?] Be it known that at a court held for said county, being a court of record on the 20th day of August 1832, William Jesse exhibited in court the following petition and affidavits:

State of Virginia Prince Edward County &c. On this 25th day of July 1832 personally appeared before me, James McDearmon a Justice of the Peace for the said county William Jesse a resident of the state and county aforesaid aged 72 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 provisions of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, viz, In the month of September 1780 he enlisted for two years in the state service under Capt. Hughes Woodson of Powhatan County whose subalterns were Lieutenant Taplet Merrit [Tapley or Triplett Merrit or Merriott] and Ensign Benjamin Sublet[t]. That he went from Powhatan Courthouse under said officers to Chesterfield Courthouse where there were barracks and troops and Generals Stuben [Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben] and Muhlenberg [John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg] Commanded, there they were organized into a regiment and placed under the command of Colo. Willis Duval and Major Samuel Duval, thence he marched to Cabin Point on James River and other places and returned about the end of January or 1st of February, 1781 to Chesterfield Courthouse. There his Colo. And Capt. left him and he was put under command of Colonel St George Tucker and Capt. Thomas Hubbard. From thence he marched to Powhatan Court House thence to North Carolina on Haw River where they were joined by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. From thence to Guilford Court House where he was engaged in a battle the 15th day of March 1781 that the British forces retreated on the 20th and were pursued by Continental troops to the falls of Deep River in Chatham County, N. Carolina where the enemy took a whipping. From said place he returned to Virginia (leaving General Green) to Powhatan Court House thence to Chesterfield Court House, thence to City Point the 27th of May 1781, thence to Waltham on James River, thence crossing the said river at Manikin town ferry. He was joined by General Wayne thence he went to Richmond where General Lafayette joined them, thence to New Kent Court House thence to Williamsburg where General Washington joined them. He marched to Yorktown at the siege and surrender of Cornwallis the 19th day of October 1781. On the 20th of October 1781 he was dispatched to guard prisoners under Colo. Holt Richardson of Gloucester County and Capt. Hughes Woodson of Powhatan County and went into Washington City which place he left about the middle of September 1781 thence he returned to Richmond and was discharged from the service the latter part of November in the year 1781. [illegible word] that his papers, among which were his discharge were destroyed in the conflagration of Capt. Hughes Woodson's house in 1782 and that James Taylor of this county is now living who knows of his service and that said Taylor acted as Adjutant in the service and was at the Battle of Guilford. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatsoever 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 aforesaid. William Jesse (his mark)

State of Virginia Prince Edward County. The affidavit of James Taylor aged seventy seven years of the state and county aforesaid who first being duly sworn for the purpose saith that he has been well acquainted with William Jesse of this county who is claiming the benefit of the late act of congress making allowances to "Certain Surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution" [illegible word] that he knows of his service under Col. St. George Tucker [and] that he was in the service with him & moreover that the said William Jesse was at the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina. This affiant says he acted as Brigade Major under General Robert Lawson of the first brigade and that his bodily infirmities are such that he is unable to get to the Court House of this county which is fifteen miles off—Given under my hand this [illegible word] day of August 1832. James Taylor

Amended Declaration made by William Jesse of the State of Virginia and County of Prince Edward; to one made the 25th day of July 1832 and sworn to before James McDearmon, a Justice of the Peace in and for said county, which was presented to the court of the county the 20th day of August following; and certified to the War Department; which has been numbered 6770 and returned by the said department with a Brief, containing objections to the aforesaid declaration; which require further explanation viz., No. 5 "Should state why he did not serve out the time for which he enlisted," and of the interrogatories No. 1, 2. This declarant saith that the reason why he did not serve out his time was that upon his return from Washington (Town he believes it was called) his Captain resign his commission and there being troops sufficient bound in service during the war to answer the purposes after the surrender of Cornwallis that all the men under Capt. Hughes Woodson (who commanded him at the close of his service) were discharged at the same time and returned home. As to the interrogatories No. 1, Where & in what year were you born? Answer: I have a Bible in my possession, which was given me by my Father when I went to school, which contained a register of my age; but the blank leaf upon which it was written has been lost many years past, but my recollection I have assumed is correct in this particular. Given under my hand this 22nd day of November 1832. William Jesse (his mark)

State of Virginia, Prince Edward County s.s.

On this 12th day of May 1843 before me William Matthews a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Mrs. Elizabeth Jesse a respectable resident of said county—aged 75 years—who being first duly sworn in 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 7, 1838, entitled "The Act Granting Half Pay and Pensions to Certain Widows:" That she is the widow of William Jesse dec'd of said county, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and a United States pensioner from said county at the time of his death at the rate of \$40 per annum. She further declares that she was married to the said W^m Jesse on the 6th day of January 1784 in the county of Powhatan by the Rev'd Hyde Saunders[?] about 5 miles above the court house; that her husband the aforesaid W^m Jesse died in the said county on the 24th of December 1841 and that her maiden name was Nix[?]. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place prior to the first day of January 1794 viz, at the time above stated and further that she is still a widow. All of which facts will more fully appear by

deference to the proof annexed. Her 1st child, Anderson born near 2 years after she was married. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written. Elizabeth Jesse (her mark).

State of Virginia Prince Edward County s.s.

I William Matthews a Justice of the Peace in and for said county do hereby certify that Mrs. Elizabeth Jesse who has this day sworn to and subscribed the following declaration before me— is the widow of Wm Jesse dec'd of said county—who was by stipulation a soldier in the Revolutionary War and a U.S. pensioner at the time of his death—from said county at the rate of \$40 per annum—I having frequently prepared his pension vouchers for him to receive his money at the Agency in Rich'd Va. and that there is still a balance due him from the 4th day of Sept 1841 until his death; which was on or about the 24th day of December 1841. That the said W^m Jesse as I understand originally came from the county of Powhatan, where he was said to be married—but I believe directly from Amelia to said county—nearly fifty years ago—I being a boy at the time. The said W^m Jesse and his wife Elizabeth—his present widow—had some children at the time they moved to said county—the oldest of which was named Anderson—and was as old, if not older, than I was at the time; and I am 56 years old in Dec. next. That his widow, Elizabeth, has remained unmarried ever since [the] death of her husband W^m Jesse, as aforesaid and that she is too infirm to attend court. Given under my hand this 12th day of May 1843. W^m Matthews

Bible Record of William Jesse

William Jessee and Elizabeth his wife were married January [6]th 1784

William & Elizabeth Jessee had a male child born November 26th 1786 named Anderson

Judith Jessee was born November 1st 1788

Sarah Jessee was born March 8th day 1790

Ann Jessee was born April 1st day 1792

Mary Jessee was born December 14th day 1793

Elizabeth Jesse was born April 11th day 1796

Dianner Jesse was born April the 20 day 1799

State of Virginia, Prince Edward County s.s.

On this 12th day of May 1843 before me William Matthews a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Mrs. Dianna Ford a respectable resident of said county who being first duly sworn in according to law, doth on her oath say—that she is 44 years old and is the daughter of W^m & Elizabeth Jesse—that the above family register contains the date of the Marriage of W^m Jesse and Elizabeth his wife—whose maiden name was Nix and the ages of their children, Anderson, Judith, Sarah, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth and deponent—is the family register of her father W^m Jesse and was taken from the family Bible to be sent to the War Department as proof of marriage and ages of their children—that he father was married in Powhatan and moved to said county near fifty years ago—that her father died the 24th of Dec. 1841—leaving his present widow Elizabeth, the same person who is claiming a pension from the Gen'l gov't. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me, W^m Matthews J.P., in the presence of Anderson Hill. Dianna Ford (her mark)