

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

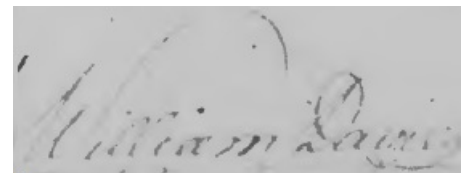
Pension Application of Jesse Williford W4865 Cherry Williford VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 29 Mar 2015.

[From [Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions Digital Collection](#)/ Southampton County]

To the general assembly of Virginia: Your petitioner humbly begs leave to represent, that he entered the service of the state of Virginia in the war of the revolution in the year 1779 in the State Garrison Regiment. That he served faithfully in that corps at Williamsburg and other points, and for sometime at Staunton in Augusta County where he received from Colo Davis [sic] commanding officer an honourable discharge on the 21st June 1781 as will appear by the said discharge herewith presented. That your petitioner from the distracted state of the finances of the commonwealth, was unable to procure his pay for the arduous services rendered at that time, that his country under the noble institutions which he had at emminent peril humbly contributed to establish, had become properous and equal to the engagements she had made, he was still denied payment because the payrolls of his regement had been lost or destroyed. That he is now very old and almost deprived of the sense of hearing and sight, and unable to support himself by his own labour. That he is poor, with a large family of helpless children and must suffer without the aid of his country. Your petitioner has supported himself by manel labour for near fifty years since he left the army, but his physical energies are gone, and the honest pride of an old Soldier, will not bear the mortification of receiving aid from the county as a pauper. He conceives that as he cannot procure his pay for services rendered in the defence of the state, that he has a high claim on the representatives of the people, in the full enjoyment, of peace, happiness and plenty, for a pittance to cheer the dreary evenings of a long life.

He therefore prays your honourable body to grant him something for his present relief, and to cause him to be placed on the pension list with a moderate annual allowance, & he he will ever pray
Jesse Williford/ So'ton Jan'y 1/1832

Jesse Willeford a substitute from Southampton County having served the term of Eighteen months for which he was in listed, is hereby discharged the service
Given under my hand at Stanton this 21st of June 1781
William Davies Col & Commissioner War Off



We the undersigned, Citizens of the County of Southampton respectfully state, that Jesse Williford who we are informed was an old Soldier of the Revolution, has long lived in our County. That he has always sustained a fair character, and been most industrious in his habits. That he is now deaf, and too old to earn a support by his own labour; that he has several small children and is likely to be destitute without the aid of his Country. That we recommend his claim for a pension to the favorable consideration of the General Assembly. Dec'r. 1830. [more than 30 signatures]

Jan'y 26th 1832 ref'd to Rev'y Claims
Reasonable as to pension and \$30 for present relief

[The following is from the federal pension file.]

An Act placing Absalom Jenkins [pension application VAS1161] & Jesse Williford on the pension list.
Passed February 28th 1832

Be it enacted by the General Assembly that Absalom Jenkins of the County of Hanover, and Jesse Williford of the County of Southampton, poor, old and infirm soldiers of the revolution shall be

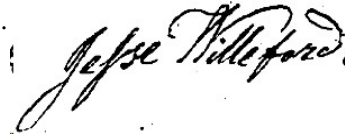
placed on the pension list, and each receive sixty dollars annually during his life and be paid as other pensioners are paid. They shall moreover receive thirty dollars each for their present relief, to be paid them from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

This act shall be in force from and after the passing thereof.

[Copy certified by S. G. Tucker, Clerk of the House of Delegates, 17 Dec 1853.]

[The following are from [pension records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Know all men by these present that I Jesse Williford of the County of Southampton County, a pensioner of the State of Virginia do hereby constitute and appoint Jeremiah Cobb my true and lawful Attorney for me and in my name, to receive from the treasury of Virginia the sum of thirty dollars allowed me by an Act of the Legislature of Virginia passed at its present Session. Witness my hand and seal this the 5th day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty two.



[The file includes other similar powers of attorney, the last dated 25 Feb 1840. Cherry Williford signed a power of attorney on 4 July 1840 for the final payment.]

Virginia – Southampton County to wit.

Before me Nicholas M Sibrell a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Frances Eley a credible witness and made oath that Jesse Williford, who was a pensioner of the State of Virginia at the rate of sixty dollars per annum died in the said County on the 12th day of May 1840 intestate, leaving a widow named Cherry Williford who is still living.

Sworn and subscribed this 4th day of July 1840

Frances herXmark Eley

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Chesterfield Courthouse lists the following: Jesse Wilford/ age 21/ height 5' 5½"/ light-brown hair/ grey eyes/ dark complexion/ shoemaker/ born and residing in Southampton County. Enlisted for two years. Sized on 5 Apr 1781.

On 19 Sep 1853 Cherry Williford, 68, applied for a federal pension stating that she married Jesse Williford on 15 Jan 1821, and he died 12 May 1840. On 30 Mar 1855 she applied for bounty land. On 12 Feb 1866 she applied for the restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War, during which "her means of subsistence have been the proceeds of a small farm on which she and her only son resided together." On 28 Sep 1868 she applied for an increase in pension, giving her age as 84 and her mailing address as Jerusalem, Southampton County.