

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Francis Adams ¹ W5198

Mary Adams

f56SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/28/10: rev'd 1/22/18

[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 4]

State of Georgia in Henry County

On the 18th day of December in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of said County now sitting, Francis Adams a resident of the second District of Henry County State of Georgia, aged sixty-nine years on the 24th day of November in the year 1832 -- who having first duly sworn according to law, doth on oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 viz.: That he volunteered about the first of July in the year 1778² under Captain Henry Coffee [Henry Coffey] whose company joined General Sumpter's [sic, Thomas Sumter's] Army on Sugar Creek, a branch of Catawba [River] and on the fifteen miles square of Land, then in the possession of the Indians³ by permission of the State of South Carolina within the limits of which State, said Land lives --. Deponent was marched across Long's Ford on Catawba to the Battle of Rocky Mount⁴ in which Battle he was -- and thinks the Fort would have fallen into the hands of the Americans but for the falling of excessive rains during the evening of the battle day -- he was marched on retreat back to the Waxhaw settlement -- then to Granby⁵ -- a British Fort -- then to Buckhead Fort⁶ -- Stormed & took it -- he was then marched towards Charleston -- met & took 17 loaded wagons of arms, goods etc. on the road to Lord Rawdon at Camden. Then marched to the Fort at Rights Bluff [sic, Wright's Bluff] the British Army met Sumter, about two miles from the Fort were defeated and lost near one hundred. Deponent was in the Battle at the head of Blak River [sic, Black River?], when Sumter was attacked by the British under Colonel Watson -- Deponent says that some of the General officers under Sumter were Colonel Henry Hampton, John Marshall, Frederick Kimbrel, Major Thomas Thompson, Deponent served first under Captain Coffee, then under Captain Marshall Jones -- Commander of Cavalry & then under Lieutenant James Craig -- the Captain John Montgomery was sick. Deponent was in service under Colonel Bratton [William Bratton] at the Four Hole Bridge when Cornwallis was taken Deponent, thinks his discharge took place in the month of September or first of October

¹ BLWt29034-160-55

² The events described by the veteran clearly indicate that the year of his entering the service was 1780, not 1778 as he states.

³ The veteran is describing the land which ultimately was designated as the reservation for the Catawba Indians, a staunch ally of the Americans during the revolution.

⁴ July 30, 1780 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockymt.htm>

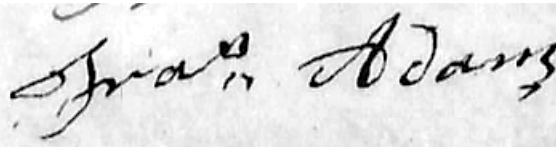
⁵ February 19 -- 21s, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortgranby.htm>

⁶ traditionally known as Fort Motte. May 8 through 12, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/motte.htm>

1781. No written discharge was ever given. He was in the service from the first of July 1778 until the last of September 1781 -- Deponent's name is on the roll of Pensioners in South Carolina by the state enactment & is now receiving a pension as evidence of the fact that he was a revolutionary soldier. The certificate of General David Adams of Jasper County State of Georgia in his own handwriting and under his hand and seal is hereto annexed -- he is known to General Blair of Congress -- Stephen Miller Senator in Congress -- is known to the Reverend Ephraim Strickland -- parks W. Smith, Esquire, Tandy W. Key -- P. M. William L. Crayton of Henry County. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State, (unless the above be so considered).

Sworn to and subscribed the 18th day of December 1832.

S/ Fras. Adams

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Adams", written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[Ivy F. Stegall, a clergyman, and William L. Crayton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Georgia Henry County Before me a Justice of the Peace for said County came Francis Adams the within named petitioner who after being duly sworn saith that he was in the American service during the revolutionary war & upon mature reflection says that he served from the first of the month of July 1778 until November 1781 -- instead of September or October as is stated in his declaration. He volunteered once only -- He did serve continually with the exception of been permitted to go home for clothes is certain he was absent from active service not more than three months during the time of service mentioned -- He thinks not over two months -- he volunteered to serve during the War at the age of fourteen years & six months old & has stated his services as fully in the declaration as his memory will now enable him.

Sworn to & subscribed the 11th of November 1833

S/ Thomas D. Johnson, JP

S/ Fras. Adams

[p 44: On January 25, 1843 in Noxubee Mississippi, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit from the Georgia agency to the Mississippi agency stating that he has moved to Mississippi where he intends to remain. He stated his reason for moving was to leave poor land for better land.]

[p 11: on July 22, 1853 in Union County Arkansas, Mary Adams, 68, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Francis Adams, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$80 per annum; that he died September 12, 1846 in Noxubee County Mississippi; that she married him November 27 1817 in South Carolina Lancaster district; her name at the time of her marriage was Mrs. Mary Ryan; that she moved from Noxubee County Mississippi to Union County Arkansas some years ago; that she remains a widow.

Mary Adams
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[p 20: On May 14, 1855 in Union County Arkansas, William R. Cowser and Elizabeth Cowser residents of El Dorado in the Union County Arkansas attested the execution of Mary Adams of her application dated July 22, 1853.]

[Facts in file: the widow was the daughter of William Farrell of Lancaster district South Carolina; no reference is made to the children of the veteran; his widow was living in 1859 in Lisbon, Union County Arkansas.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 2 years service in the revolution.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts⁷ relating to Francis Adams
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 27-A

[p 9]

To the Honorable the Speaker & other members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina

The humble petition of Francis Adams

Respectfully Sheweth – That your Petitioner is a very aged Soldier of the Revolutionary War, that he engaged as a volunteer in his County's [sic] Service at a very early age – was in most of the principal Battles fought in South Carolina, in one of which he was severely wounded – That from the passing of the Act by the Legislature of this State for the benefit of those engaged in the Revolutionary war, until within a few years back, your petitioner enjoyed the smiles of Fortune & his honest labors & exertions were crowned with success, for which reason alone, your petitioner declined petitioning for his Country's bounty. – That during the Session of 1830, your petitioner (as he supposed) petitioned your Honorable body for a pension commencing with the passage of the Act of aforesaid – but (your petitioner supposes) being ignorant of the manner of drafting his petition – your Honorable body granted his petition⁸ commencing with the year 1830. Your Petitioner would most humbly suggest to your Honorable body – that through many years of honest toil & labor your petitioner acquired a comparative State of opulence; that almost instantly through unforeseen & adverse fortune, at the advanced age of near Seventy, with a wife and three young children, he was hurled into the depth of indigence & misery & that Considering the foregoing facts your Honorable body will perceive that the sum of sixty dollars is scarcely sufficient to buy bread for his young family for whose support he is unable to labor –

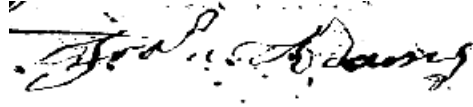
For the authenticity of the facts that your petitioner was early & long engaged in the Revolutionary War, that he was in many of the principal Battles & was wounded, your Honorable

⁷ The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. The "SC" file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized number.

⁸ This earlier petition is not among the documents in this file.

Body is referred to your petitioner's former petition presented & granted at the Session of 1830 & attested by William Woods⁹ Esquire and Old Faithful Camp meet, who is no more. Your petitioner would therefore most humbly pray & hope that your Honorable Body would take his case into consideration & grant him a Retrospective Petition Commencing with the Act of ___ And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

S/ Frax. Adams

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Adams". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat stylized and slanted.

[Note: The above petition was not granted by either the House of Representatives or the Senate of South Carolina. The veteran continued to draw a pension of \$60 from SC through January 4, 1834, the date of the last receipt found in this file.]

⁹ This file does not contain Woods' affidavit.