

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Rice W5695 Jemima Rice VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 8 Feb 2021.

State of Virginia

Bedford County S.S.

On this 22 day of July 1840, before me Harwood Major a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mrs. Jemima Rice Aged 81 years, a respectable resident of said County 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 7, 1838, Entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of William Rice dec'd. of said County, who was a Sergeant of Infantry – as she has frequently heard him say – in the Virginia Continental line of service during the revolutionary war. That her husband the aforesaid Wm Rice – from what she could learn – enlisted in the early part of the Revolutionary War, when quite young – under, either Cap. Elias Edmunds [Elias Edmonds VAS2004], or Capt. Jno Shelton [John Chilton BLWt519-300] of Fauquier County Virginia – and served pretty much through the whole of the war – but, that the greater part of his services was rendered in the South. that he said, he enlisted to serve three years, but continued in service between 4 and 5 years – and at the close of the war, or soon after – he received his land warrant for his services. That declarant has frequently heard her husband the aforesaid Wm Rice speak of revolutionary services, to the battles he was in, and relate many incidents that occurred during the war – but that her memory is so treacherous, that she cannot relate them correctly – but thinks he was at B Wine [Battle of Brandywine PA, 11 Sep 1777], Eutaw Springs [Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781], and Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] battles – and for correct information in regard to his services she will have to refer the Commissioner of Pensions to the Records.

And she the said Jemima Rice (whose maiden name was Bristol) further declares, that she was married to the aforesaid Wm Rice, on the 2nd day of December 1788, in the County of Prince William, at her fathers Jno. Bristol's – about two miles from Greenwich. And that her father Jno. Bristol was living a near neighbour to Mr. Wm. and James McClanahan of Fauquier County at the time she was married as above – the line dividing the two counties running just between there. And that Wm. and Jas. McClanahan, and her fathers family, was well acquainted with, and were intimate with each other. That her husband lived in the County of Fauquier at the time they were married, where they moved to, and lived nearly twenty years – from whence they emigrated to the County of Bedford – which was about 34 or 35 years ago. That her husband, the aforesaid Wm. Rice died on the 30th day of August 1830 – (having made some slight effort to obtain a pension for himself before he died – under the law of 1818 – but owing to the ignorance of himself and others on the subject he made little or no progress in it before he died.) and that she has remained a widow ever since his death as aforesaid to the present time. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January 1794, Viz: at the time above stated; as will more fully appear by the proof annexed.

Jemima herXmark Rice

State of Virginia

Bedford County S.S.

On this 22 day of July 1840, before me Harwood Major a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Baily Rice a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – that he is the Third son of Wm and Jemima Rice of said County who came from the County of Fauquier about 34 years ago, and settled in said county. That deponant is 46 years old – and that his brother John Rice is 51 years old. that his father never had any family record of their marriage, or the ages of their children – six in number – owing to their having no education. That his father was a Sergeant in the Revolutionary war, of the regular line, as he understood from him – and that

the most of his services was performed in the south – and that he enlisted under either Cap Elias Edmunds, or Cap. Jno Shelton of Fauquier County – and perhaps he was under both at different times. That his brother Thomas Rice married Miss Sally McDaniel at Jas. McClanahan's in Fauquier County between 25 and 30 years ago.

Baily hisXmark Rice

State of Virginia, Fauquier County to witt,

On this 27th day of June 1840 before me Dudley FitzHugh appeared William McClanahan [S5742] (a united states pensioner) a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath say – That he is 79 years old, that he was well acquainted with John Bristol (and Family) who lived in Prince William County near Greenwich, ever since deponant was a boy – That said Bristol and wife had 5 or 6 children – two boys John and Thomas – and 3 or 4 daughters and that Jemima the third daughter of said Bristol, was married to William Rice a Revolutionary soldier of the Continental line, about 52 or 53 years ago, or about the year 1788; and in the Fall or Winter of that year – that he was not at the wedding himself, but recollects distinctly when it took place, for he only lived 2 or 3 miles from Jno. Bristol's at the time his daughter Jemima was married to said Wm. Rice by the Rev'd. Sam'l. Watson of the Methodist Church in Prince William County – but that William Rice lived in Fauquier County at the time he was married as above. and further deponant says that tho he did not serve with with Rice in the Army yet he is satisfied from reputation, that said Wm. Rice performed a great deal of service in the Revolutionary War – that he thinks Rice first enlisted under Capt Jno. Shelton who was killed at the Battle of B. Wine – and that he served to the end of the war. That Rice and wife lived 15 or 20 years in this neighbourhood after they were married, and then moved up into Bedford County in said State – which was upwards of thirty years ago — and further that said Rice had a brother name Baily Rice [possibly Bailey Rice S39044].

William hisXmark McClanahan

Witness James McClanahan

State of Virginia. Bedford County S.S.

on this 3 day of dec'r. 1840, before me Harwood Major a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Lindsay Crews, a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say that he is 50 years old – that he became acquainted with William Rice and family about the year 1808 which was a year or so after they came to said County from the County of Fauquier. That said Rice bore the reputation of having been a long time in the revolutionary war as a regular soldier – understood him to say he served most of his time in the South – heard him speak of their hanging the Tories in the South. that he was at the Battles of Eutaw's Gilford. told of Rices killing a British soldier as he crossed a deep gully by running his bayonette through him – took his gun, knapsack – was pursued by the British Dragoon – dropt his captured musket and took refuge in a swamp or cane-brake. That said rice died about the 1830 – had made some effort to obtain a pension in his lifetime under the law of 1818 – thinks he had too much property to come under that law. Rice was rather a proud, Independant man in principle for a man of his circumstances and was a man of strict integrity and whatever he said about his services might be relied on. That his widow Jemima has remained unmarried ever since her husbands death to the present time. That said Rice had 6 children, to witt. Jno Thos. Wm, Baily, Eliza & Nancy. Rice was a tall man 6 feet high or more. [signed] Lindsey Crews

State of Virginia

Bedford County S.S.

On this 11th day of Dec'r. 1840, before me H. Major a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Mr. Jno. Rice a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 51 years old, being the son Wm. Rice, and Jemima Rice – whose maiden name was Bristol – that his parents removed from Fauquier to Bedford about the year 1806 – that his father died the [blank] day of [blank] 1830 and that his mother has remained single ever since – that his father was a revolutionary soldier and served 4 years or more as a Regular – and 3 or

4 months as a militia man as he understood him that he has heard his father speak a great deal of Capt. Elias Edmunds and thinks that his father enlisted under him, or was his Col – that the most of his fathers service, from what he could learn was performed in the south – that his father thought that he was not to go out of the state when he enlisted but he was marched to the South and was 20 miles across the line in the State of N. Carolina before he knew he was out of the state – that he heard his father speak of the Battles of Eutaw, and Guilford – and understood him to say he was in those engagements – that he heard his father tell of his killing a British soldier while trying to get across a deep gully – took his knap sack and gun – was pursued by the British dragoons – that he dropped his captured gun and took refuge in a cane brake or swamp – that his father he thinks belonged to the Artillery at one time, for he heard him say he held some post (about the Cannon) or office that Wm. Waddle [William Waddle VAS4208], Benj. Outterback [sic: Benjamin Utterback, S16559], and Joshua Kinnard [Joshua Kanard VAS1017] belonged to the same Company or Reg't. with his father. That Jno. Bristol [John Bristol] belonged to the horse, and died in the service in the South, on the high hills of santee [east of present Columbia SC]: that Benj Taylor [Benjamin Taylor] was in the militia service with him – which tour was performed in the lower part of the state, very soon after his father was discharged from the regular service. That his father spoke of getting his Certificate or Warrant wet (and much damaged) which he drew for his services, that if he sold his land a man by the name of Kinnear must have got it, as he was a land speculator – that the person who drew his fathers pay that was due him at the close of the war, went off and never paid it to him – that his father was first marched to the South – returned to little York [Yorktown] in Va. and was stationed there a while, before his time was out as a regular – that part of his time he drove the waggon in the regular service – being taken from the line by the waggon Master General for that purpose – that as a regular he was finally discharged at Rich'd. [Richmond] Va. – that his father told many circumstances that occurred during the war – one was that while driving the waggon at a mill – That Col. Hugh Nelson of the horse (and the British engaged in a battle) urged him to drive his waggon with all his might [undeciphered abbreviation]. That his father made some effort to get a pension under the law of 1818 – thinks tho, he had too much property to come under the law until the latter part of his life – that he could not recollect the Regt and had made a little or no progress in perfecting his papers – but if he had lived until 1832 and employed a proper person he would have obtained a pension.

John hisXmark Rice Baley hisXmark Rice Jemima herXmark Rice
Witness Elizabeth R Rice

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) in two files]

This is to certify that William Rice Serjeant of the first Virg'a Regiment has faithfully served the full term of his Inlistment in the Army of the United States which commenced the first day of August 1776 and [illegible] on the first day of August 1779, being three years service. Given [under] my hand this first day of August anno Domini 1779 [signed] P Muhlenberg BG [Peter Muhlenberg BLWt1495-850]

This is to Certify that William Rice a soldier in Col. Marshals [Thomas Marshall VAS494] Reg't. of Artillery, having Faithfully served three years the time He was Enlisted for, is Heareby Discharged of the Servis.

Given Under My hand this 22^d Day of Aug't. 1780 El's. Edmunds L Colo.
A Copy J. Shackelford C.P.C. S.A.

Gentemen: Please to Issue a Land warrant [the rest mostly undeciphered] [signed] Wm Rice

NOTES:

Harwood Major stated that Jemima Rice was "too old and infirm to attend Court so great a distance – 18 miles – without endangering her health and life." With her application is a copy of the marriage bond dated 1 Dec 1788 with John Bristol as bondsman. Thomas Turpin of Bedford County

stated that he had heard from William Rice that he had been slightly wounded in the hip. On 3 Dec 1840 one Samuel Hobson stated that William Rice must have moved to Bedford County from Fauquier County about 34 years previously "as he knew a Negro man deponant's father bought who once belonged to a man by the name of Morehead of Fauquier Co." On 9 July 1840 a Capt. Richard Davis, 54, stated that William Rice had lived in Cotton Town before he knew him, and that John was the oldest child.

The pension agent related that "Wm. Rice had a brother name Baily who was also in the regular service in the South and perhaps in the same Co. or Regt. with his bro. Wm." The three soldiers mentioned in John Rice's deposition as being in the company with William Rice are also listed with Bailey Rice on a roster (B56) of Capt. Elias Edmunds's artillery company.