

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Williams¹ W6511

Margaret Williams

f43VA²

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

9/24/11: rev'd 5/21/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 7 (p 123)]

State of Illinois Randolph County: SS: Personally appeared in open Court Margaret Williams aged Eighty one 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 may by the 3rd section of the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836 – Says that she is the widow of John Williams, a Captain of the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State Line of the Army of the Revolution – commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clark. That she deponent knows not the precise time when her said husband entered the services, or the different officers he may have been under previous to her intermarriage with him, neither does she know the precise time that he was in service or the Battles that he was in, she only knows that he was in service from the time of her Marriage with him until the end of the War and the disbanding of the troops (that she has not at this day any documentary evidence in support of the claim of her said Husband) who after the Revolution settled at the falls of Ohio now little Kentucky and from thence moved to the neighborhood of Natchez in the Territory of Mississippi where he died about 30 years ago; she further declares that she was married to the said Captain John Williams on the 17th day of March in the year in which Vincennes was taken by Colonel George Rogers Clark; she further states that she was married in the village of Kaskaskia now in the State of Illinois and that her said Husband died on the 15th of March 1808 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by a reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn & subscribed before the undersigned Probate Justice (judicially sitting) in & for the County of Randolph in the State of Illinois this 2nd day of July in the year of our Lord 1838.
S/ James Thompson, Probate Judge

S/ Margaret Williams, X her mark

[Antoine La Chappelle and Joseph Doza gave a supporting affidavit as to the marriage of the veteran to his widow.]

[p 18 (p 134)]

State of Illinois Randolph County: SS. Personally appeared before the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for the County of Randolph in the State of Illinois Margaret Williams of the

¹ See N. A. Acc. No. 874 050 193 Half Pay John Williams

² When I revisited Fold3.com's version of this file, it had been lumped together with all of the Virginia veterans by the name of "John Williams." At the time of viewing, this file began homepage 117 of the Fold3.com version.

village of Kaskaskia in said County personally known to me the said justice and she being duly sworn deposes and makes the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the third section of the Act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836 and says that she is the widow of John Williams deceased late a Captain in the 1st Regiment of the Virginia State Line of the Army of the Revolution commanded by Colonel George Rogers Clark: that the deponent does not know the precise time when said John Williams entered into the service nor does he [she] know the different officers he may have been under previous to her marriage with him, neither does she know the precise time he was in the service or the battles in which he was engaged. She knows only that said John Williams was in the service as Captain at and from the time of her marriage with him until the end of the war and the disbanding of the troops; that she has not at this time any documentary proof in support of her claim or the claim of her said deceased husband; and that after the close of the War of the Revolution the said John Williams settlement the falls of the Ohio River now Louisville in the State of Kentucky. She said deponent further states that to the best of her recollection on the 17th day of March in the year of our Lord 1779 or 1780 she was duly & lawfully married to the said John Williams in said village of Kaskaskia by the Reverend Ichabod Camp a Protestant clergyman then and for some time previous residing at said Kaskaskia where he died several years afterwards and who preached in the garrison at the time said marriage took place: said marriage ceremony was performed in the garrison and in the presence of the officers of the Regiment above named and in the presence of the privates of said Regiment and few or none of her relatives or neighbors having been present she knows of no person now living who was personally present & actually saw all the ceremony performed although a large number witnessed the same and the fact of her marriage with said John Williams was notorious in said village by reason of her being the first Frenchwoman of that place who married an Englishman and this occurrence caused much talk among the people of the Village & was objected to by them generally & her relatives & friends on that account only refused to attend the wedding. As she was not married in conformity with the forms of the Catholic Church to which she belonged (the only church been established in Kaskaskia) no record of her marriage was ever made upon the records of said church nor was any record thereof ever made in any place or office to her knowledge as no officer place was then established in said Village except the Catholic Church in which marriages were recorded and she this deponent is wholly without documentary or Record evidence to establish her said marriage. At the time of her marriage she was to the best of her recollection about 19 years old & is at this time about 80 or 81, but she cannot ascertain her age precisely as the church record of her baptism is so defaced as not to be illegible and she continued to reside in Kaskaskia some 2 or 3 years after her marriage and after the close of the war she and her husband settled as before stated at the falls of the Ohio in what is now Kentucky and after living about five years in Kentucky said John Williams moved with her into the neighborhood of Natchez in the State now of Mississippi where he lived till he died on the 15th of March in the year 1808 and ever since the death of her said husband she has remained and is now a widow; she never having been married to any person other than the said John Williams. She always lived with him as his wife from the time of their marriage to the day of his death and had by him seven children all of whom are now dead. She continued to reside in the neighborhood of Natchez after the death of her husband until one & 2 years ago she returned to Kaskaskia the place of her Nativity and present residence all of which is confirmed by the evidence hereto annexed.

Subscribed & sworn to this 7th day of August A.D. 1838 before me

S/ James Thompson, JP

S/ Margaret Williams, X her mark

[Again, Antoine La Chappelle, 70, and Joseph Doza, about 74, gave a supporting affidavit largely repetitive of the statements made by the widow in her application. Joseph Doza is the widow's brother.]

[p 10 (p 126): The widow was living in Adams County Mississippi as of September 15, 1842 when she filed a petition to have her pension payable in the Mississippi agency because she had moved there to take advantage of the milder and warmer climate and settled in Natchez Mississippi at the "solicitude of a granddaughter who had recently become a widow.".]

[p 4 (p 120): Copy of a marriage bond issued to John Williams & John Girault August 2030, 1779 the condition of which was the marriage of John Williams to Margaret Doza: certified as a true copy by the Recorder of Randolph County Illinois as being a document found in the "ancient French Records" of said County.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for her husband's service for two years as a Captain in the Virginia service.]

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Addendum to John Williams W6511

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 21 May 2023.

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

This Certifies that Cap'tn John Williams Served under my Com'd from the twentieth Day of June Seventeen Hundred & Seventy Eight untill the ninth Day of Decemb'r Eighty one

Given at Louisville, Oct'r 5th 1785 G R Clark

[George Rogers Clark VAS269]



Cap. John Rogers drew the within Land in consequence of an order presented with this which by some person or other taken of the Table in this office S Coleman

[The following is from Virginia Half-Pay records at Fold3.com, incorrectly associated with John Williams R19105.]

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

WASHINGTON COUNTY, sct.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all persons to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, That whereas Captain John Williams late of Adams County in the state of Mississippi deceased, hath died intestate, as it is said, leaving certain goods, chattels, and personal estate, to be administered: Now know ye, That administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights, and credits, of the said Captain John Williams deceased, is hereby granted and committed unto James H. Girault of Washington County District of Columbia.

Washington 13 May 1845

Sir, As Administrator on the estate of John Williams dec'd. who was a captain in the Illinois Regiment, I present to you copies of papers from the Registers Office shewing that there is now due to the estate of said Williams, half pay from the 9 Dec'r. 1781 to the 3^d Sept. 1783, under the act of Congress of the 5th July 1832.

The Papers referred to are marked A. B. & C.

A. Is a copy of a certificate of Gen'l. Clarke shewing that Williams only served until the 9th Dec'r. 1781.

B. Is a copy of the statement shewing that the accounting officers of the Treasury only allowed the claim from 3^d Sept. 1783.

C. Is a copy of the Report shewing that I the administrator in the estate only received the amount due from the 3^d Sept 1783.

Yours very respectfully,
James L Edwards Esq'r/ Com'r of Pensions

Jas A. Girault