

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Winfree (Winfrey) W6543 Elizabeth Winfree VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 27 Nov 2014.

State of Virginia, Powhattan [sic: Powhatan] County S.S.

On this 25th day of December 1841 before me Wm. M Watkins a Justice of the peace, in and for said County personally appeared Elizabeth Winfrey a respectable resident of said County – aged 77 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 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 John Winfrey dec’d. of said County, who was a soldier of Infantry in the Revolutionary war, both in the militia, and regular service – that from what declarant could learn from her dec’d. husband the aforesaid John Winfrey, that he served pretty much throughout the Revo’y. war – the greater part of which service was as an enlisted soldier – and also some tours as a militia man – one of which was under Captain Joseph Royal at Sudsburys, in Chesterfield County, where he was taken prisoner [sic: Sudbury’s by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton’s Legion, 23 May 1781] with William Womack and others and detained as prisoners at Portsmouth Va. by the British 3 or 4 months before they were discharge. That the said Jno Winfrey her dec’d. husband enlisted in, and went from the County of Chesterfield into service as a regular soldier as she understood from him, but that she cannot speak positively as to the name or names of the officers he enlisted under or his captain’s name but, that she has heard him speak a great deal of Captains Jno [probably John Markham from Chesterfield County, in a company in the Amelia Minute Battalion and 1st Virginia Continental Regiment] or Geo. Markham [possibly George Markham of the Chesterfield County Militia], Capt. Obediah Smith, Capt. David Mann, and Captain Boyd. some of whom she thinks he must have served under. That declarant heard her dec’d. husband Jno Winfrey aforesaid tell of his sufferings and privations while in the service, in the Revo’y. war, that he marched through the snow of great depths, and that when he would awake in the mornings would be entirely covered with snow from which she infered that part of his services was at the north – that he suffered greatly for want of provisions – having nothing but collard stocks [collard stalks?] to subsist on for days at a time. That her husband was also in the south in service and was at the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown in Virginia in Oct. [19th] 1781 and that he was also in an engagement while a soldier on board of a vessel and that her dec’d husband was of very roving disposition while a young man; That she heard her husband say frequently, that he was entitled to land for his Revolutionary services and that he went twice to Richmond some years before he died to try and get it – and that the Govenor – who was killed at the Theatre – told him he was entitled to it – he was also talking of trying to get a pension before he died – but as he owned land and a negro woman at the time, just before his death – he could not draw a pension under the law [passed 18 Mar 1818] for needy pensioners. And she further declares, that she was married to the said Jno Winfrey on the 3rd day of January 1785 and that her husband the aforesaid Jno Winfrey died on the [blank] day of June 1830; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 – Viz at the time above stated – as will more fully appear by the proof annexed. that her maiden name was Owen; and was married in Manchester by the Rev’d Chas. Clay as alow[?] the licence being obtained from Henrico Co. and that Thos. Owen her uncle was Security to the marriage Bond. and that her husband moved from Chesterfield Co. to said County 40 or 45 years ago where she now resides, and has remained unmarried ever since. and further that Jno Winfrey her husband had a cousin named Jno Winfrey living in Chesterfield County about the close of the Revo’y. war who in all probability was the person who rec’d. the certificate of pay due her dec’d husband for £100.19.5. but who declarant thinks was not in the Revo’y. war and who moved away early after the close of the war. Therefore declarant considers herself entitled to a full pension on the services of her dec’d husband as a private of Infantry in the Virginia Continental line of service; and upon reflection her dec’d husband Jno Winfrey aforesaid may have been under Capt. Stevens who recruited about Rich’d as

Henry Bowles and himself was in the service together – and that the said Bowles was under Capt. Stevens.
Elizabeth herXmark Winfrey

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 27th day of May 1783, in the name of John Winfrie as a Soldier of Cavalry for £26.0.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Colo Sherwin and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 7th day of March 1840.
Jas. E. Heath Auditor.

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 23rd day of May 1782, in the name of John Winfrey as a Soldier of Infantry for £36.0.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 14th day of Dec'r 1841.
Jas. E. Heath Auditor.

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 29th day of August 1783, in the name of John Winfrey as a Soldier of Infantry for £100.19.5, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to John Winfrey and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 14th day of Dec'r. 1841.
Jas. E. Heath Auditor.

State of Virginia, Chesterfield County S.S.

Be it known, that on this 21st day of December 1841, before me Edward F. Perkinson a Justice of the peace in and for said County personally appeared Mr. Wm. Walthal a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath say – that he is 62 years old. That he was well acquainted with John Winfrey a soldier in the Revolutionary war who married Elizabeth Owen and have frequently heard him speak of his being in the Revolutionary war – while in conversation with his deponants father in law (on that subject) who was also in the Revo'y. war, at the same time with the said John Winfrey – both of whom was enlisted in the regular service as dep. understood. That the said Winfrey moved from said County to the County of Powhattan about 40 years ago. From what deponant learned from his Father in law John Baker, and John Winfrey – that they marched together in the same company, in the Regular Service to the South, and returned to Virginia in service for the purpose of – and was at the capture of Lord Cornwallice at york-town in October in 1781 – That the said Winfrey was taken prisoner at a place called Sudbury's in said County about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from where dep. now lives – and was detained as a prisoner at Portsmouth between 3 and four months with several others who were taken at the same time. Jno. Winfrey told dep. himself that he was taken prisoner at Sudbury's and detained 3 or 4 months as a prisoner – and also, that he was a regular soldier as above – and that Winfrey was a man of veracity and would not tell a lie about his services

[signed] William Walthall

State of Virginia, Chesterfield County S.S.

On this 21st day of December 1841, before me Edward F. Perkinson a Justice of the peace, in and for said County, personally appeared Elizabeth Womack, a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath say; that she is 80 years old. That she has frequently heard her husband Wm. Womack [William Womack] speak of Jno. Winfrey's being a great deal in the Revo'y. war – and particularly, he said that John Winfrey and himself was taken prisoners at Ezekiel Sudsbury's – a place in Chesterfield County where some of the Militia was stationed – which was not long after the capture of Petersburg by the British [9 May 1781]; that her husband and Jno. Winfrey belonged to Capt. Joseph Royals company at their said capture at "Sudbury's" – that Capt Royall made his escape, and swam a Creek – from which he caught a cold, from which he never recovered. That the said Winfrey married Elizabeth Owen and about 40 years ago moved from said County to the county of Powhattan – that dep. husband and said Winfrey was taken prisoners by the British Light-horse, and that they were detained as prisoners for three months before they were discharged.

Elizabeth herXmark Womack

State of Virginia, Chesterfield County S.S.

On this 23rd day of December 1841 before me Z H Brooks a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Wm. Winfree a respectable resident of said county – who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 41 years old – that he has frequently heard Jno. Winfrey a Revolutionary Soldier – who married Elizabeth Owen – speak of services in the Revolutionary war – heard him tell of his sufferings and privations while in said service – understood from him that he was in the Regular Service – and that too, pretty much throughout the war – a part of which service must have been rendered in the north – as he spoke of marching through the snow of a great depth – and of his lying down at night and when he awoke in the morning was covered with snow. Deponant has heard Winfrey say that he considered himself entitled to land for his Revolutionary services. And further that the said Jno Winfrey moved from said county to the county of Powhattan before deponants recollection – where his widow Elizabeth Winfrey now resides – dep. heard Winfrey say that he was under Col. Cary [Archibald Cary, Amelia Minute Battalion, 1775-1776] who was very strict as an officer.

[signed] William Winfree

Deponant Wm. Winfrey further says that he heard Jno. Winfrey aforesaid speak in the highest terms of the Captain that he was under in the regular service as a brave, indefatigable, and kind officer – but do not recollect his name. That the said Jno Winfrey was of a roving disposition and was as likely to have enlisted out of the county of Chesterfield as in it – is the reason dep. thinks that it is so difficult to ascertain who he enlisted under.

[signed] William Winfree

State of Virginia

Powhattan County S.S.

On this 25th day of December 1841 before me Wm M. Watkins a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared William Graves a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – that he is 64 years – that he became acquainted with Jno. Winfrey a Revolutionary soldier, by reputation, in the year 1802 – the same person who married Elizabeth Owen in Chesterfield Co. – that he has frequently heard the said Winfrey say that he was a regular soldier in the Revo'y war and that his first services as such, was rendered to the North early in the war – and that the said Winfrey told deponant, he was also in the service in the South – Henry Bowles a regular soldier in the Revo'y war – told deponant, that John Winfrey aforesaid was in the service, when he the said Henry Bowles was – but does not know that Bowles meant, that Winfrey was in the same company with himself. Bowles was under Capt. ~~John~~ Stevens to the north as dep. understood him. that the said Winfrey told dep. that he was entitled to land for his Revo'y. services, if he knew how to come at it – and that the said Winfrey – as dep. was informed went twice to Rich'd. to see about getting it. and further that the said Winfrey left a piece of land and a Negro when he died – which dep. thinks was

about [blank] years ago leaving his present widow Elizabeth Winfrey who has remained unmarried ever since his death as aforesaid to the present time and that she is the Identical person who is now claiming a pension, as the widow of the aforesaid Jno. Winfrey dec'd. of said county.

“John” crossed before signed.

Wm Graves

State of Virginia, Powhattan County S.S.

On this 23rd day of May 1842, before me Wm. M. Watkins a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mr. Richard Owen, a respectable resident of said county who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 45 years old – that he has known Jno. Winfrey, who married Elizabeth Owen, ever since he can recollect – which was shortly after he removed from the County of Chesterfield to said county of Powhattan. That the said Winfrey always bore the reputation of having been a great deal in the Revolutionary war. That deponant heard his own Father [probably Elisha Owen, pension application W4560] say that Winfrey and himself was in the service at yorktown, at the capture of Lord Cornwallis at the same time, but deponant does not know that they were in the same Company or whether Winfrey was in the Regular service or the Malitia. Deponant has frequently heard Winfrey tell of his being in the Revo'y. war, and that he was in the service pretty much throughout the whole war: and from what he the dep. learned from Winfrey, and his own Father – Winfrey was at one time at Sea dep. thinks as a soldier; as he is under the impression he was on board of a man of War. That in the early part of Winfrey's life, after married he possessed considerable property and from the year 1818, to the time of his death he owened a tract of land of over 200 acres [page ends here]

State of Virginia

Chesterfield County S.S.

On this 26th day of May 1842, before me Edward F. Perkinson a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Mr. Nathaniel Puckett [pension application S5958], a respectable resident of said county who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 86 years old. That he was well acquainted with John Winfrey, and his Brothers Major, Reuben, and Henry – and his Father Valentine Winfrey – all of said county – before the Revo'y war. That the said Jno. Winfrey and deponant, was in the service together in the Revo'y. war, under Cap. Francis Goode at Williamsburg in the Fall of 1776 – it being the Fall of the year after the declaration if Independance – leaving home in chesterfield Co. in October 1776 and returning home again about 3 or 4 days before Christmas 1776 – having served Two months together with said Jno. Winfrey on said occasion at Williamsburg in the Fall of 1776. Deponant says that he was in service again under Cap. George Markham in 1777, in the lower part of the state on Nansamond [sic: Nansemond] River – also in the Fall of the year and that he again saw the said Jno. Winfrey in the service – but can not recollect whether he was in the same company or not – or whether he was in the regular or Malitia sevice – but he thinks, Winfrey and himself was together 1 or 1½ months together on said occasion – deponant does not recollect what became of Winfrey when he dep. was discharged; but that they served together from 4 to 6 weeks on said occasion. Winfrey was married down about Manchester but does not recollect the girls name – shortly after Revo'y. war – that after he was married, he moved up on Tomahawk, in the up part of the county near Snapsville – have not heard from him since

Nathaniel hisXmark Puckett

State of Virginia

Chesterfield County S.S.

On this 26th day of May 1842, before me Edward F. Perkinson a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Mrs. Frances Fendlay [Frances Findley] a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath say that she is 68 years old – that she married Major Winfrey her first husband (who was the Brother of Jno Winfrey) about the year 1794 or 95 – the said Jno Winfrey having married Elizabeth Owen some few years after the close of the Revo'y. war. That deponant has frequently from time to time heard her dec'd husband Major Winfrey

and the said John Winfrey talking together of their Revolutionary services – recognizing each other as having been in the services together during the Revo’y war: that she has frequently heard Major Winfrey, her first husband say that Jno. Winfrey his brother served a much longer servitude in the Revo’y war than he did. that Jno Winfrey performed a very long servitude. that dep. has also frequently heard her second dec’d. husband Wm. Fendlay [William Fendley W7258] say that the said Jno Winfrey served a long time in the Revo’y war – her husband Wm. Fendley was a U. S. pensioner at the time of his death; thinks that both Major Winfrey and Wm. Fendlay were in the regular service, but dep. will not be positive. Jno Winfrey had the reputation of having been a great deal in service of; and during the Revo’y war. The said Jno winfrey moved up into Powhattan Co. over 40 years ago. [signed] Frances Fendley

State of Virginia Powhattan County S.S.

On this 30th day of May 1842, before me William Old a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mr Daniel Farley, a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath say – That he is 68 years old – that he has frequently heard Jno. Winfrey, who married Elizabeth Owen speak of his being in the regular service during the Revolutionary war and that he avered, he had served at least 3 or 4 years as a regular soldier, besides malitia services. That he heard the said Winfrey say that Henry Bowles, Benj Sublett [Benjamin Sublett], and himself, were in the regular service together. That said Bowles, and Sublett dep. has also heard say, that the said Jno. Winfrey and each of them were in the regular service together in the Revo’y. war; and dep is inclined to think, they were under a Capt. Stevens or Stevenson. That said Winfrey always contended, that his regular services entitled him to land – and for several years previous to his death, was making efforts to obtain it – and went several times to Rich’d. to see about it – and had some talk with Cap. Thos. Miller [Thomas Miller] on the subject – who promised to try and get it for him. Miller was the delegate from Powhattan. That the said Winfrey also stated there was a smart sum of money due him for his services at the close of the Revo’y. war. That the said Winfrey for several years before his death was possessed of considerable property in land and Negroes – and at the time of his death had a tract of land worth \$1,000 and a negro woman – besides his household and kitchen furniture and stock on his Farm and that the said Winfrey was taking a year or so before his death, of trying to get a pension but dep. does not know why he did not succeed or persevere in it – but thinks it was because he did not know how to proceed, to get either land or pension. Winfrey moved to said County from Chesterfield over 40 years ago and died about 11 years ago –leaving his widow Elizabeth – who is still alive, and is the identical person now claiming a pension as the widow of Jno. Winfrey dec’d of said county.

[signed] Daniel Farley

NOTES:

The file contains a copy of a bond signed on 2 Jan 1785 by John Winfrey and Thomas Owen for the marriage of Winfrey to Elizabeth Owen of Henrico County.

A document dated 4 Dec 1843 states that Elizabeth Winfrey died 13 Aug 1843, leaving six children, all of legal age, that she had lived in Powhatan County for 50 years, and before then in Chesterfield County.

The file also contains the family record transcribed below from the original on blank pages of a New Testament printed in 1822.

Woodson Winfree sun of John Winfree & ElesBethe his Wife was Born in the year of Our Lord the 3 of may 1789

Anmoreah[?] Winfree was Born in the year of our Lord the the 3 of December 1792

Saroath[?] Winfree was Borne the in the year of Our Lord September the 16 1795

Nancy Winfree was Born in the year of our Lord in the Marche the 20 1799

John Winfree was married to Elisebethe Owen the 3 satud[?] in January 1784