

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Mills W7448
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Mills f51NC[sic, SC]
5/4/09: rev'd 4/20/17

[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.]

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State of North Carolina County of Rutherford:

On the 25th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judges of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County now sitting Jesse Mills a resident of Green River in the County aforesaid aged seventy years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

The declarer would here premise that his mind and memory never strong is much impaired by age and infirmity so that he cannot conscientiously after the lapse of so many years pretend to state with precision the day or month in which he entered the service or several other circumstances connected therewith -- but will make his statement to the best of his recollection.

He entered in Rutherford County aforesaid with Lieut. Thomas Prince in a Company of infantry in the State Troops of South Carolina which company John Bowie was Capt. and Samuel Earle¹ Ensign he cannot recollect the time of year that he enlisted but thinks that he received his discharge at White Hall² South Carolina about the time stated in the annexed probate [sic, affidavit] of Samuel Earle say in June 1780 and that he served about two years and that Company his original enlistment was for three years or during the War but the term of service of the company which was formed some time before he enlisted having expired he with the rest of the Company received his discharge -- he served in different parts of South Carolina to keep the Tories and Indians in Check -- he was the greater part of his time as well is he recollects stationed at White Hall not far from Ninety Six and was also a part of his time at Fort Independence, Augusta Georgia, and other places -- he was not at the battle of Stono or the Siege of Savannah being left at that time with a few other men at White Hall -- he did not belong while in this service to any Regiment, there was he thinks two or three Companies of these State Troops raised who mostly acted separately where he was stationed if there was any Regimental officers among them he does not recollect them.

After his discharge from his first service in 1780 he made two tours of Duty against the Indians in the Militia on the Frontiers or what is now the Western part of Rutherford County and Buncombe County which was he thinks then called Tryon County -- he was then under the Command of Col. James Miller and Capt. Lewis Musick -- he cannot specify the precise time but thinks it was in the fall and winter of 1780 & 1781 and that he was out in the whole time about

¹ [Samuel Earle S21174](#)

² White Hall was the name of General Andrew Williamson's plantation on Hard Labour Creek in SC.

three months.

In April 1781 he enlisted at Rutherford Court House then called Gilbert Town with Capt. James McElheney [James McIlhenny] who commanded a Troop of South Carolina Dragoons for 10 months -- of which Troop Nicholas Harvey was Lieut. the Regiment when acting together was commanded by Col. Samuel Hammond³ while in this service he ranged through different parts of South Carolina and sometime before the Battle of Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781] the Company to which he belonged together with the rest of the Regiment joined the Army commanded by General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] a few days before the Battle he was taken sick and was with other sick soldiers left at Simmons plantation on the Wateree River under the care of William Williams a soldier in the same Company so that he was not in the Battle. Sometime after which the Troop to which he belonged was ordered up the Country to the neighborhood of slow to [River] where after serving seven months of the 10 months for which he enlisted he hired a man of the name of Thomas Petter [Thomas Porter?]⁴ to serve the other three months in his place and the said Mills further saith that he has no documentary evidence by which to prove his service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Interrogatories by the Court to the Applicant

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer -- I was born on Deep River in (I think) Chatham County in this State -- the year I cannot exactly tell

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer -- I have no record of my age and none was kept to my knowledge

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer -- I. lived in Rutherford County when called into service I live there now and have lived there since I left the service.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer -- I volunteered in every instance

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- I have before stated that during my first enlistment the Company in which I served generally acted alone -- I have also stated and most cruelly that my mind and memory as well as my body was very frail -- that I can remember nothing but what has made a deep impression on my mind -- I do not know that I could relate more fully than I have already done anything connected with my services

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer -- I received a discharge for my first term of service and for no other -- that I think I received from Capt. Bowie some time after I received this discharge the Indians were very

³ [Samuel Hammond S21807](#)

⁴ 

troublesome in this County. I was in a Fort or stockade at Mills Station on Green River most of the men who were in the Fort usually happened to be absent -- when it was surprised and taken by the Indians and several persons murdered and the rest set on fire by them -- I was in an outhouse at the time and made my escape with difficulty my discharge with a great many other things belonging to me and others was consumed in the Fort.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer -- I name the Rev. Joel Blackwell and John Mills Esquire a judge of this Court.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

Test: S/ Theo. F. Birchett, Clk

S/ Jesse Mills, X his mark

[Joel Blackwell, a Baptist minister, and John Mills Esquire gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

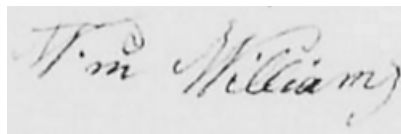
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On the day and year aforesaid personally appeared William Williams⁵ and saith that he was a soldier in the Troop of Dragoons Commanded by Capt. James McElheny at the time that Jesse Mills who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration states his having served as a soldier in the Troop aforesaid -- and the said Williams saith that he knows of his own personal knowledge that the said Jesse Mills did serve as a Soldier in the said Troop of Dragoons in manner and time as by him stated said for seven months or thereabout.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

October 25th 1832

S/ Wm Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Williams", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ [illegible signature]

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County Before me Stephen Camp a Justice of the Peace in & for the said County -- Personally appeared John Mills Esquire who being first duly sworn deposed & saith that during the Revolutionary War when the deponent was a Small Boy the Brother of Jesse Mills whose character & age the deponent certified to in the Annexed Declaration -- lived at the deponent's Father's House that on a day & year that the Deponent cannot now pretend to Ascertain some persons was Seen Riding towards the House it was said it was Jesse Mills Returning from the Army his Mother ran out to meet him, clasping his hands -- as Jesse Mills came up close to her she exclaimed it is Him the deponent further says that Jesse Mills was Riding a Sorrell Stallion with a Ball face Jesse's father William Mills commonly called "English Billy" was a very poor man whose circumstances would not justify the purchase of such a Horse as Jesse rode Home & the Deponent further say that he understood that Jesse got this Horse for his Services in the Revolutionary war & during the time of his Services or part was stationed at a place called White Hall in South Carolina in Abbeville District but then & at the

⁵ [William Williams R11606](#)

time he this said Jesse performed those services was in the District of Ninety Six of South Carolina the deponent further states that he well remembers the House or Station described by the said Jesse Mills as Having been burned by the Indians & several people being there killed & wounded the house belonged to the deponent's father who with the deponent was absent at the time of attack & conflagration the deponent knows nothing about the loss of papers & property stated by Jesse Mills; of any other Service done by Jesse Mills the Deponent has no knowledge -- the deponent further say that he has no doubt of the present Applicant being the same Jesse Mills that performed the Services heretofore Described -- sworn to and subscribed by me this 18th day of May 1833

S/ Jno Mills

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jesse Mills", with a large, decorative flourish underneath.

On reflection the deponent considers [?] it proper further to state that at & before the time of killing & burning by the Indians before mentioned in the deposition the Applicant Jesse Mills made his Home at the House of the deponent's father & the deponent thinks it highly Probable that he Jesse Mills' papers & clothing was destroyed as described by him the Deponent has no personal knowledge of the fact -- Sworn to and subscribed before this day & date above mentioned.

S/ Stephen Camp, JP

S/ Jno Mills

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State of South Carolina Pickens District:

Personally appeared before me Samuel Earle of said District & on his Oath declares that on the 11th day of June in the year 1777 he [indecipherable word] an Ensign's commission in Capt. John Bowie's Company of South Carolina Infantry in which he served until the 11th day of June 1780 at different places Fort Charlotte, Fort Independence, at White Hall, at Augusta, the Battle of Stono, at the Siege of Savannah, one expedition into the Cherokee Nation, between the two dates 11th June 1777 & 1780 Jesse Mills of Rutherford County North Carolina enlisted as a private Soldier in the same Company but the precise time he does not recollect but is entirely satisfied in his own mind that Mills must have served at least two years of the time & that he enlisted for three years or during the war but cannot recollect the precise timing of his discharge but presumes it was the 11th day of June 1780. Sworn to & subscribed before me this 12th October 1832

S/ Samuel Earle

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Earle", with a large, decorative flourish underneath.

S/ John Myers, JP

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State of North Carolina Rutherford County:

On the 9th day of July 1833, Personally appeared before the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions of said County now sitting, Major John Lewis, who being duly sworn, deposed & saith That since the latter part of the Revolutionary War, say the year 1781 he has been intimately acquainted with Samuel Earle of Pickens District South Carolina who made & subscribed the annexed probate certifying the military services of Jesse Mills, and that the said Samuel Earle is a man of as much credibility & respectability as any in his District, and has served with approbation as a Member of Congress, as a Sheriff of the District of Pendleton, and he, thinks, in the State Legislature and held other offices; and that deponent further says that he has always understood that the said Earl served as a Capt. or Lieut. in the Revolutionary War. The said Earle was born and raised in the vicinity of this County, and though [he] has removed many years ago to South Carolina yet as the deponent had a son & other relatives living in the same vicinity of said Earle and was himself often in that neighborhood he cannot, he thinks, be mistaken in his statement of Samuel Earle's standing.

S/ John Lewis⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Sworn to and open Court the 9th of July A.D. 1833
S/ T. F. Birchett, Clk

[p 13: On November 25, 1842 in Rutherford County North Carolina, Sarah Mills, 75, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Jesse Mills; that she married him December 8, 1785; that he died October 11, 1842; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Family record: [very poor images]
Sary Garrit Was Born May the 18 [?] Day 17?5
Nancy Mills was Born October the 26 Day 1787
Mary Mills was Born November 11 day 1789
William Mills Was born October the 13 day 1791
Daniel Shehane Was Born in the yar of our lord ??? 1776??]

[Facts in file: widow's name before her marriage to Jesse Mills was Sarah Garret as attested by Ambrose Mills [relationship, if any, to veteran is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia.]

⁶ [John Lewis W3832](#)