

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Steelman W8888¹ Catharine Hawkins² fn64+10NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/10/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Rowan County

On this 16th day of May 1834 personally appeared before me an acting Justice of the peace for the County of Rowan Williams Steelman a resident of the County aforesaid aged 84 years last January 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated.

He entered the service as a volunteer in the County of Rowan North Carolina where he then resided for the term of 3 months in the year 1779 under Captain Samuel Mosby. From the County of Rowan he marched to the Indian Nation where his Company burnt three of the Indian Towns leaving three remaining, in one of these Towns they found the scalps of nine white man. The Indians fled before them. Where upon the expiration of his term he returned home. He then volunteered for the term of twelve months in Rowan County under one Elias Langham a recruiting officer for Captain William Armstrong ["Pretty Billy" Armstong]. This was in February 1782 as the enclosed certificate of said Langham will show. From Rowan he marched to Bacon's Bridge near Charleston in South Carolina where he was stationed. While stationed here he often went out in scouting parties against the British in which his party was sometimes successful and sometimes defeated.

These skirmishes took place generally of a night. He recollects that near where they were stationed there was a place called by them the quarter house, for the possession of which different contests took place between them and the British. He thinks this house was first taken by the Americans from the British and after being retained by the British was again retaken by the Americans. While stationed here as well as he now recollects his time expired and all his Company was discharged. Immediately after the he and 4 others of his Company to which William Bates, Mathias Bates, Samuel Club & Samuel Love then volunteered at this place to guard their Major who was by the name of McCree [sic, Griffith John McRae] to Wilmington in North Carolina they being selected by him for that purpose. He thinks McRae was engaged principally about Wilmington at that time in having clothes made for the soldiers. During this

¹ BLWt21806-160-55

² Former widow, wife of William Hawkins

term he thinks he remained with McRae about one month, making in all 16 months for which he has never received one cent.

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.

He has no documentary evidence of his service except that herewith enclosed and he knows of no one by whom he can prove his service except Thomas Cain.

There is no clergyman living in his neighborhood whose testimony he can procure.

He further swears that he is unable to attend Court.

He received a discharge from Major McRae which is lost also one from Samuel Mosby which is enclosed. He further swears that from his extreme [old age] and consequent loss of memory he is unable to give a minute and particular account of his service. To the

Interrogatories required by the War Department to be propounded to him he answers

To 1st Question: Answer: in Kent County Delaware in the year 1750

To 2nd do Answer: I have none

To 3rd do Answer in Rowan County where I have lived ever since

To 4th do Answer I volunteered

To 5th do I recollect none at this time

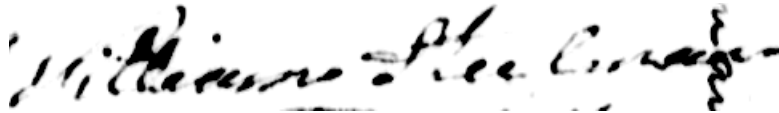
To 6th do I received a discharge from Major McRae [indecipherable word written over] is lost

To 7th do Thomas McCane & Frederick May

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ James Frost, JP

S/ William Steelman

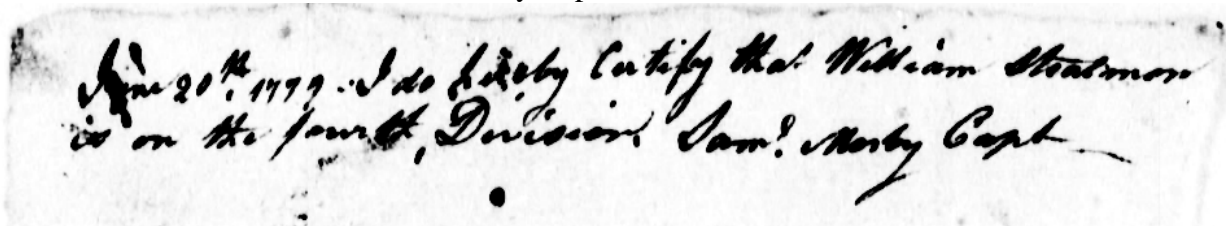


[Frederick May & Thomas Cain gave the East Anders supporting affidavit and attest to the bodily infirmity of the veteran. In addition, Thomas Cain gave a separate affidavit saying that he well knows that the veteran was in service for 12 months because he looked after the veterans business and his family during his absence.]

[fn p. 60]

June [?] 20th 1779 I do hereby Certify that William Steelman is on the fourth Division.

Saml. Mosby Capt



[fn p. 62]

This is to Cartify that Wm Steelman Soldier in the third No. Carolina Battn was Received the sixth of march 1782 for the term of one year and no longer

Saml Jones Capt N. C. line

This is to Certify that Wm Stealman Soldier in the
Third N. Carolina Batt: was Received the sixth of Jan^y
1782 for the term of one year Saml Mosby Capt. & in
and no longer

[fn p. 3 of the second file for this veteran]

Surry County I do hereby Certify
That William Stealman is
? on the first division
& have ? his Tower of Duty
Saml Mosby Capt

Surry County I do hereby Certify
that William Stealman is
Enrolled on the first division
& have been his Tower of Duty
Saml Mosby Capt

[fn p. 10 of second file]

This will Certify that William Stealman
of Roan County has Inlisted in the Cont'l
Service for one year Agreeable to the Late
Proclamation Issued by the Honble
Alexr Martin Esqr.
15th Feby 1782 Thos Langham
for Wm Armstrong Capt.
To the Honble B. G. Rutherford

This will certify that William Steelman
of Rowan County has died in the South
Service for one year according to the date
proclamation issued by the Hon^{ble}
Alice Martin Esq.
17th Feb 1852
to the Hon^{ble}
B. G. [unclear]

[fn p. 6 of first file: On May 29, 1855 in Davie County North Carolina, Catharine Hawkins, 69, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of William Steelman a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him July 4th, 1823 in Rowan County North Carolina; that they were married by one Joseph Pickler, a licensed minister of the gospel; that her name prior to her marriage was Catherine Cain; that her husband died in Rowan County March 7th, 1837; that she afterwards married William Hawkins who died in the County of Davie (once Rowan County) North Carolina September 20, 1852 and that she remains a widow.]

[fn p. 9: marriage bond issued in Rowan County North Carolina on July 4, 1823, issued to William Steelman and Hiram Cook to secure the marriage of William Steelman to Catharine Cain.]

[Steelman was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line and militia. His widow, who married William Hawkins, was pensioned at the rate of \$53.53 per annum.]