

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Williams W9891
Transcribed by Will Graves

Sarah Williams f94NC
rev'd 7/13/17

[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.]

[p 8]

State of Missouri, County of Cole } SS

On this twenty first day of December in the Year of our Lord 1840, Personally appeared before the undersigned William Scott, Judge of the Circuit Court within and for the State and County aforesaid, who hereby certifies that from infirmity of body, Sarah Williams, who is mentioned below as an applicant for a pension cannot attend Court. The said Sarah Williams a resident of the County of Cole and the State of Missouri aged about eighty-three 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 June 4, 1836. That she is the widow of Joseph Williams who was a private in the Militia in the State of North Carolina. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated. That he entered the Service in the spring of the Year 1777 under Captain William Nevill [William Neville] and Col. James Miller. At the time the said Joseph Williams first entered the service the said Sarah does not recollect whether he was drafted or volunteered. That he first went to what was then called Whiteoak [sic, White Oak?] Fort in Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina and remained at said Fort on the Indian line until the fall of 1777, at which time he entered as a volunteer in the Ranging Service in the same County, under the officers above named, in that service, he ranged along the Indian line whenever occasion required until the close of the War. That he was kept ready at a moments warning and was very frequently out. That he was in actual Service more than two years. That while he was in the ranging service spoken of above, he went under Captain Major Parsons [Major Parson] near to Ninety Six in South Carolina at the time it was in the possession of the British. That she does not recollect how long her husband was gone on this expedition. That she does not recollect the names of other officers than those mentioned: That she has the evidence of Thomas R. Musick¹ who is now on the Pension roll in the State of Missouri by whom she can prove the services of her deceased husband. She hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present: And declares that her name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State: She further declares that she was married to the said Joseph Williams on the first day of July 1777. That her husband the aforesaid Joseph Williams died on the fifth day of January 1820. And that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

S/ Sarah Williams, X her mark

Subscribed & sworn to before the undersigned the day & year first above written
S/ William Scott

1 [Thomas R. Musick S16987](#)

[Benjamin M. Lisle and Lewis Musick gave a supporting affidavit.

Benjamin M. Lisle
Lewis Musick]

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Thomas R. Musick a Clergyman and a Pensioner of the United States on the roll of the Agency of the State of Missouri: being lawfully sworn deposes and saith that he is about eighty-three years of age. That he has been well acquainted with the applicant Sarah Williams ever since the year 1777 and her husband Joseph Williams from that time until the time of his death in the year 1820. That the said Sarah and Joseph Williams were married in the Summer of the year 1777 – as this affiant verily believes; That no record of any marriage was preserved in Rutherford County in the State of North Carolina, at that time. That this affiant himself was then legally authorized to celebrate marriages and he well recollects that no records of such transactions were preserved by him or any other officer that he knew of. That he has no doubt that the said Joseph and Sarah Williams were lawfully married: that he knew them as man and wife from the year 1777 to the year 1820 when he knows that the said Joseph Williams died: That the said Sarah Williams has not married since the death of her husband Joseph Williams: That he well recollects the revolutionary services of said Joseph Williams and states that all the foregoing declaration made by Sarah Williams respecting the services of her husband from the fall of 1777 till the close of the war are true: That he was in the action in those services, and has no doubt that said Joseph Williams served two years at least.

S/ Thos. R. Musick



Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned the 21st day of December 1840 the word “and” being first interlined.

S/ William Scott

[pp 3-4: Copy of the last will and testament of Joseph Williams of the County of St. Louis in the territory of Missouri in which he names his wife Sarah to whom he gives a life estate in his plantation; oldest son James; son Lewis, son Micajah, son William, son John, and son Franklin; daughter Mary, daughter Olivia and daughter Arabella.]

[Other information from the file:

Applicant's maiden name was Sarah Musick; she was born about 1756 in Albemarle County, Va.; that Joseph Williams was born about 1750, probably in Virginia; that he moved about 1775 to Tryon (now Rutherford) County, NC; that they moved from Rutherford County, NC to Illinois in 1794 and the following year to Saint Louis County, Missouri, where he died; she died in May, 1849; that Joseph and Sarah had the following children:

James born March 27, 1778

John born August 1, 1780

Micajah or Macejah born February 16, 1782

Lewis born May 19, 1784[?]

William Sherly born June 3, 1787

Franklin age not given

Mary age not given

Olivia age not given

Arabella age not given

Veteran had a brother named Giles Williams who was a resident of Rutherford County, NC]

James Williams was born March the 21st Day 1778
John Williams was born August the 14th Day 1780
Macajah Williams was born February the 16th Day 1782
Lewis Williams was born 29th Day 1784
William Sherry was born June the 3rd Day 1787
CHAP.
William Williams was born the 11th Day 1788

[Note: The above is the only family register appearing in this file.

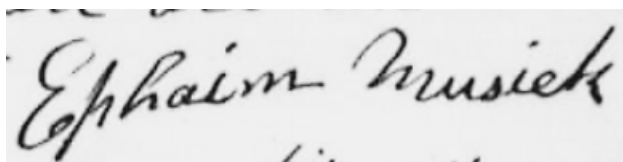
[p 20: On January 24, 1846 in Gasconade County Missouri, the widow, then 88, gave testimony that her husband was a private in the North Carolina militia during the revolution and that he served at least two years for which she claims a pension. In this document she states "that she was married to the said Joseph Williams in the year 1777 in the County of Rutherford in the State of North Carolina that they lived in that County after the marriage till in 1793 or 1794 they sold out their land to one Isaac Cloud and in 1794 left the State of North Carolina for the State of Missouri near or where St. Louis now is situated and has resided in said State from that time to the present."]

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State of Missouri County of Franklin

This day personally appeared Ephraim Musick, Agnes Musick & Sarah Kitchen who being by me duly sworn according to law depose and saith that they believe that Sarah Williams is the Mother of the Nine Children named in Joseph Williams' Last Will and testament and also one that died when it was young making in all Ten children.

S/ Ephraim Musick



S/ Agnes Musick, X her mark

S/ Sarah Kitchen, X her mark

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North Carolina Rutherford County

Personally appeared before me Robert G Twitty a Justice of the Peace in and for said County William Dalton² and after being duly sworn according to law makes the following statement I was well acquainted with Joseph Williams who married Sarah Musick they left this Country about the year 1798 Joseph Williams was a private Soldier in the Revolutionary War he was in active service for Eighteen months under Captain McClain [John McClain] in the Western part of North Carolina against the Indians and was Stationed & guarded alternately Oats, Russel [Russell], Waddleton's, Nevels [Neville's] Stations I was in the light horse company at the same time and places that Joseph Williams was in the Service as above described Joseph Williams was wounded in the leg in an engagement with the Indians Joseph Williams I think was in the Service more than I have described but I was not with him and I cannot tell How long his other Service was I am now in my 84th year and draw a Pension as a Revolutionary Soldier.

Sworn to and subscribed this 12th day of January 1846 before me

S/ Robt. G. Twitty, JP

S/ William Dalton, X his mark

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North Carolina Rutherford County

Before the Subscriber a Magistrate in and for said County personally appeared James Ownbey³ and after being duly sworn on his oath makes the following statement I was well acquainted with Joseph Williams who married Sarah Musick. Joseph Williams was in active Service under Captain McClain [John McClain] in the Revolutionary War for fourteen months & was alternately at Earls, Nevels, Russels & Ledbetters Stations I think Williams was in other Service but I was not with him. I lived with Giles Williams a Brother of Joseph Williams & made a crop in the year seventy-eight and after peace was made I did not see Joseph Williams often he lived on the waters of Pacolet [River] some distance from me & he left this Country & went West as I understood, there was no other Joseph Williams the one above described that I knew in this part of the Country at the time above stated. Sworn to & subscribed before me this 23rd of October 1846

S/ Robt. G. Twitty, JP

S/ James Ownbey



[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1836, for her husband service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

² [William Dalton S8295](#)

³ [James Ownbey \(Owenby\) W3712](#)