

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Williams R11627

MD VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

The State of Ohio } Ss.

Clermont County }

On this sixteenth day of September 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Common Pleas of Clermont County in said State William Williams a resident of Clermont County in said State aged seventy four years 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 herein stated

He was born he believes on the 24th day of April in the year 1761 but has no record of his age, in Washington County in the State of Maryland in which County he resided when he entered the service of the United States in the same year Burgoyne was taken [at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777; see endnote] in the month he believes of May under the command of Captain Lowrie [Lowry] and Lieutenant Shryhock [sic: Henry Shryock] we marched from near Hagerstown to Fort Fredrick [sic: Fort Frederick at present Big Pool MD] a large stone fort on the Potomac where we staid guarding the prisoners taken at Burgoynes Surrender. Lieutenant Shryhock commanded the fort. Declarant does not know the name of the Colonel. Lieutenant Shryhock had fifteen or twenty men under his command at the fort, there was two hundred prisoners at first but a good a many were let out on their parole of honor. Declarant served on this tour at this fort not less than four months. He was hired as a substitute but has forgotten the name of the person for whom he was substituted. Declarants father and brother James [James Williams, pension application S3590] were at the same time at said Fort and also his brother Joseph [Joseph Williams] – all four as substitutes. Declarant was under the age of twenty one & his father hired him out to get the pay. He does not know that he ever saw the person for whom he was substitute and if he ever heard his name he has forgotten it. At the end of four months he was dismissed without a written discharge & went home.

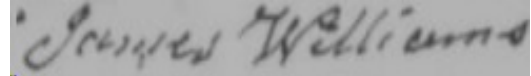
In the fall of the year after said service his father moved over the Allegany [Allegheny] Mountains into Washington County Pennsylvania and lived some time there & from thence he moved to Brook [sic: Brooke] County in the State of Virginia on the Ohio River to Coxes Fort [Cox Fort at Mingo Bottom N of Wellsburg]. After Declarant had staid about a week in said Fort he designed to leave & go back into the settlement to work when an officer whom he thinks was Colonel Lindsey and William McMan [William McMann] who commanded the fort requested him to stay & promised if decla[rant] would do so they would get two men to go out as scouts & see if the Indians were approaching or about the fort. They did get David McBride and Charles Martin who with declarant acted as scouts or spies for that fort Declarant was a volunteer & received no pay but his provisions. At the time he was here at the fort an expedition under the command of Colonel Crawford marched out against the Indians [William Crawford, 25 May 1782] Col Crawfords party was defeated [Sandusky OH, 4-6 Jun 1782]. As said expedition was going they lay about two and half miles above our fort at an old Mingo bottom. Declarant staid in the fort till after Crawfords men returned and till the expiration of the three months for which he engaged to serve and was then discharged having served on this expedition not less than three months. There were about ten families in said fort at the time declarant acted as a scout for it. He always served as a private & never received written discharge

Moses Wood and Josiah Prickett know him in his present neighbourhood and can testify to his character for veracity & their belief of his service as a soldier of the Revolution. He has no documentary evidence of his claim and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except his brother James Williams. From Virginia he moved to Newtown Hamilton County Ohio and from thence he moved to Clermont County Ohio in which he has resided for thirty three years last past. He hereby relinquishes ever claim 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.

William hisXmark Williams

The State of Ohio Adams County Ss

Before me Daniel Boyle a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared [James] Williams who being duly sworn according to Law Deposeth and saith that he was raised in the State of Maryland and was Born in the year 1759 and that his Brother William Williams who now resides in Clermont County Ohio was raised with me in our Fathers house to the best of my knowledge he was born in the year of Our Lord 1763 we still resided in Maryland in Washington County until the year of 1778 in March or 1st April in 1778 when both of us hired as substitutes to go a part of Burgoynes Armies Guard which was surrendered in October 1777 and Mustered under Capt Lowder of said County and marched to Fort Frederick in said state under the command of Lieutenant Henry Shryhock and there continued in service of the United States four months and was honorably discharged in the fall of 1778 my Father then moved over the Allegany Mountain into Washington County Pennsylvania and lived in said County until March in the year of 1781 when we moved to Ohio County Virginia to guard a Frontier Fort and was commanded by Lieut Linly of Pennsylvania and continued in the service of the United States until the 11th of June in the above year when I left my Brother William Williams at the Fort we were guarding. I then volunteered and went out on Crawford Campaign and was absent about thirty days and when I returned with the Army my brother William Williams was still in the Frontier garrison but I cannot say on what terms he was detained there as I left the Garrison after and went to Pittsburgh and did not return for some time and further this Deponent saith not

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

NOTES:

Although Burgoyne's army was surrendered on 17 Oct 1777 it was not sent to the south until a year later.

The reason given by the Pension Office for rejecting the claim by William Williams is that "he did not render service of six months in a military capacity as required by the pension law," because the "last mentioned service was not of that character provided for by the act of 7 June 1832." Regulations for administering the pension law of 1832, which were approved by the Pension Commissioner, James L. Edwards, clearly provide for volunteers and Indian Spies, but Edwards decided in 1834 that service as an Indian Spy on the Virginia frontier was not military service. For details, see the appendix to my transcription of the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.

The file contains a letter from the Pension Office dated 12 Nov 1850 to Mrs. Mary Williams of Gallipolis OH, widow of William Williams.