

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Jennings¹ R15422

f32VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

12/23/13: rev'd 1/22/24

[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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 2]

Pension Office June 13, 1837

I hereby certify that I have examined the claim on account of the Revolutionary Service of the late William Jennings who was a Captain in the Virginia State Regiment of Artillery commanded by Colonel T Marshall [Thomas Marshall]: that he served till the year 1781, when that Regiment was reduced; that he died in Hampton in Virginia, on the 10th of October 1791; that the case is embraced by the provisions of the act of Congress of the 5th of July 1832, entitled, "an act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia;" that the claim should therefore be allowed at the rate of \$300 per annum, from the 22nd of April 1783, when the war terminated, to the 10th of October, 1791 when said Jennings died; and that the amount is payable to Robert C Jennings, of the District of Columbia, attorney of Thomas Clark, of Elizabeth City County in Virginia, administrator on the estate of said William Jennings, deceased

S/ J. L. E. [J L Edwards]
Commissioner of Pensions

Approved June 13, 1837

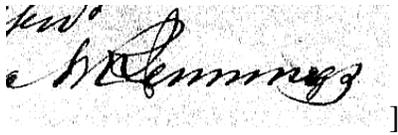
S/ J. R. P. [Joel Roberts Poinsett]
Secretary of War

[p 7: Letter from James R. Jennings dated December 27, 1845 addressed to Messers T. D. & A. T. Smith in which he refers to John Jennings as his grandfather.



[p. 9: In a letter postmarked from Norfolk November 2, 1849, W. R. Jennings makes reference to his mother (not named) and his sisters Mrs. Clarke, Indiana, Amanda and Mrs. Robinson and his brother James Jennings as the heirs of his father (not named) or the grandchildren of Major William Jennings of the revolutionary war.

¹ VA Half Pay See N. A. Acc. No. 874 No. 050092 Half Pay William Jennings also papers in N. A. Acc. No. 837—
VA Half Pay William Jennings Y S File



[Note: From a typed summary appearing in this file it appears that there were at least 2 different officers in the Virginia service by the name of William Jennings as to whose heirs there was some confusion.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Petition for Bounty land

Heirs of William Jennings Captain – State Line

The facts are – The Council Journal shows that William Jennings was commissioned August 7th 1777 – Lawrence Smith's pay book proves that he received pay as Lieutenant & Captain down to December 15 1779 – Commodore James Barron's affidavit proves that William Jennings entered the service "at the very earliest period of the Revolution, & continued therein until the close of the war."

This claim has been reported good, for a service of three years in Printers list No. 2. The testimony of Commodore Barron, added to the evidence of records causes me now to report it good for the war.

The Governor will find it necessary to ascertain by his decision the time of commencement of service. Commodore Barron says it was the very earliest period of the war & the Council Journals show that William Jennings received his commission as an officer in the State Artillery Regiment on the 7th of August 1777. He might have been in the service before the date of his commission.

Respectfully submitted

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c

To his Excellency
Governor Floyd

[James Barron's affidavit as posted online is largely illegible]

[From [Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com](#)]

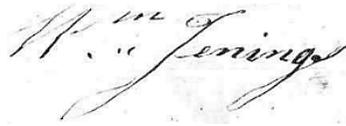
[<https://www.fold3.com/image/616518652>] 56-page file

[p 9]

I do hereby [certify] that I was acquainted with Captain William Jennings who Served in the war of the Revolution until the Close of the Same. I was a Soldier in the Company in which he was first Lieutenant in the Early part of that war & that the Said Captain William Jennings died in Hampton in Elizabeth City County Virginia on the 10th day of October 1791. I am now Eighty two years of age & now on the Pension list for my Services in said war

Wm Jennings [William Jennings]²

² [William Jennings S5615](#)



[Certified by a Justice of the peace for Elizabeth City County November 18, 1834]

[p 10]

I do hereby Certify that I was acquainted with Captain William Jennings a resident of this place until his death. I knew him in the Revolutionary War. I saw him acting as an Officer at a Critical time of that war & after the Close of that he again resided in Hampton until his death which was on the 10th of October 1791. Given under my hand at Hampton this 18th day of November 1834 in the 60 7th Year of my age

John Westwood Snr.



[p 11]

District of Columbia Washington} To wit

On this 7th day of February 1835 personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Commodore James Barron who being duly Sworn upon the Holy Evangelists deposes and says that he was well and intimately acquainted with Captain William Jennings of Hampton Virginia who intermarried in the family of the deponent. That he knew him as a Captain in the Virginia Line during the War of the Revolution and his understanding and believed then was and still is that the said Captain Jennings commenced in the service at the very earliest of the Revolution and continued therein until the close of the war.

James Barron³



[p 13]

Washington County District of Columbia} SS

This 13th day of June 1837 came before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for said County, Robert C Jennings who being duly sworn makes oath that he is the son of William Jennings who was a Captain in the service of the United States in the Virginia State Line during the Revolutionary War, That he was born in the month of May 1779, and that he hath frequently heard his mother say that his father then a Captain in the said Virginia State line, during the following winter being what is called the hard winter sent a barge, accompanied by some of his men come across the Hampton Roads, on the ice, the barge being placed on the ice, for her & this deponent, who was then an infant, & that she and this deponent crossed over on the ice to visit his said father [undeciphered word]⁴ the Town of Hampton, to Norfolk, where the said

³ [James Barron W12264](#) See note in that transcript indicating that there were 3 men named James Barron who served from Virginia in the Revolution. Compare the signature of this James Barron with the signatures appearing in [James Barron W12264](#). They are identical, at least to my eye.

⁴ 

Captain Jennings was then in service. And this deponent further saith that he has always understood & verily believes that his said father continued in the service of the United States until the close of the Revolutionary War.

Given under my hand the day and year above written
[no indication of a signature by the deponent]

Robt Gelty, JP

[p 17]

To the Honorable Thomas [undeciphered surname], Secretary of the Interior

Your memorialist – William H Jennings, respectfully Sheweth, that he is the acting administrator di bonie non [de bonis non] of Gideon Johnston⁵ deceased, a citizen of the State of Virginia, and formerly a Captain of the State artillery. His letters of administration will appear from the certificate of the County court of Fauquier Virginia, which is filed herewith.

The former administrator of the said Johnston heretofore recorded Judgment against the State of Virginia for the Services of his said intestate as a Captain in the State artillery, which said Judgment was satisfied under the act of Congress which made provision for the liquidation of certain Judgments against the State of Virginia. In the suit upon which the said Judgment was rendered claim was asserted only for the services of said intestate as Captain in the State line, the parties interested in the claim, and their attorneys who prosecuted it, were, alike, ignorant of the fact, that the said intestate, in addition to his commission of Captain, held the appointment and discharged the duties of Quarter Master of Artillery; This fact appears from the certificate of the Honorable John Scott, now one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia, which is also filed herewith –

Your memorialist is advised that the failure of the late representative of the said intestate to prefer the claim for the services of his intestate as Quarter-Master as aforesaid, cannot defeat the right of your memorialist, to demand the same at this time.

The declaration of the said intestate now remaining in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions shows that he received the appointment of Brigade Quarter Master in the Regiment of artillery commanded by Colonel Thomas Marshel, and the certificate of James E Heath, Auditor of the State of Virginia, filed herewith, shows that under the act of the General Assembly of Virginia passed at the November Session 1781 he received from the said state a certificate for his services as Captain and Quarter Master of artillery prior to the 1st of January 1782.

Your memorialist therefore prays that he may be allowed from the treasury of the United States compensation for the services of his said intestate as quartermaster as aforesaid – and as in duty &c &c he will ever pray

William H Jennings, administrator
by R. E. Scott, Attorney

November 16, 1849

[p 23: Affidavit dated April 28, 1837 given by John Westwood in which he states that Captain William Jennings was related to the defiance father (not named); he states that he was too young to have much of a recollection of the war but that he knew Captain Jennings quite well and knew of his reputation as having served as a Captain of the artillery during the Revolutionary war.]

[p 34]

I Wilson Cary Selden of Loudoun County, State of Virginia, hereby certify that I was well

⁵ [Gideon Johnston \(Johnson\) S38089](#)

acquainted with and nearly related to Captain William Jennings of the County of Elizabeth City, Virginia. Captain Jennings had a commission in Marshall's regiment, and I have reason to believe continued to be attached to the military service of the country until the close of the War of the Revolution. I was myself a surgeon in the aforesaid Regiment.

After the war we resided in the same town (Hampton) where he died and was buried in the Church yard of that place. I am informed that there is a tombstone erected upon his grave, which I presume must show the exact time of his death.

W. C. Selden⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. C. Selden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

[Certified March 26, 1834 in Loudoun County Virginia]

⁶ [Wilson Cary Selden S4815](#)