Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Willard S41365 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 May 2023.

State of Virginia	}	Be it remembered that on this the fifteenth day of February 1825 John
&	}	Willard a resident of said County aged about seventy years personally
County of Campbell SS	S }	appeared in the open court of said county at the Court house thereof &
		having been first duly sworn according to law did on his oath make the

following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820, that the said John Willard enlisted for the term of three years on the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1779 in the company of recruits commanded by Capt P Jones, that he was afterwards transfered to Capt Hezekiah Morton's [BLWt69-300] company in the regiment commanded by Col Abraham Buford [S46372] in the line of the State of Virginia on the continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said corps until the expiration of his term of service when he was discharged in Hillsborough in the state of North Carolina that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any state except that of Virginia and that the following are his reasons for not making an earlier application for a pension. He had determined ever since his discharge aforesaid never to solicit the aid of his country, so long as by his own honest exertion he should be able to procure a livelihood, he is by occupation a planter and possessing no land of his own, has for many years back been compelled to lease the land of other persons for cultivation, for the land thus leased he has always been compelled so large an annual rent that with the best management he could use he has found it not only impracticable for him to accumulate any thing for the comfort of declining years, but has in the end landed him with an amount of debt which is now likely to consume the small remnant of his scanty subsistance. he is now far advanced in life & his bodily function much impaired by the drudgery and exposure which his circumstances necessarily imposed upon him. These accumulated evils and infirmities would however scarcely have induced him to seek the bounty of his country, had he not about two years ago sustained a severe injury in his arm and shoulder by a fall from his horse, whereby he has become so disabled as to render him unfit for active labor and altogether incapable of supporting himself except by the most painful executions. These are in brief the reasons why I have not sooner made application for a pension. My family at present residing with me consists of my wife and three female children to wit Martha, Betsy and Nancy Willard.

And In pursuance of the act of the 1st day of May 1820 I the said John Willard do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any other manner whatsoever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of congress "Entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed the 18th day of March 1818. And that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

John hisXmark Willard

Schedule of the Estate of John Willard refered to in the foregoing oath to wit

Real Estate — none — Two Cupboards
slaves — none — Tables, one dozen chairs, four
Two horses – one colt, 12 Head pots, four ovens
of cattle, Six sheep, Twenty

four head of Hogs -

all which property is conveyed in trust to John Robertson to secure to William Robertson, Thos. Moorman & others the payment of the sum of two hundred & thirty six dollars and 27 cents due from me for arrears of rent of the plantation &c whereon I now reside [note in margin] As will fully appear by reference to a

certified copy of said deed of trust herewith sent marked A.

Given under my hand this day & year first above mentioned John his Xmark Willard I John Willard do also further upon oath declare that on the 18th day of March 1818 I was the owner and possessor of one sorrel mare and colt and one old horse which I do not now own nor possess and which since the date aforesaid have been disposed of as follows:

a sorral mare & colt — sold to Thos Moorman In the year 1818 at the price of \$80. in part

discharge of the rent due for the

plantation I lived on— At the price of three barrels of Indian corn

An old horse sold to Wm Helm of the In the year 1823

County of Campbell }

The first of the above mentioned articles to wit the sorrel mare and colt were sold to the purchaser either as agent of Landlord of the premises leased by me in order to discharge a balance of rent due from me to him as will appear by his affidavit. — The old horse secondly mentioned had become nearly useless and was sold for three barrels of Indian corn for the use of my family. signed by me this the day and year aforesaid

John his Xmark Willard

[From bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.]

I do certify that John Williard inlisted a Soldier in the Continental line some time in the year 1779 for three years in Colo Buford Reg't Gen'l Scotts [Charles Scott BLWt2055-850] Brigade & serv'd out his time faithfully. was wounded in the knee at Buford's Defeat [Battle of Waxhaws, 29 May 1780] but has never apply'd for a pension untill now. given under my hand this 31st day of July 1824.

Hezekiah Morton formerly Capt. in the Continental line



To the Honorable The Governor and executive council of Virginia. The petition of John Willard of the county of Campbell and state of Virginia respectfully sheweth.

That on the [blank] day of [blank] 1779 your petitioner enlisted with Capt. Jones of the United States army of the Revolution, for the term of three years, in the state line of Virginia on continental establishment, that he was attached to Col Bufords regement & Genl Scotts brigade, and served out his time faithfully. His written discharge which was obtained at the expiration of his term of service, has been lost or mislaid by accident, he is therefore unable to exhibit it. He trusts however that the certificate of Capt Morton herewith shewn will be deemed sufficient evidence of his service & discharge. Your petitioner is informed that he is entitled by a law of the state to one hundred acres of land for his services, in addition to his monthly pay. This land he has never obtained, nor has ever received a warrant for it. In tender consideration where of he prays that the proper officers may be directed to deliver to him or his agent a warrant to be located on the land reserved by the state for the satisfaction of these claims, for the 100 acres to which he is entitled as bounty. And as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c [5 April 1830]

NOTE: John Willard also made an application on 10 Jan 1825 that detailed only his financial situation and not his military service.