

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Williams¹ W177
Transcribed by Will Graves

Martha (Patsey) Williams f44NC
rev'd 7/11/17

[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 18]

State of North Carolina, Wake County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1833

On this 20th day of May 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace of the Court aforesaid now sitting John Williams a resident Citizen of the County of Wake & State of North Carolina, aged 79 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 the previous session for that purpose. That he was born in Warren County North Carolina in the year 1754 & that he has no record of his age. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated To wit: He enlisted in the County at that time called Bute now Warren for the Term of five years in the Revolutionary War & faithfully served out his full time of said five Years in the service of his Country as a private Soldier in the light Horse or Dragoon Companies, that he enlisted in the fall of the year 1776 – in the County above stated & was Honorably discharged in the Town of Halifax State of North Carolina in the month of September 1781 – by Captain Gamble [Edmund Gamble] who was Captain of the Company, which discharge he has since lost. That soon after he entered the service which was in Captain Edward Gamble's Company of light Horse or Dragoons Commanded by Colonel William Washington they were marched to Kinston on Neuse River & from thence to South Carolina into Charleston & was several years stationed in that State & sometimes in the State of Georgia. He was in the sever Battle fought at Savannah when General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] commanded & he was beside in many skirmishes with the British & Tories [Siege of Savannah, September 16-October 9, 1779].² He was honorably discharged in September 1781 about one month before General Washington took Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] & the British Army at little York in the State of Virginia.

That he knows of no other documentary Evidence but that of his lost discharge, and as this applicant is informed & believes that there never has been any Report or other Military document of the light Horse dragoons, made or kept in the State of North Carolina or if there ever was, they are lost or destroyed, as the Secretary of the State informed your applicant. And by which means & for want of such documentary evidence he has been deprived of his just right as heretofore to his Pension & also for his Land for his 5 years Services, being 640 Acres. That on account of such returns not being made, he has not been able to obtain his Bounty Land from the State, & now he sets forth in this declaration his application to the General Government for his Land as he is informed & believes they will grant it to him & more especially now since the Land office in North Carolina is closed so that no military warrants are now issued as he is

¹ BLWt2181-160-55

² <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790916-savannah/>

informed & believes. And he now makes application to the United States for his Military Bounty Land, and a pension according to the several acts of Congress. That he has never received any Pension or any Land for his Military Services either of the State [of] North Carolina or United States.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity, or claim for Land except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension list Roll of any Agency of any State or United States.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ John Williams, X his mark

[applicant states that he is not acquainted with any clergyman]

[William Ellis and Joseph Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 20: On April 27, 1833 in Wake County North Carolina Nathan Rhodes,³ a pensioner, gave a supporting affidavit. Unfortunately, the ribbon used by the attesting notary obscures a portion of the text of his affidavit. The portion that can be made out appears to state that Rhodes recollected seeing Williams in the light horse or dragoons near Ashley [River? in SC] when 6 Tories were hung. Rhodes signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[Veteran died June 7 or 10, 1845; he married Martha or Patsey Jones, of Franklin County, on January 6, 1813; she filed for a widow's pension at age 84 while living in Wake County, NC on March 16, 1853; she died in Wake County, on June 6, 1861.]

[p 31: Certified copy of a marriage bond issued in Franklin County North Carolina on January 6, 1813 John Williams and Henry Baker conditioned upon the marriage of John Williams and Patsey Jones of said County.]

[p 42: On April 23, 1869 in the district of Columbia William Jones, aged 67, a resident of Williamsburg New York made application for the restoration of the pension benefit due his mother Martha Williams of Raleigh North Carolina; that his mother died in Wake County North Carolina at the age of 104 years on June 6, 1861; that her last pension installment was paid March 4, 1861. He states that he is the only "loyal heir" of his mother.

William Jones
a resident of *Wash.*]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the cavalry, North Carolina Continental line. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]

³ [Nathan Rhodes S41981](#)