

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Durham: W4186

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

On this 28th day of November Eighteen hundred and forty two. Before me the subscriber Nicholas Brice Chief Judge of Baltimore City Court. Personally appeared Ann Durham, a resident of Baltimore County in the State of Maryland aged Seventy nine 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 July 7th 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of William Durham, a soldier of the Revolution, who according to the best information she possesses, enlisted in the Spring of the year 1778, in the Company commanded by Captain Hines of the sixth Maryland Regiment. that he was at the Battle of Camden [either the battle on 16 Aug 1780 or Battle of Hobkirk Hill on 25 Apr 1781] and various other battles the particulars of which as related by him not now recollected by her. That he served during several years, was wounded in is head and hand and did not return home until the close of the war of the Revolution.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Durham at Joppa [Joppatown] in Harford County Md. by Rev'd. Wm Wilmer of the Protestant Episcopal church, to the best of her recollection in the year seventeen hundred and Eighty six, without Licence, the marriage intent being published in the Church; that the Records kept by Parson Wilmer are very imperfect and do not contain her marriage, that her daughter by her said Husband is now fifty four years of age.

That her husband the aforesaid William Durham left home a long time ago and has not been heard of for twenty years past. that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January seventeen hundred and ninety four. Viz at the time above stated. Ann herXmark Durham

I John Durham of the City of Baltimore State of Maryland aged Sixty six year, Depose and say, that at my earliest recollection when about three years old then residing in Harford County Maryland, I perfectly remember seeing William Durham (who is my uncle) in his Regimentals a Soldier of the Revolution, then on a visit to his Father John Durham (who was my grand Father) at whose house I then resided. That after the close of the war William Durham returned to Harford County, when and where I have often heard him tell of his dangers and services in the said War, and showed the marks of the wounds he had received in his head and hand in battle with the enemy. I was also well acquainted with Miss Ann Tolby who resided in the family of my said Grandfather John Durham some time prior to her marriage with said William Durham, then a soldier which marriage took place in the immediate neighbourhood of my said grandfather where I then resided according to the best of my knowledge and belief in the year seventeen hundred and eighty six. That said Marriage was a matter of public notoriety - and I was in constant habit of visiting them as man and wife, in which relation they were known and acknowledged in respectable society; that they raised a family of children; the eldest of whom Elizabeth is now fifty four (say 54) years of age the wife of Mr John Cooper of the City. That the said William Durham left home many years ago and has not been heard from for twenty years past. That said Ann Durham his widow has not intermarried but remains his widow, and she is now in this City but is a resident of Baltimore County, sustaining a good moral character and is the identical person who is now applying for a Pension on account of the Military Services of her said husband in the war of the Revolution in which application I am disinterested. As witness my hand this 30th day of November eighteen hundred and forty two.

[signed] John Durham

State of Maryland,
City of Baltimore S.S.

On this fifth day of Decem'r, eighteen hundred and forty two, before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace, of the State of Maryland, in and for the City of Baltimore aforesaid, personally came Elizabeth Cooper, aged 54 years a resident of this City, who being duly Sworn according to law, doth on her oath declare that she was personally acquainted with Wm Durham late of Harford County; that she has often heard him tell of his services and sufferings as a Soldier of the Revolution in the Maryland line; That he told of having been in a number of battles in the South, particularly of the Battles of Cowpens [17 Jan 1781] and of Camden; That he shewed scars of a wound on his head and another on his hand; That fifty years ago she knew him as the husband of Ann Durham to whom as she has been credibly informed, he was married in the year 1786. That she this deponent being their daughter knew them as man and wife until about the year 1817, when in a state of dispondency he left home and has not now been heard from for more than twenty years. That she has known his widow to this time who is (now on a visit to this City) a resident of Baltimore County of good character and entitled to credit and is the identical person now applying for a pension on account of the military services o her said husband in the war of the Revolution; and that she this deponent is not interested therein.

Elizabeth herXmark Cooper

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore
December 15 1842

I, John Timmons, aged 52 years, a resident of the City of Baltimore, and formerly of Harford County, Maryland, where I resided until the year 1830, Depose and say, that I was well acquainted with William Durham and his wife Ann Durham formerly of said County. That I have often heard said William Durham tell of his exploits and sufferings as a soldier in the year of the Revolution. That he (the said William Durham) left his residence, in Harford County aforesaid, in or about the year 1817 in a state of (partial) mental aberation. That about one year thereafter a letter was received by my Father or Mother, from my uncle Stephen Sutton of Menango [sic: Venango] County, Pennsylvania, stating that said William Durham had arived there in a deranged state of mind; That in about 6 or 9 months afterwards another letter was received from Mr. Sutton stating that said William Durham was dead; of the truth of which information this deponent hath no doubt. and I do further depose and say that I am not interested in this testimony, or its results as it respects the application of said Ann Durham widow or said William for a pension, or any otherwise.

[signed] John Timmons