

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Williams W6515

Mary

fn30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/20/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

Virginia Spotsylvania County Hastings [?] Court of Fredericksburg to wit

On this 18th day of December 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Hastings Court of the Corporation of Fredericksburg now sitting James Williams a resident of the County of Spotsylvania, within a few miles of Fredericksburg, aged seventy years and six months – 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 the 7th 1832 –

That he was born in the town of Fredericksburg in the month of April 1762. That he resided in Fredericksburg when the revolutionary war commenced, and until he was 26 years old – That he then removed a few miles from town in Spotsylvania County, where he has resided ever since & where he now resides – That in the beginning of the year 1781 – he was drafted into the Virginia militia, then called out in the service of the United States. That he served a two month tour under a Captain Croucher [Thomas Croucher] & was marched to Cabin Point near Norfolk, Colonel George Stubblefield was Colonel in this tour & Major McWilliams was next in command – from Cabin Point they were marched to Petersburg – they there gave up their arms – and being marched without arms to Richmond, they were there discharged – that he then returned to his home in Fredericksburg, where he remained about five weeks. – He was then called out under Captain John White & marched from Fredericksburg to Williamsburg – this was at the time that Arnold [Benedict Arnold] lay in Portsmouth – from Williamsburg this deponent & forty others commanded by a Captain Kelly were ordered to newport neuse [Newport News], where they lay 18 days – at the end of that time an express came for the detachment and they were ordered back to Williamsburg – from Williamsburg they were marched to Richmond – after being in Richmond two days – General Lafayette and General Wayne arrived with twenty-four hundred men – that he was marched from Richmond to done Castle near Williamsburg under Colonel Thomas Matthews – and were there relieved & sent home – that he remained at home in Fredericksburg one week when he was again called out under Captain John Legg – and marched to Winchester with thirteen Tories & prisoners – where they lodged them & returned back to Fredericksburg – on their arrival there – General Weeden [George Weedon], who was stationed there, employed them into rolling in Tobacco into the warehouses, which had been rolled out in a moment of alarm sometime before – they were engaged in that business, when more Tories & prisoners having arrived in Fredericksburg he was again ordered to conduct them to Staunton, from there they returned to Fredericksburg & were discharged. In this tour he was kept rather more than two months – and in the tour before under Captain White he was rather more than two months – He remained at home about a week, when he was again ordered out under Captain John Tankersley to go to the Siege of York – they marched from Fredericksburg to Williamsburg & from Williamsburg to Spring Camp in Springfield where he remained about three weeks – from

there they marched down to York – General Stevens [Edward Stevens] commanded – & Colonel Thomas Meriwether & Major Hardiman – he remained at York until after the surrender of Cornwallis – and was detailed as one of the Guard to convey the prisoners to the upper Country – he marched to Thornton's Mill at the falls of the Rappahannock [River] about a mile above Fredericksburg – where he was discharged – he was in this tour two months and a half – he was then drafted for ten days under Sergeant Benjamin Robinson to carry up prisoners to Fauquier Courthouse – the war was now over & this ended his military services – He was in the whole upwards of nine months in active-duty – he never received any written discharge – In consequence of this he has no documentary evidence of his services – but Colonel Thomas Minor¹ of Spotsylvania, who has been his neighbor for many years & who is now on the Pension Rolls of Congress – knows of his services & has herewith testified to the same – and Mr. William Jackson of Fredericksburg also knows of his services and herewith testified as to the same – he has made his declaration in this Court because he is very weak & feeble & unable to travel far & this town is more convenient than Spotsylvania Courthouse – Besides one of his witnesses Mr. William Jackson is unable, by reason of age & infirmities to go to Spotsylvania Courthouse – he has no written record of his age. He served as a private. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

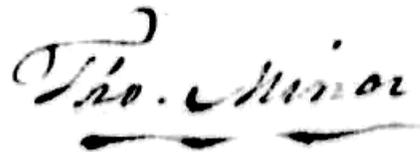
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Williams, X his mark

Personally appeared in open Court, on the day & year aforesaid Thomas Minor of the County of Spotsylvania who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith – That he knew and has been well acquainted with the aforesaid James Williams before & since the Revolutionary War – that he has resided all his life within the limits of Spotsylvania County as stated in his declaration aforesaid – That he served several tours of duty in the Virginia militia, during the revolution – that in 1781 – he was in the Army at the siege of York Town – and continued in the Army until the capture of the British Army under Cornwallis & came to Fredericksburg with the prisoners – this Deponent considers the said James Williams as a man of truth and his statements are entitled to credit.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. Minor

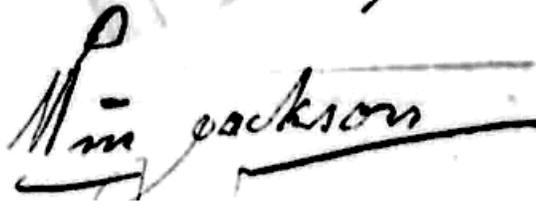
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Minor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "S/ Thos. Minor".

Personally appeared in open Court the day & year aforesaid William Jackson of the town of Fredericksburg – who being first duly sworn deposes & saith that James Williams who has made declaration as aforesaid, served with him in the revolutionary war to 2 is a beauty as a drafted militia man – first under Captain John Legg & afterwards under Captain John Tankersley at the siege of York, and continued with him in service, until relieved of Cornwallis' Prisoners at Fredericksburg – he considers him a man of truth & entitled to credit –

Sworn to & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid

¹ FPA W5374

S/ Wm Jackson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Wm Jackson".

[fn p. 12: On May 26, 1843 in Spotsylvania County Virginia, Mary Williams, 76 years old the 9th of March last, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Williams, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that both Thomas minor and William Jackson, the witnesses for her husband's application are now dead; that she married her husband the 3rd day after Christmas in the year 1787 and Fredericksburg Virginia by one Parson Thornton; that her husband died May 10, 1839; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 16: affidavit given by Nancy Rains and Sucky Williams, both of Fredericksburg Virginia, that they are sisters of James Williams and know that he was lawfully married to Mary, his widow.]

[fn p. 10: marriage bond issued to James Williams & E. Dickinson on the 27th of December 1787 to secure the marriage of James William to Mary Lee – issued in Spotsylvania County Virginia.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned for a like amount commencing March 4th, 1843.]