

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Goff R4085  
Transcribed by Will Graves

f85NC[HQ]  
8/16/08 rev'd 9/3/15

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

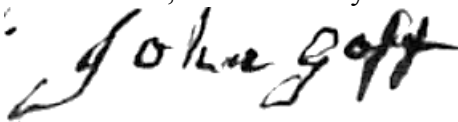
[p 3]

State of Georgia, Eighth District of Telfair County: SS

On this fifteenth day of April 1844 personally appeared John Goff the Applicant of Telfair County and State of Georgia Telfair County (but previously in the Territory of Florida) aged 90 years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, that he volunteered in the Army of the United States during the year 1777 under Captain Frederick Wells, in a Regiment raised in Duplin County North Carolina & served under the following named officers General John Ashe, James Kenan, & Linnington [probably John Alexander Lillington] Major James Gillespie, Colonel Thomas Rudolph and Company Officers Aaron Williams & James Love [?] and continued the Service until the end of the War or until the conclusion of peace. And that he lived in Duplin County North Carolina at the time of his enrollment, that he was in several skirmishes with the Tories & British but was not in any Battles regular engagements and that he marched from Wilmington under Captain Wells to Brunswick Old Town on Cape Fear River & from thence home again to Wilmington from thence on further orders again to Duplin Court House for ten months previous to the surrender of Lord [here the Fold3.com image is cut off – the balance of this page is from the HeritageQuest image] Cornwallis. I the said John Goff acted as the Ensign in the company of Captain Aaron Williams.

S/ James W. Rawlins, JIC

S/ John Goff, Revolutionary Sol.



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Georgia Telfair County

Personally appeared before me James W. Rawlins a Justice of the Inferior Court in & for the County of Telfair, John Goff who being duly sworn hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension except the present and swears that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State except this state otherwise the State of Georgia.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this \_\_\_ day of April 1844.

S/ James W. Rawlins, JIC

S/ John Goff, Applicant

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Georgia, Telfair County

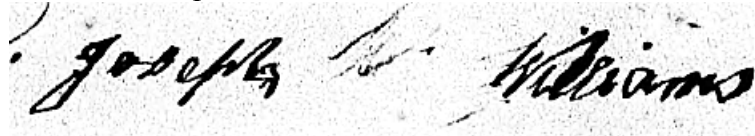
Personally appeared before me James W. Rawlins one of the Justices of the Inferior Court

Joseph Williams<sup>1</sup> a Revolutioner [sic] who draws his pension annually & after being duly sworn says on oath that John Goff who now applies for a pension was a soldier in the State of North Carolina Duplin County about the year 1779 under the command of James Gillespie, at first a while he was Sergeant & about the year 1779 he was appointed Ensign during the month of March or April of that year & was continued in that Office until the termination of the War.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1844.

S/ Jas. W. Rawlins, JIC

S/ Joseph Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Williams". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

[p 10: Elizabeth Minix gave a supporting affidavit. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 48]

State of Georgia County of Telfair: SS

On this [illegible] day of July 1844 Personally appeared in Open Court John Goff a Resident of Telfair County & State aforesaid Aged Ninety Years & After being duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. I entered the Service of the United States as a Volunteer & served as hereinafter described & under the following Officers. In the first part of the year 1779 I enlisted under Captain Frederick Wells as a Sergeant & served Several towers under him in the Southeastern part of North Carolina & once by Occasion in South Carolina. Generals John Ashe, James Kenan & Lenington & Majors James Gillaspay & John Treadwell all of which field Officers I was occasionally under in the service Captain Aaron Williams & Lieutenant Elijah Borben & Joseph Williams were some of the Company Officers. I was a resident of Duplin County North Carolina when I entered the service. The Skirmishes at the big Bridge & Brunswick old town were the principal engagements in which I was. I marched frequently from the Northeast to the northwest branches of the Cape Fear River & up & down said rivers & to Wilmington &c. I was well acquainted with Captain John Walker of the Regulars about the close of the Year 1779 Appointed Ensign under Captain Aaron Williams & continued in service until the close of the war in 1783. And I hereby relinquish all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & do declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatever, Sworn to & Subscribed in Open Court this first day of July 1844.

S/ John Goff

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Georgia Telfair County: Personally appeared Joseph Williams who being duly sworn Says on oath that about the close of the year 1779 he was acquainted with John Goff the applicant who petitions as above for his pension & that Deponent knew him to have been in service previous to that period but with whom deponent no with not that about the time Specified above Deponent knew John Goff to be holding the Office of Ensign under Captain Aaron Williams & saw him receive his commission as such & that he continued in said office until the conclusion of Peace

S/ Joseph Williams

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State of Georgia, Telfair County

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<sup>1</sup> [Joseph Williams S32065](#)

On this day of our Lord 1844, personally appeared in open Court John Goff a resident of Telfair County and State aforesaid, aged ninety years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by an act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the Service of the War of the Revolution as a volunteer in the first part of the year 1779, as a private footmen, under Captain Frederick Wells & served 2 towers [tours] of three months each, as a private Footman, left Duplin Court House, in the month of March & marched from thence to Wilmington & there was stationed & from thence marched to a place known as Jumping Run & there was stationed a while from thence to Brunswick Old Town at which place he had a few skirmishes with the British, from thence to New Bern & from thence back to Duplin Court House the above services constitute the two tours aforesaid under the following officers, General James Kenan, General John Ashe, General Linnington, Colonel Thomas Rutledge, Major James Gataspy [Gillespie] & Major John Tredwell. Captain Frederick Wells Lieutenant Elijah Bowen Ensign Shadrach Stallings about the first of September 1779 he was promoted to the office of First Sergeant under Captain Frederick Wells as near as he can recollect & served in said office, during the space of three months under the above named Officers & to the places above described, about the close of the same year (1779) he was chosen as Ensign under Captain Aaron Williams & Commissioned as such & under Lieutenant Joseph Williams, in a Horse Company by them raised, at Duplin Court House, North Carolina the Country through which he marched was from Duplin where he lived through New Hanover, Bladen, Robinson [Robeson], Richmond, Cumberland, Sampson & back to Duplin thence to Onslow, Lenoah [Lenoir] & Brunswick [New Brunswick] & up & down the North East to the North West Black & South rivers & Little Pedee on the borders of South Carolina & on Drowning Creek, up & down & on the Great Swamp on Moon [?] Creek & Rockfish Creek & was stationed from some time at the Long Bridge, on a Branch of Cape Fear, & was stationed at Rockfish bridge, that he was a resident of Duplin County North Carolina when he entered the service that during his service he marched frequently from the N. E. to the N. W. Branches of Cape Fear River, that he was well acquainted with Captain John Walker of the Regulars & that the close of the year 1779 he was appointed Ensign under Captain Aaron Williams & Lieutenant Joseph Williams & continued as such until the capture of Lord Cornwallis which was the time that he was discharged verbally & by General Kenan. That he the said John Goff applicant does hereby relinquish all claim whatsoever to a Pension or Annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State whatever.

Sworn to in open Court this 1<sup>st</sup> November 1844.

S/ John Goff

S/ Carleton B. Cole, JIC

[Henry J. Campbell, William Parker, Joseph B. Williams & David J. Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

Georgia, Telfair County: In Pulaski Superior Court

In open Court personally came Joseph Williams who being sworn, on oath says that he knew John Goff in the Revolutionary War, that this deponent was a Lieutenant in Captain Aaron Williams' Company of Volunteers in North Carolina, in 1779 or '80, he does not certainly recollect which, that John Goff joined said Company for 6 months, but he believes served 8 months, that he was commissioned an Ensign and his commission was signed by General James Kenan, and read out before the company by Major James Gillespie; that they were together and several skirmishes, but not in any general engagement, and that they were discharged at the same time, about the time of the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 1844.

S/ Joseph Williams

S/ Carleton B. Cole, JIC

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State of Georgia. In Superior Court of Telfair County

In open Court came John Goff who being duly sworn saith on oath that he lost his Commission as Ensign in the Continental troops or Revolutionary War by carrying it in his pocket during service so that if taken prisoner he could be entitled to the privileges of his rank, & that said commission was worn out by such carrying.

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court this first day of November 1844

S/ Carleton B Cole

S/ John Goff

[p 13: NC Comptroller's certificate:

Raleigh N.C.  
May 12 1845

I William W. Fuller Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the Name of John Goff appears of Record in this office as having had issued in his favor the following Certificates for Military Services (to wit) One for Twenty Seven pounds seventeen shillings and six pence (#22,17.6) see Book No 14 page 6 also one other Certificate for Twelve Pounds (#12) see Book No 22 page 149. also one other Certificate for Six Pounds seventeen shillings (#6.17.6) see Book 145 page 20 also one other Certificate for thirteen shillings see Book No 180 page 8 also in same Book page 15 one other Certificate for Twelve Pounds (#12) I also certify that the Name of John Goff appears of Record in this office as having had a Certificate issued in his favor for Military Service for Two hundred and thirty Pounds given under my hand and seal as office the day and date above written

Wm W. Fuller

22-17, 86

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A Statement of John Goff's reasons of delay

In the first place I was living on the frontiers of Georgia, and not knowing anything of the Pension Act being passed for several years at length I met with a Lawyer by the name of Colonel Delk who lived somewhere in the up Country, and he informed me that he would apply for my Pension for me, If I would make out the proof and I went over to Telfair Superior Court; and there made out my Declaration and gave it to Colonel Delk. I did not hear from him again for several years and being ignorant of his place of residence, I was unable to Communicate with him, and at length I heard that he was dead, and that he died in a short time after I gave him my Declaration.

I then gave out [sic, up] all hopes of ever receiving or applying for my Pension as I was very

poor and had not the means, nor a friend to apply for me, until at length I heard of an old acquaintance who formerly resided in North Carolina, and now a resident of Telfair County Georgia, and I then went to him and told him my situation, and got him to apply for me, and there I also met with an old Brother Soldier by the name of Joseph Williams who served in the Revolutionary war with me.

[The above document is undated an unsigned]

[p 57]

Jacksonville Georgia 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1845

J L Edwards Esquire

Dear Sir:

I take the liberty of writing you a few lines deeming it my duty as a good Citizen to inform you of a few facts which has come under my own personal knowledge and which I can prove to your full satisfaction by a number of Respectable Citizens of this country. They are facts concerning a Mr. John Goff who you are already aware of has been trying through the aid of a man by the name of William N Williams of Telfair County Georgia and Mr. E F Brown of Your City.

Now Sir I will proceed to inform you that I know to be underuable [?] and stubborn facts: about two years since William N Williams of this County went to Florida and while there he was informed that there was a man by the name of John Goff who it was said had served in the Revolutionary War and at that time and does still reside in the County of Madison in the State of Florida. Said Williams brought him to his residence in this County (Telfair) in the State of Georgia. Goff then informed Williams that if he would apply and get his Pension that he Goff would give him half of it to which Williams consented and commenced forthwith applying for the same. Williams for a blind, that the people should not suspicion anything wrong, kept Goff at his House until the month of October last, when a son of Mr. Goff came from Florida and carried the old man back where he still resides in Madison County with his son Mr. Cooper Goff. Williams at one time thought it was a doubtful case and recently gets a Lawyer of Hawkinsville Georgia by the name of Augustin N. Hansell to assist him in getting the Pension, and offers him and Mr. Brown large pay to persevere in trying to get it for him. In the month of April last one of the Judges of Telfair County having business in Florida, Williams got him by paying him twenty or thirty dollars to go to Mr. Goff and bring him over the Florida line into Georgia and there before a magistrate made Goff to swear to certain false statements concerning his residence &c about his being on the frontiers of Georgia and not knowing of the Pension act being passed, which I pronounce to be false, all of which Williams had done in order to strengthen Goff's claim for a pension.

I do not write you these lines with any impure motives, but simply to prevent the fraud which is about to be practiced upon the Government.

If Goff is to have a Pension it should be paid to him and him alone and paid in Florida and not to Mr. William N. Williams &Co. nor for their benefit. These facts Sir I can prove to your full satisfaction should you desire it.

Respectfully yours

S/ N. N. Aldrich

[p 61: George Simmons wrote to J L Edwards on August 8, 1845 a letter stating that Goff lives in Florida with his son Cooper Goff and that if Goff is to receive a pension he should get all of it and none should go to William N Williams.]

[p 67: A letter dated July 15, 1845 from Aug. H. Hansill to J L Edwards in which it is stated that John Goff has not had a home of his own for the last 10 years; that he has a son living in Florida and a daughter (not named) living in Lowndes County Georgia near the Florida line with whom he resided until sometime last year.]

[p 73]

Hawkinsville Georgia 30 June 1845

Edward T Brown Esquire

Confidential

Sir

I will here give you some idea of what some of the people believe of this case in the first place this old Mr. Williams who is a pensioner himself is said (of) him to have been a Tory he was at first a Lieutenant in the Republican Struggle for Liberty and that this Mr. Goff was under him but by some means Mr. Williams deserted the cause of our fathers and took up arms on the Side of the British and his pension has been stopped once but by some means he has got it resumed again and has received his pension money and some says that Goff was under Williams at the time he deserted [the] cause of Liberty and that he fought on Libertys

This is not under my knowledge but what I hear him Mr. Goff has so much constricted himself in all his statements I do not know what to think of him he has been living in Florida and was not entitled to a vote so the people in Telfair says and speak of prosecuting him for illegal voting it is a penitentiary offense in this state.

I am acquainted with the Justices of the Inferior Court in Telfair County Georgia Mr. McRae the clerk D B Creech, J W Rollins & A McKennon are all highly Respectable man and are in good standing and full confidence can be placed in what they say.

Respectfully your Obedient Servant

S/ C. Hart