

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of William Williams, R11606  
Transcribed by Michael Williams

Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

State of North Carolina

County of Rutherford on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before the judges of the court of pleas and quarter sessions of said county now setting William Williams aged seventy five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service under the following officers as named herein - his first service was in a company of militia commanded by captain John Potts and Bayles Duff, Lieutenant. The ensign if any he does not recollect - this was in March 1779. But he cannot state the day of the Month - he served for sometime over three months and was during this time guarding the frontier of what is now Rutherford County and the said company ranged from Pott's Station or fort in Mumfords Cove of Broad River to Capshaws Station on White Oak Creek. He was not during this time in any action with the Indians though small parties of these were seen at times in the settlement and committed several murders.

He sometime after this served there monthly in a militia company command by Captain William Whitesides and ranged through what is now Rutherford Counties and Spartenburgh, South Carolina to keep the Tories and Indians in check - he cannot truly state the precise day or month of this tour of service but it was in the spring and summer before Fergusons defeat in the fall and winter . After this said defeat, he again served in a company of militia commanded by Captain John McLain Capn John Potts who in his first tour of duty commanded said company having been killed in the mountains by the British or Tories - in this company he served three months now? the company was on the same stations as that in which he first served. He enlisted for these three terms in Rutherford County, North Carolina and does not think he received any discharge for them - if he did they are lost or mislaid - and he does not know or recollect any person now living by whom he could prove his said services.

In the same day of April 1781 he enlisted for ten months with Captn James McElhaney who commanded a company of dragoons briefly raised in South

Carolina, Nicholas Harvey was Lieutenant of this company and the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Samuel Hammond and Major Fields Pardue – this company ranged in South Carolina in different parts of the state from Broad River to Savannah to keep down the Tories. The regiment did not he thinks act much together until a short time before the battle of Eutaw when it joined the army under General Green. Some days before the battle he was left at the plantation of Col. Simmons on the Wateree River in the care of some sick soldiers belonging to the company he served in and others. Among the sick was Jesse Mills and Glover Davenport of the same company, the latter of whom died there being thus placed him from being in the battle. Soon after this his company marched to Larks Ferry or station on Saluda in which neighborhood they remained until they were discharged. He received his discharge from (he thinks) Capt. McElhaney which discharge together with his certificate of claim of pay due him he gave up to Jonathan Hampton who bought his certificate. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any state.

Interrogatories propounded by the court to the applicant.

Question 1<sup>st</sup> where was in what year were you born.

Answer. I was born in Brunswick County, Virginia on or about 1757.

Question 2<sup>nd</sup>. And have you any record of your age. If so, where is it?

Answer. I have a record of it in a Bible (an old family one) but as I cannot read writing can make no use of it.

Question 3<sup>rd</sup>. Where were you living when called into service. Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now?

Answer. I lived in Rutherford County when called into service. I live there now and have ever since except while in service.

Question 4<sup>th</sup>. How were you called into service – were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if so for whom.

Answer. I always entered the service as a volunteer.

Question 5<sup>th</sup>. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental Regiments and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. It will be seen by reference to my declaration, as above stated, that I served in detached companies except for the short time I was with the Army under General Green. I could name several officers who I heard of serving under him but not the corps to which they belonged. The circumstances of my service so far as I have a distant recollection of it, is related in my declaration.

Question 6<sup>th</sup>. Did you receive a discharge from the service – if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer. I did receive a discharge for my ten months service from Colonel Hammond or Capt McElhaney. I cannot be certain which – and the said discharge I gave to Jonathan Hampton when he purchased my certificate.

Question 7<sup>th</sup>. State the names of the persons whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. Reverend Joel Blackwell and Jonathan Hampton. I could mention a number of others.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Wm Williams

Theo. F. Burchett, Clk.

I Joel Blackwell, a minister of the Baptist church residing on White Oak Creek in the neighborhood of William Williams, who has made and subscribes the forgoing declaration, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with him and that he is considered by me and the people of his neighborhood to be an honest and truthful man and though I do not personally know it, yet I have good cause to believe he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and further believe he is of the age he represents himself of, saying seventy five years. And I Jonathan Hampton, living on Cathey's ? Creek in county aforesaid, do hereby certify that I have been well acquainted with William Williams who has sworn to and subscribed the above declaration in the line of the Revolutionary war and ever since that the said Williams served a tour of duty of ten months in South Carolina in the regiment command by Col. Hammond. That in the year 1781 or 1782 he purchased the said Williams certificate of pay due for hi said service and draw his pay – as to his other military services I have no distinct recollection of them, but think they were frequent and such as he represents them to be – he has always supported the character of an honest man and a friend to his country and

such statements as he makes is I think entitled to full credit and that he is of the age he represents.

Joel Blackwell  
Jonathan Hampton

Sworn to and subscribed by Jonathan Hampton and affirmed to by Joel Blackwell, the day and year aforesaid.

Witness Theo. F. Burchett, Clk.

And the said court do hereby declare their opinion. After the investigation of the matter and after pulling the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served a he states and the court further certifies that it appears to them, that Joel Blackwell who assigned the preceding certificate is as clergyman resident in this county and that Jonathan Hampton who has also signed the same is also a resident in this county and is a credible person and their statement is entitled to credit.

Jno. Mills, Clk.

I, Theo. F. Birchett, clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in and for the County of Rutherford in the Sate of North Carolina, do certify that the forgoing contains the original proceedings of said courts in the matter of this application of John Williams for a pension.

In testimony wherof I have hereunto set my hand and seals of office this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October A. D. 1832.

T. F. Burchett, Clk.