

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Nathan Williams W6514

Ann

fn39NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Georgia, County of Hall

On this 2nd day of March 1847 personally appeared in open court before the Inferior Court of Hall County now sitting same being a Court of Record, Nathan Williams a resident of Gwinnett County State of Georgia aged 85 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated

First: Under Captain James Sewell six months as a private and Substitute for his Father William Williams who was drafted, in Colonel Gregory's Regiment commanded by General Greene who was a regular officer. That he entered the service in the month of April in the year 1777. That he resided at the time he entered the service in Bartee County [sic, Bertie County] State of North Carolina that he was marched from thence to Norfolk on the Virginia line where they remained there a few days and thence to Norwest [sic, Northwest?] Bridge where they was surprised and routed in a few days by the British and Tories and that he came very near being hernerd [sic, hanged?] by them and in making his escape thinks they fired at the least 50 Guns at him, was shot through the Hat and Coat but received no wounds, and the troops then marched to, and took shelter in the edge of a large swamp on the Virginia line where they remained the most of the time until his term of service expired and where he received a discharge from Captain Sewell and returned home to his Father's in Bertie County in the month of October in the same year that on his return he gave his discharge to his Father and does not know what became of it afterwards.

That he distinctly recollects that he was not 16 years of age at the time he performed the above service being born as he always understood from his parents in the year 1762. That the next spring after he performed the foregoing service he was of sufficient age (being then 16) and subject to a draft and rather than stand a draft he left home (his Father's house) and went to his uncle's John Williams who resided in North Carolina on the Roanoke River he does not recollect in what County, where he remained a few months and turned a volunteer and served as a private two years and six months as follows that he entered the service under Captain Charles Polk in the fall of 1779. That they were frequently on the scout after the Tories who were plundering through the Country. That they were within one day's march of Kings Mountain when the battle was fought in he thinks October 1780 trying to get there. That his uncle Colonel John Williams¹ was killed in that battle. That he deponent was in the Battle at Guilford Court House which took place on the 15th day of March 1781. That he was in the front line of the North Carolina militia at the commencement of the battle who gave way and fell back at the fire of the enemy, and that during the same spring Captain Polk resigned and went home and that he deponent was placed under Captain John Foster who was at that time a volunteer Captain. That he went in what was called the Cherokee expedition in the edges of North and South Carolina. That he received orders from General Thomas Polk who was a regular officer to burn and destroy everything before us and we did a great deal and during the time we suffered considerably after the expedition deponent was placed under Captain Robert Porter (his recollection is that Captain Foster resigned) under whom he performed the remainder of his service during which time he was in several little engagements with the Tories. That in all of the above services they were commanded by Colonel Hagens. That he deponent left the service in the spring of 1782. That he deponent was born in Bertie

¹ No one by this name is known to have been killed at the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. Col. James Williams of South Carolina died on October 8, 1780 from wounds suffered at King's Mountain. Col. James Williams lived on the Little River (of the Saluda River) in Ninety Six District at the time of his death. Col. James Williams is known to have been the son of Daniel and Ursula Williams. Daniel and Ursula did not have a son named William, so this claimant cannot have been the nephew of Col. James Williams.

County North Carolina in the year 1762 as before stated. That after the close of the War of the Revolution he resided and married in the County of Mecklenburg N. C. at which place he remained for the space of 40 years that from thence he removed to Gwinnett County Georgia where he has resided for 21 or 2 years and where he now resides. That he has no record of his age nor does he know that any exists. That he knows no person now living that he could prove his services by. That he never received a discharge from service as a volunteer.

B. F. Wells a minister of the gospel and John Tuggle who lives in my neighborhood can testify as to my character for veracity and belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. 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 or agency of any state. Deponent further states, the reason he has not applied for a pension from the United States before this time is that he was told and always understood that a substitute nor a volunteer neither was entitled to a pension nor did he know any better until lately.

He also states as a reason why he makes this declaration before a Court in Hall County is that the persons that has undertaken to assist him lives in this County and by their help it is more convenient for him to do so as he lives close on the County line.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ Nathan Williams, X his mark
S/ William Sitton, JIC

[B. F. Wells, a clergyman and John Tuggle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Nathan Williams and Ann Redford [or Radford] were married in Mecklenburg County, NC in November 1787; they had at least one children, Robert Williams [who was 48 in 1851] who gave an affidavit in support of his mother's claim for a widow's pension; on January 28, 1851, in Forsyth County Ga., Ann Williams, 80, filed for a widow's pension stating this he was the daughter of John Radford who served in the revolutionary war; that her husband, Nathan Williams, died on July 24, 1847.]