

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Adams S16306

f40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

[p 9]

State of Georgia, Elbert County

On this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty two personally came & appeared before me Dilliard Herndon, ____ a justice of the Inferior Court in & for said County, James Adams a resident of said County aged about seventy nine years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the seventh eighteen hundred & thirty two. - To wit

That he enlisted in the army of the United States as a minute man in the latter part of the year 1777 or in the early part of the year 1778; he served about five months or more personally & about one month by his substitute Thomas Adams making in all at least six months as a minute man.

And he afterwards served at least four months personally as a volunteer making in all at least ten months. Deponent was born the 18th day of October 1753 in Albemarle County Virginia; he left the record of his age he thinks in Fluvannah [sic, Fluvanna] County Virginia in a bible which he thinks one of his brothers has taken off to Kentucky probably deponent has no record of his age in this State but well recollects it as recorded in said bible. Deponent was living in Fluvanna County, Virginia when he there enlisted as a minute man under Captain Roger Thompson Col. Charles Lewis was the chief officer of the minute men with whom he served. He marched from Fluvanna County to Albemarle Court house where he was stationed about ten or twelve days thence he marched to Page's ware house a small town on the Potomac [River] where he was stationed about two or three weeks; thence he marched down the Potomac to a small town called New Castle where he was stationed eight or ten days, thence he marched to old Williamsburg where he was stationed six or eight weeks where they hoped to have taken Governor Dunmore [John Murray, Lord Dunmore, last Royal Governor of the colony of Virginia] but he fled & joined the British Army at Gwin or Guyns Island [Gwynn Island] from Williamsburg deponent marched to Col. Burrell's ferry [Burwell's ferry] on James River, where he was stationed about seven or eight weeks, thence he was called to go against the Indians. deponent spent some time in the campaign against the Indians but does not recollect how long before he was permitted to go home to see his family on furlough; when his furlough expired he got his younger brother Thomas Adams (whose affidavit is herewith transmitted) to take his place for the balance of his term as deponent had a family & said Thomas had none.

Said Thomas Adams was received as his substitute & served the balance of deponent's term.

Sometime after the termination of the aforesaid campaign but deponent does not recollect how long, deponent removed to Charlotte County Virginia where he enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Walker Daniel, the time & circumstances were as follows to wit. Wallace [Cornwallis] & Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] with their forces were within about twenty or thirty miles of General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] army & General Greene's army was within about ten or twelve miles of Coal's ferry on Stanton River when General Greene called for a reinforcement; old & young turned out volunteers at Cole's ferry & deponent was in the number. A battle was expected to be fought at said Cole's ferry. General Greene sent for said volunteers to join his army with all speed which was accordingly done & said volunteers including deponent were put under regular officers. Walker Daniel was their captain the other officers as follows, to wit: Col. Cox, General Huger or Huger [Isaac Huger], General Stephens [probably Edward Stevens] & General Greene who had the command in chief. This army was at that time composed of Regular Militia & volunteers, Col Lee [Henry Lee, "Light Horse Harry Lee"] & Col. Washington [William Washington] with their cavalry were there & many Catawba Indians. Deponent joined General Greene's army as aforesaid at Hallifax [sic, Halifax] Court house from which place he was marched in pursuit of Wallace towards Hugh Dobbins, a place called the red house., said Dobbins was a noted Tory but before Genl Greene got to Dobbins he heard that Wallace had gone to Hillsborough, he turned after him but before he got to Hillsborough he heard that Wallace had gone towards Guilford [sic, Guilford] Court house on the South side of haw [sic, Haw River] river. General Greene pursued on the North side of Haw River & headed Wallace near Guilford Court house where a severe battle was fought [March 15, 1781]. The day before the battle General Greene ordered Lieutenant Williams to take deponent & about forty or fifty men & take charge of some British prisoners & carry them to the barracks in Albemarle County Virginia (which the great number of Tories rendered a dangerous enterprise). The prisoners were accordingly delivered & deponent received a discharge from Lieutenant Williams in compliance with the orders of General Greene; the first night after deponent left General Greene's army he heard the Tories firing on Genl. Greene's baggage wagons. Deponent was an orderly sergeant in the volunteer campaign aforesaid. He has lost or mislaid all his papers relative to his said military service and knows of no person in this section of the country by whom he can prove his services as aforesaid facts further than he has proved by said Thomas Adams.¹ Deponent was living in Charlotte County Virginia when peace was made, he removed from there back to Fluvanna County Virginia, from whence he removed to said Elbert County Georgia on or about the first of January 1799 where he has lived ever since. Deponent further says that he is not on the pension list of any state. Deponent says he is so nearly blind that he cannot see how to keep a path or distinguish a white man from a black man.

Deponent hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Deponent refers to James Riley² of said County of Elbert an old revolutionary soldier & an exhorter of the Methodist Episcopal church for twenty five years or more & still continues to be on & also to Col. William Johnston, Sheriff of this County to whom he

¹ [Thomas Adams W4111](#)

² [James Riley S9061](#)

is known in his present neighborhood & who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. Deponent is very infirm & it would be extremely difficult if impossible to attend court.

Sworn to & subscribed before me one of the justices of the Inferior Court of Elbert County, Georgia this 18th October 1832.

S/ James Adams, X his mark

S/ Dilliard Herndon IJC

I Benjamin W. Fortson do hereby certify that Dilliard Herndon before whom the Foregoing affidavit was made is one of the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County of Elbert of which court I am clerk in testimony of which I hereunto set my hand & seal of office. This the 28th of November AD 1832.

S/ Benjamin W. Fortson, Clerk

[p 8]

Georgia Elbert County: Superior Court September term 1832

Personally came into open court Thomas Adams a revolutionary soldier who being duly sworn on his oath saith that soon after the Declaration of Independence his brother James Adams went into the Army of the United States as a minute man & served some time but does not recollect how long, but before his tour of service was ended he came home on a furlough & he being a married man, he got deponent who was younger & single to go & take his place which deponent did & joined the Army at hog island near Williamsburg under Captain Roger Thompson & Captain Nicholas Lewis. Soon after that, the Army removed to Williamsburg Virginia and from thence to New Castle where this deponent was discharged, at the expiration of the term for which said James Adams had enlisted, having served in his place about one month. Deponent further saith that said James Adams is nearly blind & very old & infirm being about seventy-eight or nine years old. Deponent afterwards heard that said James Adams had gone into the Army again but does not know it was so, as James had moved.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 19th September 1832

S/ Thomas Adams



[p 3]

State of Georgia, Elbert County

On this nineteenth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three - personally appeared before me Dilliard Herndon a justice of the Inferior Court in and for Elbert County and State of Georgia, James Adams aged Seventy nine years eight months and a few days 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:

That he volunteered into the Service of the United States for Six months in the latter part of the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy five or in the forepart of the Year Seventeen hundred and Seventy Six under Captain Roger Thompson in the Regiment Commanded by

Colonel Charles Lewis, that at the time he entered into said Service he resided in Fluvannah [Fluvanna] County State of Virginia, marched from Fluvanna County to Albemarle Court House State of Virginia where he was stationed ten or twelve days, from thence marched to Pages Ware House, a Small Village on the Potomac River, where he was stationed two or three weeks, from thence down the Potomac River to a Small Village called New Castle, where he was stationed eight or ten days, from thence he marched to Old Williamsburg, State of Virginia, Where he was Stationed Six or Eight weeks, Where they hoped to have taken Governor Dunmore but he fled and joined the British Army at Gwyns or Guins Island from Williamsburg he marched to Colonel Burwell's ferry on James River Where he was Stationed Seven or eight Weeks, from thence he marched against the Indians, after Serving five months in the Army he was permitted to return home on furlough, after the expiration of his furlough he hired his Brother Thomas Adams to Serve for him the Balance of the time.

That he also Volunteered into the Service of the United States as a Sergeant for four Months on the ___ day of February Seventeen hundred and Eighty one under Captain Walker Daniel of the Continentals, Commanded by Colonel Cox, General Huger, General Stephens, all under the command of General Green of the Regular Army, that he resided in Charlotte County State of Virginia when he entered into said Service, that he joined General Greene's Army at Cole's Ferry on the Staunton River where he was put under the Command of Captain Walker Daniel. That he march from thence to Hallifax [sic, Halifax] Court House in the state of Virginia, march from thence towards Hugh Dobbins a place called the Red House in pursuit of the British under the command of Lord Cornwallis, hearing that the British Army had taken the direction towards Hillsborough [sic, or Hillsboro] in the State of North Carolina, turned in that direction after him, but before arriving at that place, understood the British had gone towards Guilford in the State of North Carolina on the South side of Haw River the American Army pursued on the North side of said River and headed the British Army near Guilford Court House, where a severe battle was fought by the two Armies on the 15th of March 1781. The day before the battle General Greene ordered Lieutenant Williams to take deponent and about forty or fifty men and take charge of some British prisoners and carry them to the Barracks in Albemarle County State of Virginia, at Which place he was discharged after having served four months as a Sergeant in the Army of the United States. Making in all nine months Service in the United States Service during the Revolutionary War, to wit five months as a private and four months as a Sergeant, and that he served in the Army Commanded by General Greene, Composed of Regulars, Militia and volunteers together with Some Catawba Indians, but cannot distinctly describe the different Regiments or Companies by Name that he knew General Greene, General Huger, General Stephens, and Colonel Lee and Washington of the Cavalry, that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person except Thomas Adams Whose affidavit is hereunto annexed, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War, that he was born in Albemarle County State of Virginia on the Eighteenth day of October Seventeen hundred and fifty three, that he has no record of his age now in his possession, but well recollects of there being a record of his age in a Bible which was left in Fluvanna County State of Virginia When first called into Service and in Charlotte County State of Virginia, When last called into Service that he was living in Charlotte County State of Virginia at the close of the Revolution, removed from thence to Fluvanna County in Said State, from Whence he Removed to Elbert County State

of Georgia about the first of January Seventeen hundred and Ninety nine Where he now lives, and has resided there ever since, that he Volunteered into the Service the first time, the Second and last time he Volunteered into the Service, he States that the names of some of the Regular Officers Where he served Were, Captain Walker Daniel, General Huger, General Greene, Colonels Lee and Washington. The last Service which he performed & that he Served With the Army Commanded by General Greene composed of Continental and Militia Regiments, but cannot recollect them distinctly by name; and that the first time which Served in the United States Service, he only Served With the Virginia Militia and Volunteers, says that the first time he entered the Service he rec'd no discharge in consequence of his hiring his Brother to Serve out the balance of his time. The Second and last time that he entered the Service he received a discharge given by Lieutenant Williams which has either been lost, or mislaid so that he cannot come at it; he states that the names of persons to Whom he is known in his present Neighborhood, and Who can testify as to his Character for Veracity, and their belief, of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution, are William Johnston, Esquire, Sheriff of Elbert County, James Riley an old Revolutionary Soldier, Dilliard Herndon one of the Judges of the Inferior Court for said County and Colonel David Dobbs, Staff officer of the State.

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 Agency of any State.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ James Adams, x his mark

S/ Dilliard Herndon JIC

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