

Pension Application for David Williams

W.18439 (Widow: Nancy) David died August 2, 1831.

This file doesn't contain a deposition by David. He was one of the men who captured Major Andre, the spy. Williams was granted a pension for life. Most of the papers in his file are from his wife, applying for a pension.

761.

27th CONGRESS,
3d Session.

Rep. No. 136.

HO. OF REPS.

NANCY WILLIAMS.
[To accompany bill H. R. No. 761.]

FEBRUARY 3, 1843.

Mr. TALIAFERRO, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Nancy Williams, of the State of New York, have carefully examined the same, and report :

That the petitioner states, in her said petition, that she is the widow of David Williams, so well known in the history of the American Revolution as one of the captors of Major Andre; that her said husband departed this life on or about the 2d day of August, 1831, evidence of which is on file with her petition, and made a part of this report. She further states that her said husband, owing to misfortunes in his lifetime, became deprived of all his property, so that he was in greatly reduced circumstances at the time of his death, and therefore entirely dependent, for the support of himself and his family, upon the pension which had been allowed him by Congress, in consideration of the meritorious service he had rendered to his country—thus leaving the petitioner, his widow, utterly destitute of all means of support. It is under these circumstances, and upon the considerations stated, and seeing that no relief can be afforded her in the administration of the existing pension acts, that she asks the special interposition of Congress, by continuing to her the pension which was allowed to her husband in his lifetime. It was in consideration of a high sense of the virtuous and patriotic conduct of the husband of the petitioner that Congress accorded to him and to the other captors of Andre a pension; and the committee, influenced by the same feeling, respectfully recommend that the pension heretofore allowed to David Williams, as one of the captors of Major Andre, may be continued to Nancy Williams, his widow; and report a bill.

Letter in folder dated January 18, 1929, written in response to an inquiry.

I advise you that from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, W.18439, it appears that David Williams was born at Philips Manor, Westchester County, New York October 21, 1754.

He entered the army in 1775 and served six months during which time he was under General Montgomery at the taking of Fort St. Johns and afterwards on board the provision boats.

He enlisted again in the spring of 1776, officers and length of service not stated. In 1778 he was in Captain Acker's Company of New York Militia, no particulars stated.

In December 1779 he was in Captain Daniel Williams' Company of Horse in an expedition against Morrisania.

On September 23, 1780 he was one of three men who captured Major Andre, for which he was awarded an annuity by Congress.

He married at South Salem, Westchester County, New York, January 29, 1782, Nancy Benedict; he died August 2, 1831 at Broome, Schoharie County, New York, and she was allowed pension by special Act of Congress on her application executed January 26, 1842 while a resident of said Broome and aged eighty-four years.

Children are referred to but the only name stated was that of David.