

THE WAR OF 1812 PENSION APPLICATION FOR MARTHA PIGG

The application for a pension that Martha Pigg tried to get on her husband's War of 1812 was rejected by the War Department in Washington, DC. However, the pension application, itself, is very revealing on what it tells us about Martha and William Pigg. Census records on Martha Pigg are at end of the pension.

11 Jul 1881 - Surry Co., NC - Claim of Widow for Service Pension:

On this 11th day of July, AD one thousand eight hundred and eighty one, personally before me, L. J. Norman, the same being a court of record within and for the County and State aforesaid Martha Pig[g].

aged 72 years, a resident of Rockford in the State of NC who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of Wm.[William] Pig[g] deceased, who was the identical Wm[William] Pig[g], who served under the name of Wm[William] Pig[g]

as a Private in the Company commanded by Captain Witcher or Walker in [blank] regiment of NC commanded by [blank]

in the war of 1812; that her said husband volunteered at on [blank] near Huntsville on or about the [blank] day of [blank]

A.D. [blank] for the term of [blank] and continued in actual service in said war for the term of 12 or 14 months and whose services terminated, by reason of discharge at Norfolk, Va. on [blank] day of [blank]

A. D. She further states that the following is a full description of her said husband at the time of his enlistment, viz: about six feet high black hair deep blue eyes fair complexion.

She further states that she was married to the said Wm. Pig, at the city of [blank] in the county of Surry and in the State of NC on the 5 day of Mch[March] A. D. 1834

by one Jr. Lovel, who was a Justice of the Peace and her name before her said Marriage was REVELS, and that she has not remarried since the death of said Wm. Pig[g]; and she further states that the said husband was married to SALLY

MOSER before her self & Wm. Pig[g] were married[blank]*

and that her said husband WM. PIG[G] died near Rockford State of NC on the 6 day of Jany. AD 1844 [blank]

and she further declares that the following have been the places of residence of herself and her said husband since

the date of his discharge from the Army, viz: have lived near Rockford in the County of Surry.

She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the Pension to which she may be entitled under sections 4736 to 6740 inclusive, Revised Statutes, and the Act of

March 9, 1878, and hereby appoints, with full powers of substitution and revocation N. W. Fitzgerald & Co. of Washington, DC her true and lawful attorney to prosecute her claim.

And she further declares that she has heretofore made no application for Pension and that her residence is ROCKFORD

county of SURRY State of NC, and that her post office address is THE SAME.

Martha (X) Pig

Witnesses:

J. H. Wolf

J. M Gordon

Also personally appeared L. H. BURRUS age 66 years, residing in ROCKFORD and M. Y.

FOLGER, age 62 years in ROCKFORD, persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who

being by me duly sworn, say that they have known the said MARTHA PIG[G] for 30 years and 30 years, respectively; that they were present and saw her sign her name(or make her mark) to the foregoing declaration; that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of said

claimant and their acquaintances with her, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be: and

they further say that they are able to identify her as the person who was the wife of the identical WILLIAM PIGG who rendered the service alleged in the above application in the company of Captain WITCHER OR WALKER in the regiment of NC in the war of 1812 by the following named facts and circumstances, viz: SHE HAS LIVED NEAR ROCKFORD EVER SINCE SHE WAS MARRIED TO WILLIAM PIGG & HAS RAISED SEVERAL CHILDREN BY THE SAID WILLIAM PIGG

AND THEY KNOW THAT SHE HAS NOT REMARRIED SINCE THE DEATH OF WILLIAM PIGG her

husband, and that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

Witnesses: J. H. Wolfe

L. H. Burrus

J. M. Gordon

M. Y Folger

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of JULY, AD

1879; I do hereby certify that the contents of the above declaration, &c, were fully made known and explained

to the applicant and witnesses before swearing including the words NOTHING erased, and the words NOTHING, added: and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

L. J. Norman

Clerk of Sup. Court

*William Pigg married Sarah Moser on 3 August 1812 in Surry Co., NC with John Deal bondsman. There is an existing marriage bond for this marriage in Surry Co., NC. Sarah is the daughter of Christian Moser and Elizabeth Fisher.

21 Nov 1881 - Treasury Dept, Third Auditors Office, Washington, DC:

Respectively returned to the Commissioner of Pensions with the information that the name of William Pigg

is not borne on the company of Rolls of either Captain John Witcher or Captain John F. Walker of North Carolina Militia War of 1812 on file in this office.

A. M. Gaugewer
Deputy Auditor

21 Dec 1881 - Rockford, Surry Co., NC:

To: N. W. Fitzgerald & Co.:

Yours to hand

and contents noted.

*My husband never recvd.[received]
bounty land if he did
I do not recollect it.
he had an honorable
Discharge but got huse[house] burnt
and it got burnt up. he
Served in company
with old MR. PRIM
his widow is now drawing
a Pension She Lives
in Yadkin County, NC Mt. Nebo
his her Post Office.
Respectfully yours &c
Martha Pig*

*8 Feb 1882 - From the War Department in Washington, DC:
Sir:*

*I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from your office of
application for pension of No. 4142.
It appears from the records office that William
Pig[g] was enlisted on the 24th
day of February 1814 at Salisbury, to
served during the war years.
He served in Capt. W. L. Disphays
Co. US Rifles from which he was
discharged March 31 or April 6, 1815.
No evidence of service can be found
of Wm.[William] Pig[g] in the US Artillery.*

*16 Feb 1882 - Washington, DC - Department of the Interior Pension Office:
To: N. W. Fitzgerald & Co.:
Sirs:*

*In the service pension claim No. 41421
of Martha, widow of William Pig[g], you are
informed that there is no record of the
service of the said PIG in the company of Capt.
Witcher or Walker or the company in which
CALEB PRIM served. This office will consider
the best evidence claimant can furnish to
show that her husband served as alleged
and if she can furnish no further data
she should so state returning this letter
with the reply.
Very Respectfully,
Wm. W. Dudley
Commissioner*

*3 Apr 1882 - Rockford, Surry Co., NC:
TO: N. W. Fitzgerald & Co., Washington, DC:
Dear Sir:
I have delayed writing on
account of trying to set up
some more evidence of my
husbands Service. but all the*

*old people around here that
was living when he was in the
War of 1812. is now Dead and
gone. his name is certainly on
the Record in Washington If
you will Look through you
will find it. I don't know that
I can furnish any more evidence at
this time. Yours &c
Martha Pigg[g]*

Martha is on the 1850 Surry County census in Rockford Township in James Brown[Sr]'s household:

James Brown age 51 laborer, b. NC
Martha Pigg age 47 mulatto, deaf/mute b. NC
Martha P. age 17 mulatto, b. NC
Jane Pigg age 15 mulatto, b. NC
Barney Pigg age 12 mulatto, b. NC
Jane Pigg age 15 mulatto, b. NC
Mary Pigg age 6 black, b. NC
Mike Pigg age 4 mulatto b. NC
Sally age 2 black, b. NC
Thomas ½ m, mulatto, b. NC
Jeremiah Brown age 70, deaf/dumb b. NC

There is no indication that Martha married James Brown based on her pension application, but she does go by the name of Martha Brown after the 1850 Surry County census. So by the 1860 she is head of her own household:

Martha Brown age 45 (M) degraded 75/125 b. NC
Eliz age 30 ? not listed
Martha age 24 ? not listed
Jane age 21 ? not listed
Burnet age 20 ? not listed
James age 19 ? not listed
Mary age 17 ? not listed
Michael age 14 ? not listed
Sarah age 13 ? not listed
James Pigg age 9 ? not listed
William Pigg age 4 ? not listed
Martin Hornsby(?) age 4 b. NC
James Pearce age 22 b. NC

By the 1870 Surry County census, Martha is still in Rockford Township listed as follows:

Martha Brown age 60 keeping house born NC \$60R
Jane age 27 at home b. NC
Robert age 17 farm laborer b. NC
Jery age 80 farmer, deaf/dumb b. NC
Martha Freeman age 30 at home b. NC

(Submitted by Judy S. Cardwell)

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by one Jr. Lovel, who was a Justice of the Peace and

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