

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

VIRGINIA CONTINENTAL VOLUNTEERS FROM FORT PITT IN THE EXPEDITION UNDER CAPT. JAMES WILLING AGAINST FORT PANMURE AT NATCHEZ, 17-19 FEB 1778

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Cover inscribed:] Ret. of Men under Capt. Jas Willing

Fort Pitt.

A list of the Voluntiers in under Capt. Willing from the Different [several illegible words]

	{Thos. Love [Thomas Love]
	{John Ash
	{John Walker
	{Daniel Whiticer [Daniel Whitacre or Daniel Whitaker]
	{Nathaniel Kennersin [Nathaniel Kinnison]
Capt Harisons	{Solomon Walker
[Benjamin Harrison's]	{Jacob Wheat [pension application W6481]
	{Richard Murray
	{Levin Sprigs [Leven Sprigg S14552]
	{James Taylor [BLWt1420-100]
	{John Henwood
	{Richard Rody
	{Laurence Kenin [Lawrence Kennon]
Capt. Sulifons	{Philip Hup [Philip Hupp W4239]
[Cope Sullivan's]	{Lasuris Rion [Lazarus Ryan VAS106]
Capt. Heath	{John Cordonis
[Henry Heth]	{Rubin Hamelton [Reuben Hamilton]
Capt. Scots	{Henry Haut [Henry Haught]
[David Scott's S25425]	{Henry Hauk [Henry Haugh]
Capt. O'Hara	{Thos Beard [Thomas Beard]
[James O'Hara]	{Nathaniel Down & John Kilpatrick
	{Samuel Fury & Willian White [William White]

NOTES:

Transcribed from <http://www.fold3.com/image/#9947003>.

The full names of the Captains are derived from a strength return for companies at Fort Pitt dated 19 April 1778 (<http://revwarapps.org/b150.pdf>). The origins are as follows:

Capt. Benjamin Harrison, 13th Virginia Regiment, company raised in Yohogania County VA (now in PA).

Capt. Cope Sullivan, unknown.

Capt. Henry Heth: Independent Virginia Frontier Company.

Capt. David Scott (S25425), 13th Virginia Regiment, company raised in Monongalia County VA.

Capt. James O'Hara: Independent Virginia Frontier Company.

The above list is not dated, but according to E. M. Sanchez-Saavedra (*A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787*. Westminster MD: Heritage Books, 2007), it was

probably compiled between 1777 and 1779. "On January 8, 1777, Congress assumed control of the frontier forts and requested the Virginia Council of State to raise garrison companies for that purpose. Several months later, five companies of the 13th Virginia Continental Regiment [renumbered the 9th on 14 Sep 1778] were sent to Fort Pitt as a permanent reinforcement. The independent companies were then consolidated under captains Henry Heth and James O'Hara. The garrisons were increased in 1778, when the 8th Pennsylvania Continental Regiment was sent to the frontier. The independent companies seem to have passed out of existence by 1779, and the enlisted men transferred to other units."

Jacob Wheat (W6481) described his role in the expedition as follows: "Continued in the 13th Regiment until about the first of January [1778], after when he was a party of twenty-five men under the command of Captain James Willing was authorized by the Government, as I was informed and believed, to take twenty-five men from the 13th Regiment to go on some business to New Orleans and he one of the number who went with him to that place, arrived at New Orleans sometime in March 1778 [sic] and in September next after left New Orleans to return to Pittsburgh under the command of Captain Robert George and Lieutenant Richard Harrison, returned as far as Kaskaskie [Kaskaskia] where he and his company joined the forces under General Clark [George Rogers Clark], and continued with the Army under General Clark on their movements to the NorthWestern Territory, was engaged in the battle with the Indians at the Pickaway [Piqua] Towns, Continued in the Army under General Clark until September 1780 when he was discharged at the falls of Ohio [present Louisville KY]."

Henry Pumphrey (W8535) stated that He "entered the Service at Natchez in what was then called Georgia territory --that there were 83 man in his company, Georgians and South Carolinians, that there employment was to continually range the Country --that they ranged up the Mississippi River to the Bi open [sic ?] and big black Rivers and down the River occasionally below Natchez --that he was in a great many small engagements with the British and Indians, that the British came up the River in schooners & sloops in the night and the next morning they attacked the Town, and Fort and we all evacuated the place and went about 7 miles below and about 2 miles from the River and stationed near a widow Winfrey's and stayed there about 6 weeks when Captain Willin [sic James Willing] from Fort Pitt came down the River with 3 sloops of men and we went around the Town and met him about 2 miles above, and we marched down and retook the Fort and Town we laid siege for several days and at length we were about to undermine the Fort and blow them up and they came out and stacked their arms and were made prisoners, but were in a few days furloughed and went down the River."