

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilson [NC17]

f31NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/17/11 rev'd 10/4/11: 3/6/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 20]

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office 16th of January 1829

Sir

Your letter of the 8th instant accompanying the Declaration¹ of John Wilson, has been received and attended to; and after a strict examination of the muster rolls and other documents in this office I am at a loss what to say respecting his claim, but from his discharge which I once had in my possession I am of opinion he did serve and is probably entitled to the benefit of the Acts of Congress under which he claims.

I am respectfully your Obedient Servant

S/ Wm Hill

James L. Edwards Esqr.

[p 9]

State of North Carolina

At a Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions begun and held for the County of Cumberland at the Court-house in Fayetteville on the 1st Monday of March A.D. 1830 Being the first day of the month 54th year of American Independence –

Present the Worshipful Justices of said Court

State of North Carolina Cumberland County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
March Term 1830

On the 1st day of March A.D. 1830 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the County & State aforesaid which court proceeds according to the course of the common law with a Jurisdiction unlimited in amount keeping a record of their proceedings & which court has the power of fine & imprisonment John Wilson aged Seventy three years, resident in the County & State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 & 1st of May 1820. That he the said John Wilson was balloted into the United States service in Dobbs County in or about the year 1778 for the term of nine months which service not being satisfactorily performed he was returned a Continental Soldier during the war. That he then joined the company commanded by Capt. Thomas Armstrong in the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Armstrong in the line of the State of North Carolina on

¹ There is no copy of an earlier declaration in this file than the ones transcribed below.

the Continental establishment. That he continued to serve for about three years when his health would permit, but from his bodily infirmity increasing upon him, he was discharged from said service on the 4th day of March 1782 at or near Greenville on Tar River by Col. James Armstrong which discharge is hereunto annexed. That he was in no battle while in the Continental service but was in the battle of Moore's Creek² while in the militia service under Col. Caswell [Richard Caswell] of this State in 1776. In which campaign this deponent believes from the exposure of his person & fatigue induced this sickness that has sorely afflicted him & disabled him from labor for about 39 Years last past. That he is in reduced circumstances as will appear by the annexed schedule & stands in need of the aid of his country, that he is supported by the charity of one of his sons who is also a poor man.

This applicant further declares that he hath no other evidence now in his power of his said services except his discharge a copy of which is hereunto annexed. He being in another and distant part of the State from his place of residence during the Revolutionary War & that he is informed & verily believes that both his Captain & Colonel have long since departed this life & if any of his fellow soldiers are now living he is unable to search for them to produce their testimony.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

Schedule of the property of John Wilson March 1st 1830

Item	1st one Chest valued at	\$1.50
	2nd Chair & Bottles	1.20
	3rd one skillet	.30
	4 th one pewter pint basin	.20
	5 th 6 old Tin Cups	.50
	6 th One Looking Glass	.20
	7 th Five Chunk Bottles	.50
	8 th Two pint tickler Bottles	.30
	9 th One Tin Box	.40
	10 th One Lot old Wooden ware	.30
	11 th One Smoothing iron	.40
	12 th Sugar dish	.20
		<u>\$6.00</u>

This applicant further swears that the reason he has not sooner applied to be placed on the pension list is that he was informed & believed that the act of Congress had been repealed. That his family consist only of his wife and himself his wife being of the age of 71 years infirm and unable to assist except in a very small degree in the support of herself and this applicant. This applicant further swears that the following is an account of the property in his possession on the 18th of March 1818 and not now owned by him

Description of Property	To Whom Sold	Date
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² February 27, 1776 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

One Horse	\$40	Arch'd Fleming	1822
One Cow	8	Burwell Wilson	1820
One Cow	10	Elias Daniel	1820
One Cow	9	unknown	1820
5 head of Sheep	5		1820
4 head of hogs	4		1820
Household furniture	40		1820
218 acres Poor Land	165	James Rench	1823

This applicant hereby transmits an authenticated copy of the deed of conveyance of his land, and further swears that in the money arising from the proceeds of this Land and the sales which he has made since the 18th of March 1818 he and his wife have since lived by paying sometimes five at other times Six Dollars per month that they are now living upon it and it is nearly exhausted, there being \$48.17 cents due him by note on account.

S/ John Wilson

S/ Daniel McDiamid, Clk

[Note: D. McDiamid, Clerk, certified that the above document is a true copy of the declaration in his office.]

Copy of discharge

This may certify that John Wilson a Soldier in the Continental Service of North Carolina, being found unable to dew [sic] the duty (by Sickness) of a Soldier is accordingly discharged from said Service –

Given under my hand this 4th day of March 1782

S/ James Armstrong, Colo.

No. Ca. Contil Troops

Copy from the Original
Test D. McDiamid, Clk

[p 15]

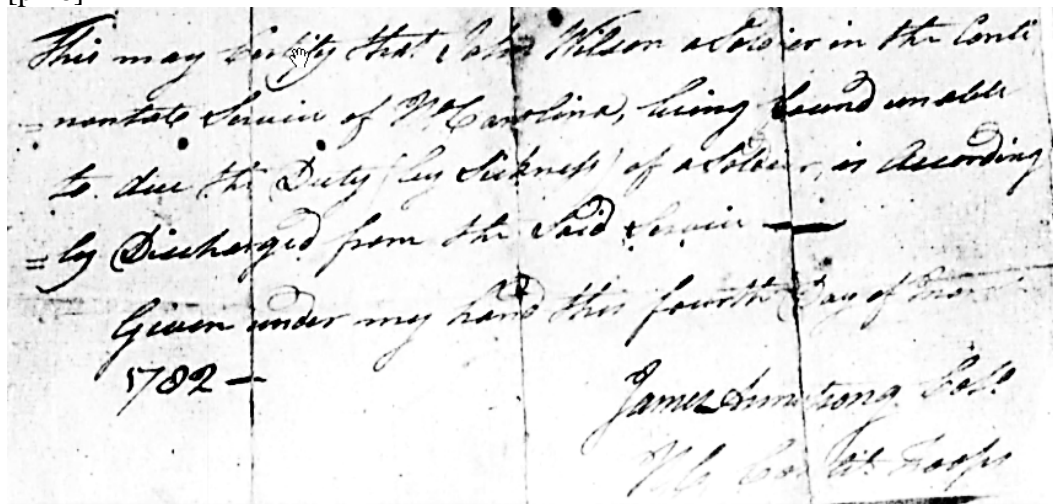
6th of June 1791

I do Heare by indorse the with in discharge unto Thos. Alford John Wilson
test

John [illegibly faint, could be John Doherty]

The image shows a handwritten document with the following text: "I do Heare by indorse the with in discharge unto Thos. Alford John Wilson". The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be from the late 18th or early 19th century. There are some faint markings and a signature that is mostly illegible at the bottom of the page.

[p 16]



This may certify that John Wilson who is in the Continental Service of N. Carolina, being found unable to see the Duty by sickness of a long standing is accordingly by Discharge from the said Service —
Given under my hand this fourth day of June 1782 —
James Armstrong Capt
N. Carolina

[p 5]

State of North Carolina Cumberland County

On this 6 day of September in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the worshipful County Court of Cumberland now sitting John Wilson a resident of Cumberland in the County of Cumberland & State of N. Carolina aged 76 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 & served as herein stated (to wit)

That he entered into the militia service as volunteer about November 1775 under the command of Capt. James Armstrong at Greenville in Pitt County from which place they marched through Dobbs & Duplin counties into Bladen County where we attacked a party of Tories under the command of Col. McLeod³ – at Moore's Creek where we completely dispersed their band & killed their commander Colonel McLeod [Lt. Col. Donald McLeod of Anson County, NC]. After this battle he returned to Dobbs County where he lived about two years when he was balloted into Continental service for the term of nine months owing to his bodily indispositions he was stationed at Kingston [Kinston]. Afterwards joined the company under the command of Capt. Thomas Armstrong in the Regiment commanded by Col. James Armstrong in the line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental establishment – that he continued to serve about three years when his health would permit – bodily infirmity has so much impaired the mind of this declarant that he is unable to state the country through which he marched or the precise time he was engaged in service he states that he was stationed during his service at Kingston– at Greenville in Pitt County from Greenville he marched to Halifax in Halifax County from there to Hillsborough in Orange County – he then marched to Greenville where he was discharged by Col. James Armstrong which discharge has been sent to the War Department on a prior application made by the present applicant, this declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify as to his service.



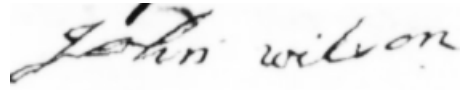
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity whatever except the

³ Sic, The Tories at Moore's Creek were under the command of BG Donald McDonald

present & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jonathan Evans, JP

S/ John Wilson



The following interrogatories were propounded by the Court

Ques. 1st Where and in what year were you born[?]

Ans. I was born in Pitt County North Carolina A.D. 1756

2 Answer to question

My age was recorded in a family Bible which is in the possession of my son

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the
Revolutionary War and where do you now live[?]

Ans. I lived in Pitt County when called into service where I lived one year after the war I then
moved into wane [sic, Wayne?] where I lived about seven years I then lived in sapson [sic,
Sampson?] about thirty years & then moved into Cumberland where I have lived ever since

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a
substitute, and if in substitute[?]

Ans. I first volunteered for six months. I was afterwards drafted for nine months service & was
then returned as a Continental soldier during the war.

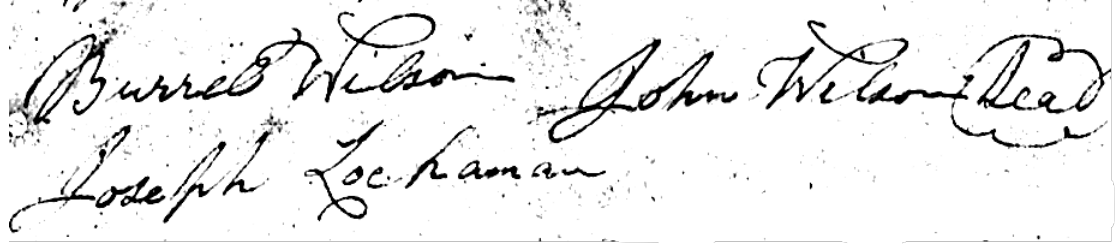
Ans. to Question 5. Capt. Coleman, Capt. Thomas Armstrong, Lieut. Charles Garret &c more
particular embodied in my declaration.

Ans. to 6th question – I received a discharge from Col. James Armstrong which discharge was
among my papers & sent on to the war Department in 1829.

Ans. to Question 7. Richard Huckabee, William Killian & Needam Moore [sic, Needham
Moore?]

[Richard Huckabee & William Killian gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[pp 29-31 is an Indenture dated March 1, 1823 between John Wilson of Sampson County and
James Rench whereby for \$163 Wilson conveyed to Rench a tract of land in Sampson County
containing 218 acres of land. The deed is signed by Wilson and witnessed by Burrel Wilson and
Joseph Lochamna whose signatures thereon appear as follows:



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 years
service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]