

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Willis Wilson R109

f21VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

10/6/11: rev'd 6/8/23

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.]

Va Sea Service

Wilson, Willis

R109

Va half pay

See N. A. Acc. No. 837-Virginia State Navy

Willis Wilson, Y. S. File

Va. Half Pay

[p 3]

Pension Office

May 3rd, 1843

I certify that I have examined the claim of Samuel M Wilson, administrator of Willis Wilson, who was a Captain in the Virginia State Navy during the revolution, who asked for half pay still due under the act of 5th of July 1832 entitled "an act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia," and I find that the administrator was allowed a half pay at the rate of \$243.33 1/3 per annum from the 3rd of September 1783; whereas the claim should have been allowed from the 22nd of April 1783 at the rate of \$250.93. It is my opinion that the half pay at the rate of \$290.93 per annum should now be allowed from the 22nd of April 1783 to the 3rd of September 1783; and that the difference between \$243.33 1/3 and \$250.93 per annum from the 3rd of September 1783 to the 11th of September 1798 should also be allowed, and paid to Samuel M Wilson, administrator of Willis Wilson, deceased. It is requested that a draft be made sent to the administrator at Portsmouth, Virginia.

Commissioner of pensions

Approved

Secretary of War

[p 13]

Willis Wilson is reported by Comr. Smith as entitled to land from early in 1776 to end of War as Captain in the Navy –

Received 5, 333 1/3 acres – 3rd of April 1784

[p 21]

This is to certify, that Captain Willis Wilson was appointed by the Members of the Navy Board a Captain in the Navy of the State of Virginia in September 1776 and was one of the 6 Captains that had continued in the Navy by the last act of Assembly, for regulating the Navy.

20th of February 1782

S/ Edwd. Travis Capt. [Edward Travis, Captain]

Saturday 7th September 1786

Present Mr. Whiting, Mr. Newton and Mr. Webb, a Willis Wilson is recommended to his Excellency the Governor and the Honorable the Council as a proper person to be appointed to the command of the *Caswell* Galley<sup>1</sup>

Test

A copy from the Journals of the late Navy Board

S/ J. Boush

Captain Willis Wilson was one of the sen [sic, senior?]

Retained the Captains of the Navy

S/ J. Boush

Executive Department

Richmond Virginia February 25, 1850

I hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of papers filed in this department

S/ Wm H. Richardson [illegible]

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<sup>1</sup> *Caswell*.

Coggins:102, ND6:1417, ND7:121, ND8:175, ND9:37, ND10:802, ND11:191, row galley of the VA Navy, 1776-79, Capt Willis Wilson, built at South Quay on the Blackwater for the defense of Okracoke Inlet. Coggins:106, this galley was to be purchased by the NC Navy, but she sank on station in June 1779.

<https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20C-D.html>

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Addendum to Willis Wilson R109

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 7 June 2023.

[Virginia Half-Pay records on fold3.com include a copy of the last will and testament of Willis Wilson dated 2 December 1796 leaving the whole of his estate to his “loving wife Mary Wilson,” including his house and land in the part of Portsmouth known as Gosport. “The following negroes I also give and bequeath to my wife to wit Harry, Isaac, Sam, Scipio, Epix, Jupiter, Bacchus, and Jack. Nancy, Dinah, Sarah, nanny, Peggy, Edy, Judah and Lucy.” A document in the file states that Willis Wilson died on 11 September 1798 and that Jasamine W. Halstead, wife of Richard Halstead, and Eliza Carnak, wife of James Carnack, were the heirs of Mary Wilson deceased.]