

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Wilbanks¹ R11508 (widow)
Transcribed by Will Graves

Abarilla fn34SC
rev'd 5/28/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber— besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

[fn p. 183]

State of South Carolina, District of Pickens

On this 7th day of January 1845, personally appeared before William D. Steele Esq. Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the District and State aforesaid, Mrs. Abarilla Wilbanks (who is unable by bodily infirmity to attend in open Court) a resident of the same District and State, aged as near as she can ascertain about Ninety eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to attain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4, 1836. That she is the widow of William Wilbanks, who was a private in the war of the Revolution, and who entered the service under Captain Moses White, about, as she thinks, in the year 1778 or 1779, she thinks in the month of October or November as it was cool weather, and not long after crops were ripe. He was at home some times, but did not often, he served also under Captain William Young in Colonel Thomas Brandon's Regiment, that they then lived in Union District S. C. that he marched much through North and South Carolina was in Skirmishes at Musgrove's Ford on Enoree [River] and Blackstock's Ford on Tyger [River] that he marched to the ten mile House near Charleston, that he was absent a long time, she thinks five years, but certainly not less than four years, off & on, she made three crops without him; herself and her little Boys; and had much trouble with the Tories during the absences of her husband, and labored hard to make a support – the Tories threw down her fences often & she had to put them up herself with her little Boys who were very young & small to do such labor, they also killed her Hogs & Cattle and destroyed everything about the place, very often passing and committing all kinds of depredations all of which she had to suffer with her children unprotected: at one time during the war herself and mother in law went to where the Army was encamped (she thinks at Culverson's) and begged them that her husband go home to save his small grain, which was granted by an officer who seemed to have command, but she cannot now recollect his name, he however treated her very well & granted her request, was called to his dinner but would not go until he had waited on her, seeing she appeared to be in distress. Her husband went home & attended in his harvest & then very soon returned to the service. He served in the war with his brother Gillam Wilbanks, Isaac Barnett, Jacob Barnett, James Putnam, John Sparks & Charles White, all of whom are now dead; Jacob Barnett was killed in the Battle of King's Mountain.

She lived with her Father in Bute County N. C. and was published in Church to be married to William Wilbanks, and was to him married as she thinks before the year 1774, though she cannot recollect positively what time it was, though she is positively certain it was before the War commenced in that part of the Country: shortly after their marriage they moved to Union District in this State,

¹ His name also appears as William Woolbanks and William Woodbanks

where her husband entered the service. She had three children at the time of his entering, viz., Marshall, Hosea and Joseph; the oldest of which is now dead. Her husband was taken sick at McCord's ferry during the War and returned home until he recovered and then returned to the service. Afterwards when he left the service he had a cough supposed to be caused from exposure in the service, which never left him during his life and which was supposed to have shortened his life.

She has no documentary evidence of the service of her husband, or of her marriage or of the births of her oldest children, if she ever had they are all lost, as the importance of keeping such things was not then thought of.

She further declares that her maiden name was Abarilla Gossett and that she was married to her said husband William Wilbanks on the 27th day of August but cannot recollect the year though she is certain it took place as above stated before the War; that her husband, the aforesaid William Wilbanks, died on the 22nd of December 1796 in Union District in this state, and that she has remained a widow ever since that time, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof herewith sent; that she moved from Union District about 26 or 27 years ago and has lived here in this District &, that she is old and feeble & dependent on her friends for support. Was married by one Couples a minister of the high Church.

S/ Abarilla Wilbanks, V her mark

Sworn to, and subscribed on the day and year above written

S/ William D. Steele, Judge

[fn p. 249: on January 21, 1845 in Pickens district South Carolina, Mrs. Sally Hunnecutt (wife of Jesse Hunnecutt and daughter of Abarilla Wilbanks) [sic, Sally Honeycutt?] gave testimony in support of her mother's pension application stating that her mother "has lived with her for a number of years: that she cannot recollect the death of her Father William Wilbanks, but has always understood that he was buried on the 25th of December 1797, and that he died three days previous, that her mother, the said Abarilla Wilbanks, has never since married, but yet remains the widow of the said William Wilbanks; she states further, that she has always understood that her Father the said William Wilbanks, was a Soldier in the war of the Revolution, and has often heard her mother talk over the scenes of the War.]

State of Georgia, Cherokee County

Before me personally appeared Hosea Wilbanks who is an old, respectable and truthful citizen of the County and State aforesaid, and after being sworn according to law, makes oath that he is according to the best information he can get, 77 years old, that he is the son of William and Abarilla Wilbanks, who formerly lived in Union District South Carolina; and his mother Abarilla Wilbanks, whose maiden name was Abarilla Gossett, now lives in Pickens District S. C. and is yet the widow of his Father never having married since the death of his father the said William Wilbanks, which took place on the 22nd day of December 1797, that he was a small boy during the Revolutionary War, though he was probably 10 or 12 years of age, that he very well recollects very many scenes which took place during the said War, and that his Father the said William Wilbanks served in the Revolutionary War: that of coarse he did not see him in the service, but he was very small of his age and too young to be in it himself but seen him start for that purpose, and knows he was absent several years & said by all to be in the War. He is certain that his Father aforesaid must have served at least three years, in actual service, as he was absent in the War off and on five or six years; occasionally at home during the time, but remaining at home but a very short space of time at once; during the absence of his Father aforesaid, himself, his brother Marshall (who was older than himself) and his mother, worked hard in the Farm to make a support his mother plowing & his brother & himself hoeing. He cannot recollect all about the separate trips and Tours which is Father served, nor all the Officers under which he served, recollects however that he served under a Captain Moses White, Captain William Young, Captain Fair or Farr, Lieutenant James Abington and thinks he was all, or most of the time in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Brandon. Captain Farr or Fair was afterwards Colonel.

He recollects very well to have been much trouble with the Tories, had to keep their Corn hid out in small quantities in different places, and frequently had things taken, once he was himself slapped pretty severely with a sword by a Tory who ordered him to bring water for him & ordered his mother to bake him & his company some bread.

His Father had a very large, likely black Horse & two mares with yearling colts; all of which were pressed into the service, but the colts; which were their only dependence for making their crops, going to mill &c – the Horse & one of the mares he never got again; the other mare he got again in a year or two, & he recollects she had a cut on her neck supposed to have been made with a Sword which was for some time a running sore: his Father never got anything for the Horse & mare which he lost to his knowledge. His Father was in the Skirmish at Blackstock's Ford on Tiger River, at the siege of Ninety Six & assisted in ditching & building the Block House at that place he thinks was also in the Battles of Eutaw Springs & King's Mountain. He has been informed by his Father previous to his death of many other things which might be of service in the matter of the application of his mother for a Pension, but cannot with such short notice recollect more than what is above stated, which from recollection & information are to the best of his knowledge true.

Sworn to and subscribed on the 13th of January 1845. S/ Hosea Wilbanks
S/ [illegible signature of attesting official]

[fn p. 87]

South Carolina Union District: Before me personally appeared Joseph Gossett Senior and old and truthful citizen of said District, and made Oath in due form of Law, that when he was a boy of about 10 or 12 years old his Father & Mother lived in Bute County NC which is since divided & makes Franklin & Warren Counties, that his oldest Sister Abarilla at the age of about 18 or 20 years, he thinks, about the year 1774 or 1775 was published in church as was then the custom to be married to William Wilbanks, and on a certain morning shortly afterwards, went off to the House of one Couples about 4 miles distant, who was a Minister of the High Church to be married to the said William Wilbanks, which he has no doubt was accordingly done, as that was what was said and understood by all when they returned and they afterwards always lived together as man & wife & had children, he did not see them married, but has just as good reason to believe they were as if he had seen it done & never heard it doubted by anyone but that they were legally married. The said William Wilbanks lived in that County only until the next fall, and then he and his wife moved to Union District SC in the neighborhood where this deponent now lives, and he supposes from renown throughout the County & from what he has heard from the old citizens of the Country, the said William Wilbanks, entered the service & served in the Revolutionary War, he is not positive as to the year in which his sister Abarilla Gossett was married to the said William Wilbanks but is sure it was before the War commenced in the part of the Country in which he resided. The above facts stated are as near as he can recollect true, and he understands his sister the said Abarilla Wilbanks is yet living in Pickens District in this State & is making an effort to get a Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th of December 1844

S/ Mathias Myers, Magistrate

S/ Joseph Gossett [?]

[fn p. 100: On December 18, 1844 in Union district South Carolina, Nicholas Gossett, about 90, another brother of Abarilla Wilbanks gave testimony in substantially the same as that given by Joseph Gossett in support of his sister's application for a pension.]

[fn p. 116]

South Carolina Union District: Before me personally appeared Mrs. Miriam Hill an old lady of much respectability and truthfulness, and made oath in due form of law, that she lived in this District during the Revolutionary War that her Husband Thomas Hill who died about 17 years ago, served in it, and

she always understood that William Wilbanks who long since died in this District, and whose widow Abarilla Wilbanks is now said to live in Pickens District, did serve in the Revolutionary War with her Husband, but it has been so long since she has seen Mrs. Wilbanks or anyone to refresh your memory on the subject, that she cannot now tell anything of consequence about them. She always understood however, that said William Wilbanks was a good Whig, and his wife was a truthful woman and she has no doubt her statement on the subject is correct. Said Wilbanks & his wife lived together ever since she knew them, which is about 60 years or upwards of go, as man & wife, and she believes him to have been lawfully married, as she never heard it doubted.

Sworn to 18th of December 1844 before

S/ Mathias Myers, Magistrate

S/ Miriam Hill

[fn p. 141: on December 19, 1844 in Union district South Carolina, Sion Murphy, 80 next January, gave testimony in support of the widow's application for a pension in which he states among other things that he served "some little" in the revolution and always understood that William Wilbanks was in the service "he did not serve with him, but recollects that he (Wilbanks) had two mares & colts, has seen the mares rode to Mill & passing about, and it was then said by Wilbanks' family & others, that the two mares were pressed into service & he never saw them afterwards but seen the boys (sons of Wilbanks) Marshall & Hosea who were then small boys, riding the two colts of the said mares to Mill & they said they were but year olds & that they had made their crop with them, he was under the impression it to mares were entirely lost to Wilbanks as he never afterwards seen them."]

[fn p. 262]

South Carolina Pickens District: Before me personally appeared William Grant,² an old and highly respectable citizen of Anderson District in this State, and who is a Revolutionary Pensioner, and made oath in due form of law, that he was acquainted with two or more of the Wilbanks who lived in Union District in this State during the Revolutionary war, that he cannot distinctly recollect their names, but is under the impression now, that there was a William and a Gilliam, that he has no doubt from all the circumstances which has been brought to bear upon the subject and from what circumstances he can recollect, that the said William Wilbanks above alluded to was the husband of the widow of Wilbanks who now resides in this District & is making application for a Pension; that this deponent served in the War of the Revolution with the said Wilbanks in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Brandon, thinks they served in Captain William Young's Company in which there was a Lieutenant by the name of James Adington he was himself a Lieutenant in his Father's (William Grant's) company in the same Regiment, and was very frequently with the Wilbanks' and knows well that they served as good Whigs and Soldiers, thinks they both had families, as they both appeared to be older than himself. Believes very confidently that the Wilbanks' were in Service when he entered in 1779 and that they were with him on the march to the ten mile House near Charleston, recollects to have heard a Lieutenant by the name of Nicholas Jasper who professed to be a Universalist arguing with these Wilbanks' on Scriptures they were Baptist and argued with him frequently. He is fully satisfied that Wilbanks' served from the time he entered, until the end of the War, as he was serving in the same Regiment, and often with them, recollects to have charge of some soldiers at McCord's Ferry, amongst whom was one of the Wilbanks, who was taken sick, and by this deponent discharge from that cause, and afterwards on his recovery very shortly, joined them again: his reasons for so doing was that there was no provision there made for the sick.

Sworn to 31st December 1844 before me

S/ Miles M. Norton, NP

S/ William Grant, G his mark

² [William Grant W1757](#)

[fn p. 320: on January 19, 1844 in Pickens district South Carolina, Henry Howard, about 60 years old, gave testimony that he was born and raised in Union district immediate neighbor of William & Abarilla Wilbanks (who were generally known as William & Abarilla Woolbanks); that they had 5 or 6 children; that some of those children were much older than himself he remembers that Hosea and perhaps John Wilbanks were married men in he (deponent) was a "shirt tailed Boy"]