

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Wylly (Wiley) Sarah fn97GA
Transcribed by Will Graves 5/16/10

[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. 61¹]

State of Georgia Effingham County: On this 10th day of July 1843 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Inferior Court of the County and State aforesaid now sitting Thomas Wylly a resident of the County of Effingham State aforesaid aged eighty-one years in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born in the Island of Tortola on the 10th day of October 1762 that he entered the service in the fourth Georgia Battalion and appointed second Lieutenant agreeable to a Certificate signed by J. White [probably John White] Colonel: G. Battalion dated the first day of November 1778 which certificate is produced to this Court and that he served five years during which time he was also deputy Quarter Master under Richard Wylly, that he received no regular discharge. He was in Colonel White's Battalion he recollects the Lieutenant Colonel Hovington [sic, probably Thomas Hovenden] & the Major John Sky Eustace [sic, John Skye Eustace], he recollects Sergeant Terrell and the Fife Major Terry Owens, the Adjutant's name was Brown² he was on the outskirts during the Siege in Savannah and at a battle in Liberty County in said State and saw General Screvin [sic, James Screven] of the Georgia Militia killed³ and also saw Captain Strouder [probably a reference to William D. Strother whose name is also spelled Struther and Struthers]

¹ The pagination of this file by footnote.com is nonsensical

² May be James Brown

³ Screven died from wounds suffered at the Battle of Spencer Hill (or Spencer's Hill) November 25, 1778. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/spencershill.htm>. "November 25, 1778 at Spencer's Hill, Georgia - On November 25, Hearing that Brigadier General Screven and Colonel John White were moving on the road with a 170 man relief force between Midway and Sunbury, Colonel Fuser ordered Brown and his Rangers to ambush the enemy. Brown picked thirty-two men and intercepted Screven's force. While Brown's force was concealed on the side of the road, Screven and White halted their forces and made a speech about the upcoming battle. At the end of the speeches Brown ordered his men to fire, wounding Screven in the first volley. Major James Jackson was also wounded. Brown's men captured Screven, but one of Brown's Rangers shot him after he was taken captive. Major James Mark Prévost arrived to support the Rangers and a battle began on the road. Prévost's horse was killed by a cannon ball as it skipped down the road, but he was uninjured. The Georgia Patriot militia soon left the battlefield. Prévost discovered that his force on the road was unsupported and he was in danger of being cut off from the main army, so he ordered a retreat out of Georgia. He took two thousand head of cattle and several slaves. Prévost sent the mortally wounded General Screven back to the Patriot lines under a flag of truce. Conclusion: British Victory." <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/1778s.htm>

killed, he was in an action at Brier Creek in the County of Screven State aforesaid and also in a slight skirmish in Dorchester South Carolina, that he marched through a great part of South Carolina, the troops at that time under the command of General Howe [Robert Howe]. He also marched through various parts of the State of Georgia. He remembers one particular circumstance which occurred while on duty near St. Mary's [River], one morning at the dawn retiring from his post as one of a picket Guard, he recollects seeing one Colonel Frank Harris and a Lieutenant Welsh, that Welsh shot a ball through the body of Colonel Harris, and the ball was extracted by one Doctor Bradley Surgeon in the Army. That he does not particularly recollect any very important events happening except those already been stated, or does he remember the names of any other Officers, noncommissioned officers or privates than what he has stated. He never kept any particular journal of events. He might of done so but never expected to give any evidence of those events at this late day. He is now old -- and hopes he will be entitled to the benefit of a pension in the 11th hour. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State or only on that of the agency of this State through this application.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Thos. Wylly, Senr.

S/ Frederick Hinely, JIC

S/ H. McGahagin, JIC

S/ Saml. Remshart, JIC

S/ Jer. Malett, JIC

[George R. Wright, a clergyman, and William Morgan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 394, 404—the following appears to be totally in the handwriting of the veteran]

The Honble Judge Nichols

I am very old -- born in the year sixty-two the 10th of October -- now within a few days of being eighty-one years of age -- much emaciated [?] and much of a cripple -- my little property greatly reduced -- when young and hearty -- I could not think of petitioning my Country to put me on the pension list. But now, I stand greatly in need of assistance. I entered the Army when very young under the command of Colonel White -- who commanded the fourth Georgia Battalion. He gave me a brevet Commission as second Lieutenant. I was in the action [at] Midway Liberty County -- when General Screven was killed -- Captain Stroder and a few privates -- Colonel White commanded on that day -- I was in the action at Brier Creek under the command of General Ashe when a number were killed and many drowned endeavoring to swim Bryer Creek to make their escape.

When General Moutry [sic, William Moultrie] lay with his Army at a place called Shaldon [?] near Buford [sic, Beaufort] South Carolina he had me called. I waited on the General -- he asked me if I had not relatives in Savannah -- I told him I had reason to believe the too young men were both officers in the British Army -- he said he wished me to go to Savannah and act as a spy -- I would hear my cousins conversation -- and could inform him by Richard Guin [Quinn] who had charge of two large rice plantations -- seven or eight miles above Savannah -- who would forward the intelligence by a faithful Negro -- who Guinn has sent to him General Moultrie two or three times. After being in Savannah -- two or three months -- my cousins treated me with [indcipherable word, looks like "contress", possibly "contempt"] and I thought looked suspicious at me -- I thought it high time to make my escape -- I mentioned to them -- that I had a thought of going to old Mr [indcipherable name, looks like "Highterman's"] and

spending eight or ten days -- they replied I might do so -- the next morning I started -- that evening got him to put me across the River to Quin's [Quinn's] -- and Quinn put me ashore in Carolina -- at a place called the Union -- then belonging to that old patriot Jonathan Byron -- I kept myself concealed -- here and there -- until General Wain [sic, Anthony Wayne] crossed the River for Savannah -- I joined the General Jackson's men on Skidaway Island -- he gave me a small command to waylay the River and if any boats passed, take them if [I] could -- I took a sailing boat with two white men and two Negroes.

I was at the siege of Savannah -- the whole of the Siege under the command of General Lincoln and the Count d'Estaing. I have sent on my petition and enclosed my brevet Commission -- four or five weeks ago -- but have received no answer.

Dear Judge -- please to befriend me by writing the Gentlemen who has to pay old Revolutionaries [sic, revolutionaries] their pensions for me and if you think proper to enclose him this letter you can do so when you obtain an answer please inform my son Leonidas Wylly the result.

I remained your honors most obedient humble servant

S/ Thos. Wylly, Senr.

Effingham County

Pine forest September 25th 1843

You being a very conspicuous person, I have selected you to be my friend

[fn p. 415]

I omitted mentioning -- the first Legislation -- that took place after the Evacuation of the British -- Samuel Stirk had a part of the bill of attainder -- a friend sent his servant with a letter informing me of it -- I quickly was there -- and made it evidently appear that I acted as a spy by request of General Moultrie -- it was quickly done away and I never heard any more of it.

[fn p. 850]

State of Georgia Effingham County: Personally appeared Thomas Wylly of the County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he was a soldier in the Continental line of the Georgia troops during the Revolutionary War, and that he served as a Lieutenant of the said line until the end of the War, being the term of five years or more, from the time he engaged in the service under Colonel White, as will appear by a reference to the certificate given to him at the close of the War by the said Colonel White now sent with his declaration. He also states the reason for his not making an application for the benefit of the pension allowed to those who served in the Revolutionary War, in the first instant he was not acquainted with the law nor did he know in what way to make the application, in a few years after that he was placed in such circumstances as not really to need any aid, that he permitted the time to Rowan on and his circumstances in life became better nor did he feel the need. He is now very infirm his family and friends urged him to cast or what he believes to be his right, having performed his duty in his younger days in the service of his Country and believes it to be his just due.

S/ Thos. Wylly, Senr.

Sworn to this 28th day of December 1843 before me the Clerk of the Superior Court for the County & state aforesaid

S/ Jno. Charlton, Clk.

[fn p. 963]

State of Georgia Chatham County: SS

On the 29 day of February 1844 personally appeared Thomas Wylly Senior of Effingham County in the State aforesaid, aged eighty-one 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 pension made by act of Congress, passed June 7th 1842 [sic, June 7th, 1832]. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year __ with Captain Dennis and served in the fourth Georgia Battalion, commanded by Colonel White, for the term of five years, or the close of the war of the Revolution, was Commanded as second Lieutenant by Colonel White -- for that he was in the following battles the is In Liberty County in the State aforesaid near Midway Church when Colonel White commanded and when General Screven was mortally wounded and Captain Stodder killed. The second was at Briar Creek in the County of Burke where General Ash [sic, John Ashe] of North Carolina commanded. The third at the siege of Savannah under General Lincoln but that from the length of time since deponent cannot recollect the particular dates but that he did serve until the close of the war of the Revolution that during which time he notified General Moultrie, of the British Army wanting to cross the Sisters Ferry across the Savannah River to attack him the General on that information removed his troops near Charleston that during which time his life was often exposed having for the purpose of obtaining information, often to mix with the British officers & having to sleep in the woods that he did not now know of a single surviving comrade in arms, that General John McIntosh who died in McIntosh County in said State some four or five years since is the last one that he recollects. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity except the present and that he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me

S/ B Raiford, JP

S/ Thos. Wylly Senr.

[fn p. 931]

Honble J. L. Edwards

Dr. Sir/ [Dear Sir]

Yours of the 11th Ultimo to my friend, Honorable William H. Stiles. He was pleased to enclose me -- I perceive -- you know of my being in the Quarter Master department -- As you mentioned in your letter to my friend styles, there can be no doubt -- but that I was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War and in the Quarter Master's department also.

I will give you a correct statement of the same -- as well as my memory will enable me. When the British took Savannah -- Our troops -- was compelled to retreat to South Carolina -- on our getting to Purrysburg -- of the 4 George or Continental Battalions -- there was about 60 privates - - a Captain's Command -- Numbers of the privates died natural deaths -- many killed, in action and several made prisoners by the British. This made or caused, a number supernumerary officers -- myself one of the number -- Colonel Drayton, was Quarter Master General of South Carolina. He resigned in favor of my Uncle. As I had no command, being at a loss -- my Uncle made me and Assistant -- I remained such for nearly 2 years. I was taken very sick occasioned by fatigue and exposure, and continued so for many weeks. Should you think me entitled to any compensation for those services -- you will grant what you may think proper -- for which I will be truly thankful.

Remained very respectfully your
Most Obedient Servant

S/ Thos. Wylly, Senr.

April 18th 1844

Should you think proper to answer me, please direct your letter to Wm C. Wylly, Eqr. Savannah -
- he will immediately forward me your answer.

[fn p. 1227]

State of Georgia Effingham County: Personally appeared before me John Charlton a Notary Public for the County and State aforesaid Thomas Wylly Senior who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith, that he acted as a Deputy Quarter Master in the American Army during the Revolutionary War in the State of South Carolina, under the appointment of Richard Wylly who was the Quarter Master General who succeeded Quarter Master Drayton, there were two persons by the name of Nash and Coventon who also acted as deputy Quarter Masters that he served in that capacity between nineteen and twenty months, he does not recollect what his pay for months amounted to as the Quartermaster General furnished him with funds when wanted, amounting to the pay at that time allowed to Deputy Quarter Masters. He has no further evidence then this to prove the fact, but declares this to be truth, further he says not

S/ Thos. Wylly Senr

Sworn to this 3rd day of June 1844

S/ Jno Charlton

[fn p. 915]

Dr. Col./ [Dear Colonel]

Tuskaseeking [sic ?] August 5th 1844

Yours of 20th Ultimo is now before me -- Contents duly noted -- Candor -- and justice -- I have ever considered -- similar attributes -- if I might be permitted the expression (twin brothers) and as such they should not injure the other. Your friendly letter of the above date -- mentioned at the time of service performed by me as a deputy -- and what I received per month. The first question -- I have answered in a former communication to you -- eighteen or nineteen months -- to the best of my remembrance -- as to the second -- my parents died when I was very small -- my uncle⁴ -- took me under his patronage -- and raised me -- when he appointed me a deputy -- He did not mention -- what he would give me per month -- I looked up to him as my father. He mentioned, that when I wanted money, let him know it -- and I should have [it] -- At the time -- he had to deputies Captain Nash and Captain Alexander -- they I understood, each, to receive \$60 per month -- Captain Nash and Captain Alexander being middle-aged persons -- the greater part of the fatigue -- I had to do -- being a youngster, at the time -- day and night -- exposed to the weather -- which occasioned me a severe spell of sickness. I certainly am entitled to any compensation for those services, as deputy Quarter Master.

Remain Dear Sir -- very respectfully yours

S/ Thos. Wylly, Senr.

[fn p. 749]

Colonel Edwards

I wrote you some time ago -- But not receiving an answer -- I thought it probable my letter had miscarried -- A person of your distinguished understanding would consider the great length of time -- since the termination of the Revolutionary War, to expect, that I could come to that of an exact time of my Servitude -- as a Deputy Quarter Master -- so neigh as my recollection would conscientiously enable me I have by letter and on oath in stating eighteen or twenty months -- I verily believe I served twenty-one or two months -- But prefer being a few months under the

⁴ Richard Wylly, Quarter Master of the 4th Georgia Regiment.

time of my servitude than one day over -- I asked of my beloved Country [indecipherable word] -
- nothing more than conscientiously I feel myself justly entitled to.

Respectfully

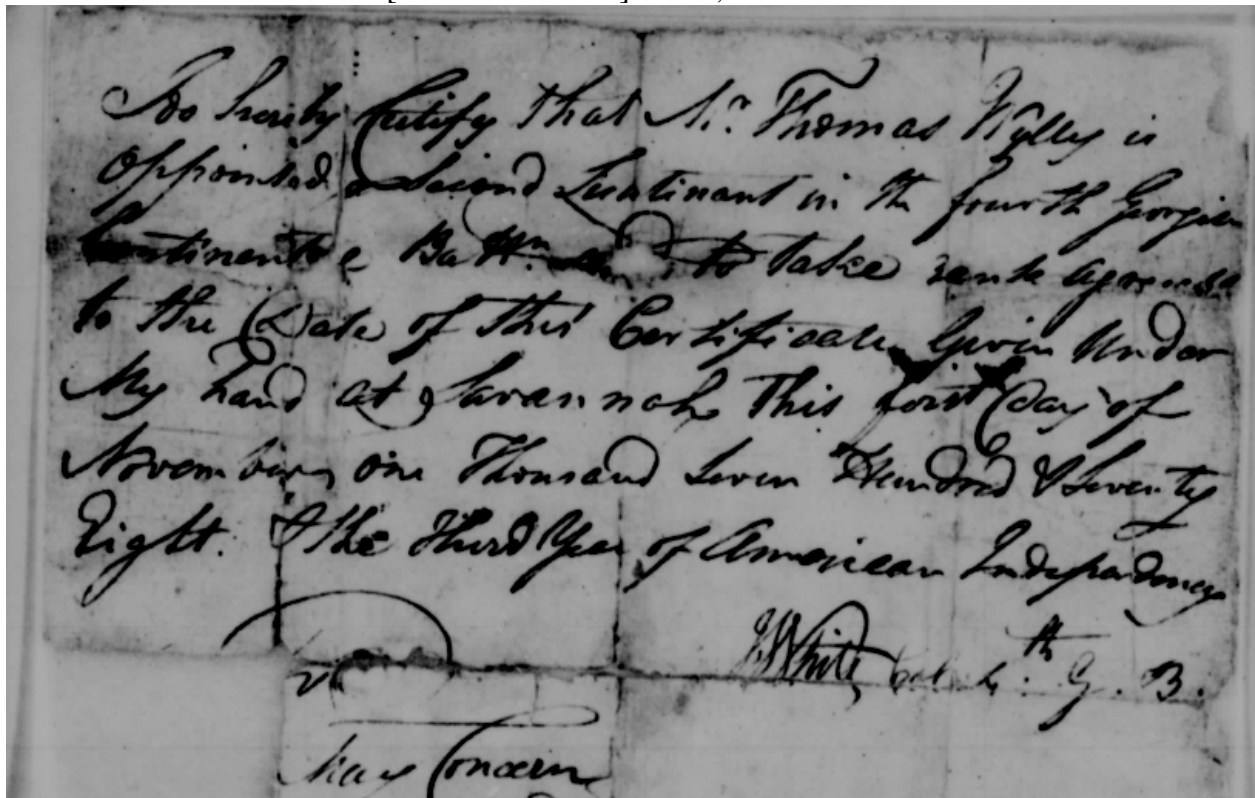
S/ Thos. Wyly, Senr.

October 30th 1844

[fn p. 533]

I hereby Certify that Mr. Thomas Wyly is appointed Second Lieutenant in the fourth Georgia Continental Battn. to take rank from [indecipherable word or words] to the Date of this Certificate. Given under my hand at Savannah this first day of November 1778 & the 3rd year of American Independency

[words obliterated] White, Col. 4th G. B.



[fn p. 130: on February 18, 1856 in Lowndes County Georgia, James O. Goldwire filed a claim stating that he is the lawful husband of Maria J. Goldwire (formerly Mariah J. Wiley), daughter of Sarah Wiley, widow of Thomas Wiley deceased, who was a pensioner for his services in the revolution; that Thomas Wiley died on the last day of May 1846; that Sarah Wiley married Thomas Wiley in April 1817; that Sarah Wiley, the widow of Thomas died on the first day of April 1849 survived by Mariah J. Goldwire her sole heir; that he, James Goldwire married Mariah J. Wiley on May 8, 1833; affiant states that Sarah Wiley, previous to her marriage to Thomas Wiley was the widow of one James Goldwire who was the father of Mariah J. Goldwire; he files this claim for the arrears do you the widow at the time of her death.]

[fn p. 237: On October 15, 1855, Maria J. Goldwire testified in Lowndes County Georgia that she was present at the marriage of Colonel Thomas Wyly and Sarah G. Goldwire; that they were

married by a minister of the gospel by the name of Henry Hand in the spring of the year 1817 she does not recollect the month but thinks it was in April.]

[fn p. 221: family record]

James L. Goldwire was married to Sarah King by the Reverend John Goldwire December the 28 1796

James O. Goldwire was married to Maria J. Goldwire by the Reverend H O Wyre May 8 1833

James L. Goldwire was Born Made the 21 1775

Ann Morel Goldwire Daughter of James L. Goldwire was born November the 27 1797

Sarah Eliza Goldwire daughter of James and Sarah was born March the 5 1799

Jane Maria Daughter of James and Sarah was born December the 21 1800

Daughter born April 13 1802

Caroline daughter of James and Sarah was born October 17 1803

Son of James and Sarah was born May the 10 1805

William Goldwire Son of James and Sarah was born the [illegible] of August 1806

William George son of Georgia and Caroline King was born September 3rd 1822

Greene Carrothers Goldwire daughter of James and Maria Goldwire was born January 30th 1834

John William King Goldwire Son of James and Maria Goldwire was born September 16 1835

Sarah Frances Goldwire daughter of James and Maria Goldwire was born October 22 1837

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 for 2 years service as a Lieutenant in the Georgia line