

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Wilkins, R11545

fn15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/12/10

[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 and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting -- Benjamin Wilkins aged 71 -- a free man of color a native of Halifax County NC and now resident in the County of Edgecombe who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States, in the year he cannot recollect -- it was in the autumn however, with Colonel John Branch who, at that time was recruiting in the Town of Halifax. He thinks he served in the 2nd Regiment of the North Carolina line under the following officers. --

The company was commanded by Captain Levi Lane and William Perkins was Lieutenant. He recollects Major Read and the whole under the general direction of General Caswell. He enlisted for 18 months -- and after serving his term out left the Army in the month of February or March. From Halifax he went to Hillsboro -- Salisbury -- thence to Augusta Georgia and after beating up and down the country he was discharged at Lynchs' Creek [sic, Lynches Creek] in South Carolina. During this time he was in the battle at Brier Creek and at Pine Tree upon the Wateree [River]. He recollects to have encountered many at the latter place and was wounded in the arm and thigh.

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ H. Austin, JP

S/ Benjamin Wilkins, X his mark

The same deponent further says that soon after his discharge at Lynchs' Creek he was hired as a substitute for Jno Glover [John Glover], and was put in a company commanded by Captain White -- of which company Ben. Faircloth [Benjamin Faircloth] was Lieutenant -- The Regiment was under command of Major Read still belonging to the Brigade of General Caswell. He remained for 9 months and was employed on a regular duty in South Carolina -- during which time he was in several skirmishes with Tories -- He was discharged at the White House in South Carolina and came home --

After remaining at home about 4 months he was again hired as a substitute by Saml Foreman [Samuel Foreman] -- and put in a company commanded by Griscom Cofield with Francis Williamson as his Lieutenant -- This company was placed in the Regiment of Colonel Read -- and having organized at Tarboro' marched to South Carolina passing through Fayetteville -- Lumberton &c -- to Pine Tree where he met General Caswell -- He remained in South Carolina & Georgia performing such duties as were imposed upon him -- and was discharged at Rutledge's Mill on Lynches Creek and came home. The British soon passed through the country and soon after Cornwallis surrendered. He thinks he has killed at least fifty British and Tories --

These facts he is unable to prove by any living witness -- nor has he any documentary evidence by which to substantiate them.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present -- and declares that his name is on no pension roll of any agency of any State --

S/ H. Austin, JP

S/ Benjamin Wilkins, X his mark

[Dempsey Bryan & John Exum (both of whom signed their own names to their affidavit) gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County: July 16, 1833

Personally appeared before me Willis Wilkins a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Wm Morgan who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith --

That he knew Benjamin Wilkins when he served as a substitute for Saml Foreman in Captain Cofield's company and thinks according to the best of his recollection that his term of service embraced a period of three months.

Sworn & subscribed

S/ Wm Morgan, 8 his mark

S/ Willis Wilkins, JP

State of North Carolina Edgecombe County: July 8th 1834

This day personally appeared before me, Honorable [paper folded and text missing] Austin a Justice of the Peace, in & for the County aforesaid [paper folded and text missing] Benjamin Wilkins, a free man of color, residing in [paper folded and text missing] County aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth & saith --

That he cannot recollect with any degree of precision, the period or periods of the war, when he served but that he remembers perfectly well to have served 18 months principally in South Carolina first under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & then under Caswell -- that after the expiration of the said Term of 18 months, he served under the latter officers, in the same state for the space of 9 months, as a substitute for one John Glovier [sic] of the State of Virginia & that afterwards he was in the militia service for the space of three months under Captain Gretham Coffield, & that in each & every instance of service above mentioned, he acted in the capacity of a private. That, he does not know the particular denomination, by which the two different terms of service first above mentioned were designated -- That, the most of those, with whom he served, & was afterwards acquainted, are dead, and that they who survive are living at such a distance from him, as to make it a very difficult matter, to procure their testimony in his behalf. That at the time his declaration was drawn up & sworn to, no clergyman was present, & that he was advised that the evidence of his age & service could be as well-established by other respectable man, as by one in holy orders.

S/ Benjamin Wilkins, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me S/ H. Austin, JP