

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Wills<sup>1</sup> R11645 Mildred Wills f27GA [A more legible]  
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 5/14/10 rev'd 12/30/10 & 10/21/22

[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 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.]

[p 4]

Prince George County  
Second Judicial Circuit of Virginia

This 28th day of April 1818

Personally appeared before me Richard E. Parker one of the Judges of the General Court, and Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit aforesaid Nathaniel Wills, and in pursuance of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval services of the United States in the revolutionary War, and in order to obtain the assistance thereby afforded to revolutionary officers and soldiers, in reduced circumstances, made oath, that about the latter end of the month of July or beginning of August 1780, he enlisted as a private and joined a detachment of the United States Army, stationed at Chesterfield Court House under the command of Colonel William Davies at which time he was marched to the southward under the command of Colonel Campbell where he [served] under various offices of the line. That he then enlisted from the line, into the 1st Regiment United States Light Dragoons, in which Regiment he continued to serve till the end of the War. That on or about the 3rd July 1783 he was discharged in Charleston South Carolina by William Parsons, Jr [?] a Captain commanding a detachment [of] the Regiment aforesaid in the following form viz.

Nathanael Wills of the 1st Regiment of Cavalry, has leave of absence until called on by the proper authority to rejoin his Corps, or is generally discharged, which discharge was confirmed by act of Congress and proclamation of General Washington in October 1783, and since, has been lodged in the War office of the City of Richmond. That he has received no pension, or other Bounty from the Government and that, he has been afflicted, and confined to his room, with a Paralytic affliction, for the last four years and unable to gain a livelihood, and by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, stands in need of assistance from his Country for support.

I, Richard E. Parker, Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Virginia, and Judge of the General courts of Virginia as aforesaid, do certify that Nathaniel Wills named in the first of the

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<sup>1</sup> C. Leon Harris points out that his veteran is to be found on the Chesterfield Va size roll with the following information: *Nat. Wills/ age 18/ height 5' 3"/ planter/ born and residing in Warwick County/ light-brown hair/ gray eyes/ fair complexion/ enlisted 11 Sep 1780 for 18 months.*

above affidavit did serve in the revolutionary war as stated in his said declaration, sworn to before me on the day & year aforesaid against the common enemy. I now transmit the proceedings & testimony had & taken before me to the Secretary for the Department of war pursuant to the directions of the said act of Congress. Given under my hand & seal this 28th day of April 1818

S/ Rich'd E. Parker

[p 8]

Town of Petersburg, to wit

On the 25 day of May 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the said Town, Nathanael Wills aged sixty two years resident in said Town, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: was private in the first Infantry Regiment and in the first Cavalry Regiment as per declaration dated the 28th April 1818 & forwarded to the War department in the same year. Upon which a pension certificate No. 4066 & dated the 30th of October 1818 has been issued. The said Nathaniel Wills doth further solemnly swears that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that he has not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed. The said Nathaniel Wills doth further solemnly swear that he has been so afflicted with the palsy for 7 years that he has not been in a situation to walk without the assistance of some person (he is now brought into Court in the arms of his acquaintance) that before his afflictions he was a Porter to the Virginia Bank established in this place, that he has only one in family, viz. his wife Mildred Wills aged 70 years who has a school consisting of a few small children.

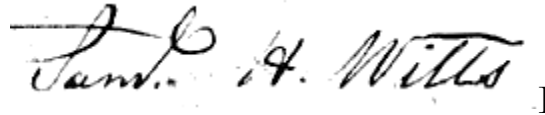
Sworn to and declared before the superior Court of law for the Town of Petersburg on the 25th day of May 1820.

Schedule

The property real & personal belonging to Nathaniel wills of Petersburg	viz.
One dressing Desk present value	\$10.00
One common pine table	3.00
Two old Trunks	1.00
Kitchen & Table utensils	<u>7.00</u>
	\$21.00

[p 10: On August 20, 1853 in Anderson County Kentucky, the Reverend Samuel H. Wills filed a claim for the arrears of pension due his mother, Mildred Wills, widow of Nathaniel Wills; he states his father died on or about December 25, 1825 in the town of Petersburg Virginia; that his mother's maiden name was Mildred Cowman; that his parents were married in the state of Virginia prior to the termination of his father's service in the revolution in either 1781 or 1782; that since they were married prior to the termination of his father's services in the revolution, his mother was entitled under the 1838 act to the full pension to which his father was entitled commencing March 4, 1831; he states that his mother never applied for a pension after the death

of her husband; that his mother died June 12, 1838 in the town of Abingdon Virginia.

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[p 27: Bounty Land Warrant Record Card issued to Nathaniel Wills, private, Virginia line, Warrant Number 12665 for 100 acres issued February 18, 1793 to Robert Means, assignee "Note: "Issued a certificate of this record 26 August 1818, to a man who called himself Nathanael Wells, who I take to be the same.""]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 28th, 1818 for service in the Virginia line.]

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Addendum to Nathaniel Wills R11645

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#) indexed as Wills, Nathl.]

AGreeable to a Resolution of Congress, bearing Date the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May, 1783, the Bearer hereof Nathl Wills of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment has leave of Absence until called upon by proper authority to join his Corps, or is finally discharged.

Will Parsons Jun'r. [William Parsons R16965] Capt. Comd't 1 R.L D  
Charles Town 3<sup>d</sup> July 1783

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Parsons Junr." with a small mark above the "i" in "Parsons".

Octo 31 92} paid 33 dollars &  $\frac{3}{90}$ ths to Nath'l Wills for balance of his pay

[signed] J Hopkins