

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James S. Wilson R11659

fn24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/3/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Kanawha County to wit: On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 1837 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Lewis Summers Judge of the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for said County of Kanawha now sitting James S Wilson a resident of said County aged nearly 73 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 act of Congress of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832: That he was born in the County of Cumberland in the State of Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1765, and when his native State became the seat of war in the year 1780 – 1, he became a volunteer soldier (and while a schoolboy living with his father Colonel Ben Wilson in said County of Cumberland) leaving the County of Cumberland, he marched under the command of Captain Robert Anderson, and Colonel Goode to Richmond and continued in service in and about that place and Petersburg until Cornwallis marched into Virginia at which time he was attached to the Artillery and engaged in cannonading the latter place (Petersburg) then in the possession of the British. That from thence he joined the Marquis de Lafayette's Army at Richmond in the Spring, say May 1781 retreating with his Army to the head of Rapidan River near Raccoon ford continuing in the Service, he was at the siege of York a Sergeant of Artillery, being united with the regulars, he does not now remember under whose immediate command he then was: he however recollects that Colonel Edward Carrington was in command over him, to whom he was personally known, being born a neighbor of his: he also recollects of being at one time under the command of Captain Creed Haskins, who left his command in the neighborhood of old James Town to take his seat in the General Assembly of Virginia, of which he was a member from the County of Cumberland: This declarant cannot now recollect who succeeded Captain Haskins, that very soon after Captain Haskins left the Company of which the declarant was a member joined the Army under General Washington at little York.

This declarant remained at York throughout the Siege being there in service at the surrender of Cornwallis, he was one of the sergeants in the guard that conducted the British prisoners of war to their barracks in the Western part of Virginia near Winchester – from thence he was discharged with some 15 or 20 soldiers of the guard, for whom he was authorized to draw rations on their way home which they reached in the winter of that year 1781 a little while before Christmas – the period of his service was from ten to eleven months, but not less than ten.

This declarant verily believes Continental money being worthless, he don't recollect of having ever applied for, or received one cent for his services – and will now thankfully except any remuneration which is Country may deem him entitled to – He has no documentary evidence of his Service – If he ever received a written discharge, he has lost it long since and the fact escaped his memory – he will endeavor to procure proof of his Service by the testimony of someone, or more of his former fellow Citizens of Cumberland County; that he has a record of

his age at home in his Bible. 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 if any, only on that of the agency of Virginia. He is now residing in the County of Kanawha and has resided there and for the space of four years past, and that previous thereto he resided in Cumberland County Virginia, a portion of his life however has been spent in the County of Buckingham Virginia.

S/ Jas. S. Wilson<sup>1</sup>

[Andrew S Morrison, a clergyman (Presbyterian), and Richard E Putney, a physician, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 9]

This day personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Lewis Summers, Judge of Circuit Court of Law & Chancery for Kanawha County James S Wilson, whose declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, was received at the fall Term 1837, of this court and made oath in open court that having failed to procure the evidence of living witnesses to his services set forth in that declaration and therein referred to one of said witnesses Jacob Fariss<sup>2</sup> upwards of 90 years old having died before he could procure his affidavit and the other Julius Coleman whose affidavit he also contemplated obtaining, having almost entirely lost the use of his memory, so that he cannot speak of the events of the American Revolution knows of no other person who was cognizant of his said revolutionary service. He has therefore procured in pursuance of said act of Congress, this certificate of two of his neighbors of their belief in the truth of his said declaration.

S/ Jas. S. Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jas. S. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Jas. S. Wilson".

Subscribed & sworn to in open Court October 20 1838

test: S/ A. W. Quasier, Clk.

[The same to witnesses, Andrew S Morrison and Richard E Putney gave an additional affidavit as to their belief of the services of the veteran.]

[fn p. 12]

State of Virginia Kanawha County: SS

On this 8th day of July 1839, personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful the justices of the County Court of Kanawha County, now sitting, James S Wilson, a resident of said County and State aged 75 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was born in the County of Cumberland, Virginia on the 6th of February 1765. That he became a volunteer in the State service Virginia, this declarant thinks, in the month of February 1781 under Captain Anderson, Colonel Goode having the command of the Regiment which this declarant thinks was the first Regiment formed after

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<sup>1</sup> The signature appears to me to be identical in the handwriting to the balance of the document and therefore I do not think it is the actual signature of the veteran.

<sup>2</sup> FPA S8453

the invasion of the state by the enemy. Richmond being head quarters the Regiment in which this declarant served was marched to that place immediately after he became a volunteer. Phillips [William Phillips] and Arnold [Benedict Arnold] occupying Petersburg. In the spring Cornwallis marched into the state reinforcing the British Army and the Marquis de Lafayette took command of the Virginia forces which retreated to the Rapidan River and in the summer of that year was reinforced from General Washington's Army, from thence the whole Virginia forces advanced to James River followed up the British Army to Little York, which they besieged and took (the whole of the British Army) in the month of October same year 1781 – where this declarant served as Sergeant of Artillery – and on the taking of the British Army, was one of those who served as their guard to the barracks in the Western part of Virginia, near Winchester – from thence he was discharged, and got home about Christmas. This declarant cannot say how long he served were Cicely but certainly not less than ten months. The British took possession of Richmond, in December 1780. The State was then defenseless, and Colonel Goode, who resided in Chesterfield, collected a force as soon thereafter as could be raised and that it was not later than the month of February when this deponent became a volunteer & is strengthened by the fact distinctly recollected by the declarant that there was snow upon the ground at the time. Being a school boy, he also recollects that when he was discharged, near Winchester, and had reached home, that the Christmas holidays was so near at hand that he did not return to school until they were over. He cannot now define the [indecipherable word<sup>3</sup>] of his service in the Infantry or in the Artillery. When he volunteered, it was in the Infantry. He was in the Artillery in the spring, at Petersburg, and was engaged in bombarding that place on the very day that Cornwallis landed in Virginia. He was also in the Artillery at York Town, but whether he continued in that branch of service during the interim, or was again attached to the Infantry, this declarant is now wholly unable to state. He remembers that he enlisted as a private, and that he was a Sergeant (of Artillery) at York Town – but when he was advanced, he cannot now remember. In the course of the year this declarant recollects that he was under the command of Captain Haskins and that he left the service to take his seat in the General Assembly of Virginia about the time of the siege of York. This declarant refers to his declaration, made at the fall Term 1837 of the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Kanawha County, and requested it may be regarded as part of this. He has stated all that his memory enables him to state with certainty and he knows of no one now living who could refresh his memory on the subject – or prove [?] what he has stated. He refers, however, to the certificate of two of his fellow citizens, annexed hereto.

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 if any, only on that of the agency of the State of Virginia.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court

Test: S/ A. W. Quasier, Clk

S/ Jas. S. Wilson

[James M. Brown, a clergyman, and Daniel Ruffner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 7: The printed list of 1852 gives cause of suspension as; "Did not serve six months in any regularly organized Corps."]

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<sup>3</sup> *Quasier*