

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Wilson R11660

fn44¹SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/10

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State of South Carolina District of Fairfield

On this 24th day of November in the year of our Lord 1838, personally appeared before John R. Buchanan Judge of the Court of Ordinary in and for Fairfield District, James Wilson a resident of Fairfield District in the State aforesaid aged seventy-eight 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 on the 24th day of March in the year of our Lord 1760, in the County of Antrim, and Kingdom of Ireland. That his age was entered down in a family Bible, brought to this Country by the father of the Deponent Robert Wilson, which Bible fell into the possession of Rosey Stewart the elder sister of Deponent, and is now as deponent believes in the possession of the two daughters of Rosey Stewart (now dead). The daughters live on Rocky Creek, Chester District South Carolina. The deponent was living on the Wateree [River] then Craven County, now Fairfield District, about seven miles from Winnsborough when he enlisted in the service of the United States. He lived in Charleston South Carolina for nearly seven years immediately following the close of the War of the Revolution, following his trade of carpenter, and has lived on the Wateree in said Fairfield District ever since that time and still resides there.

Deponent enlisted as a private soldier in the 6th Regiment of South Carolina Continental Line in the spring of the year 1776 and shortly before the attack on Fort Moultrie, and as deponent believes the 1st April 1776, Deponent enlisted for three years. Lieutenant John Buchanan of the sixth Regiment was the Officer who enlisted him. Colonel Henderson [William Henderson] as the Deponent believes commanded the Regiment. Alexander Boyce was the Captain in command of the Regiment when Deponent enlisted, who was afterwards promoted to be Major and Lieutenant John Buchanan was promoted to the Captain of said Company. Charles Dick, John Dick, Charles Johnston, James Clarke & John Steel, all enlisted on the same day with deponent and in the same Company. John Steel was killed in battle at Savannah, and the rest are all dead. Wise is a resident of John's Island was also Major of the sixth Regiment. General Lincoln was the General commanding all the troops in South Carolina in 1779 when deponent was discharged, and had a black Boy shot by some one of the troops on parade at Sheldon Hill about six miles from Port Royal ferry Beaufort, when the line was ordered to give a fire of blank

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cartridges. Adjutant Hamilton who had been a strict disciplinarian supposed that his life was intended to be taken as the ball passed through the hat of Hamilton at the cockade before.

Deponent was marched after he enlisted down to Charleston South Carolina and remained in Charleston and its neighborhood and on the Congaree and Santee Rivers the most part of the time for which he enlisted. Deponent was in the battle of Stono, and was also in a small skirmish previously at Briar Creek in Georgia near the Savannah River. Thinks Major Fash commanded the Americans about two hundred fifty in number. Captain John Buchanan was there and also in the Battle at Stono. Thinks both Colonels Henderson and Lawrence were in the battle of Stono. Deponent was discharged at Sheldon Hill in 1779 after he had served three years as a private soldier, and after he had served out the full time for which he enlisted, and was paid in Continental money at the rate of \$8 per month. If the deponent received a discharge in writing it has long since been lost, destroyed or mislaid. The Deponent served three years as a private soldier under this enlistment.

The Deponent again enlisted as a private soldier, shortly after he was discharged at Sheldon Hill, in less time than one month afterwards. He was enlisted in Captain Joseph Warley's Company, in 3rd Regiment of South Carolina Rangers Colonel William Thomson [sic, William Thomson] Commanding. He continued to serve in said Regiment until the fall of Charleston May 12th 1780 when deponent was taken prisoner with his Company, and remained a Prisoner of War in Charleston until he with other prisoners were sent on to James Town [sic, Jamestown] Virginia and there exchanged. John Taylor was orderly Sergeant Captain Joseph Warley's Company. Felix Warley, George Warley & Paul Warley, with Joseph Warley were all brothers and Captains in Colonel Thomson's Regiment. General Lincoln commanded in the siege of Charleston.

Deponent is very infirm in health and his memory is much impaired, and he would not at present make this application but that his circumstances are very much reduced, being entirely dependent for a livelihood on his manual labor (his occupation being that of carpenter) he is at last constrained to apply for assistance in this mode. He declares it to have been his intention never to have applied for a pension could he have done without it, and that that was his reason for not applying at an earlier period.

Deponent by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, excepting in the first service in Captain Boyce and Buchanan's Companies 6th Regiment South Carolina Continental Army, in which he thinks he is not mistaken in stating the service at three years as a private soldier. And according to the best of his recollection he served in Colonel Thomson's Regiment from the Spring of 1779 until the exchange of prisoners at James Town Virginia in the fall or winter of 1780 and Deponent's recollection makes him sure that in both the services he served as a private as above three years and he believes four years and for such he claims a pension.

Deponent knows of none of his fellow soldiers now living who can testify as to his actual service. Joseph Caldwell an old and respectable neighbor has heard Captain John Buchanan in his lifetime say Deponent served in his Company. David Smith and James Harper also old and respected neighbors on the Wateree, can speak of the reputation of the neighborhood and of Deponent's character for truth.

Deponent received no paper or document in his exchange at James Town that he recollects, if he ever did it has been lost or mislaid it.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John R. Buchanan, Ordinary

S/ James Wilson, X his mark

[David Smith, Joseph Caldwell and John Harper gave the standard supporting affidavit. In addition, Joseph Caldwell "further testifies that he Captain John Buchanan in his life time stated that James Wilson above was a regular soldier in his Company Continental Army in the revolutionary war, and was a faithful soldier."]

[fn p. 194: the South Carolina State Comptroller General states that he finds reference to a James Wilson serving 3 months in Captain James Giles company and William Hill's Regiment of State Troops.]