

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Willis R11661

fn11NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/15/11

[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 Secretary of State's Office 29th September 1835

Sir

I do not find the name of George Willis on the rolls of the Continental line of this State corresponding with his declaration in close to me on the 25th instant. I find George Willis a private in Captain Fenner's Company of the 2nd Regiment enlisted on the 10th of October 1776 for 3 years or the war, was a prisoner in June 1779, mustered again in November 1779. This is the only George Willis on the rolls.

I am very respectfully your Obedient Servant  
S/ Wm Hill

State of Georgia Dooly County

On this 7th day of September in the year of our Lord 1835 personally appeared before the Inferior Court in & for said County George Willis a resident of said County aged seventy-six years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he volunteered as a soldier sometime in the year 1779 under Colonel Thomas Robertson [sic, Thomas Robeson] in Bladen County North Carolina of which he is a native. General Thomas Brown commanding General. That his Captain's name was Peter Robertson, 1st Lieutenant William Daniel, 2<sup>nd</sup> do Malica Burgess. That he served a three months tour with Captain Robertson. The Major's name was Robert Raiford. That during that time of service he was in no regular battle but was occasionally encountered by the Tories with whom he had several brushes, and were once completely defeated & scattered by them at a place called Rock Fish<sup>1</sup> some 6 or 7 miles below Fayetteville. That soon after the termination of that tour he was drafted for 3 months more under Captain John Willis cousin to this applicant under same field officers Lieutenants Burgess & Edgington Willis brother of this applicant. That the most of the last three months were passed in getting provisions for General Greene's Army & this applicant only remembers having a brush with the Tories & defeated them on a Creek called Catfish in

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<sup>1</sup> May 13, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockfish.htm> and [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_legats\\_bridge.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_legats_bridge.html) or August 2, 1781 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/rockfish2.htm> and [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_rockfish\\_creek.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html)

South Carolina between Little & Big Pedee [River]. After the termination of this six months service as before stated he volunteered for a tour of nine months service in the 6th Regiment North Carolina troops as a regular soldier under Colonel John Reid or Reed, Major Thomas Walker, Captain William Hall 1st Lieutenant Benjamin Smith & 2nd Lieutenant John Wilkinson McLong adjutant – during that nine [months] service this applicant was not in any regular engagement. This applicant further states that after the termination of the last tour mentioned he volunteered under Captain John Riggans Richard Riggans 1st Lieutenant, under Colonel Robertson. This Colonel Robertson was the same after whom Robertson County<sup>2</sup> North Carolina was named. This tour was principally consumed in hunting of and detecting the murderers of Captain Nathaniel Hawthorn. This applicant then volunteered under Captain John Wood, Lieutenant Robert McLeod, Colonel Glascock in Georgia for 9 months which was principally passed in Georgia scouting after the Indians & Tories. Captain Wood got killed by the Indians & McLeod succeeded to the command of the company. This applicant has in the foregoing statement merely given the outline of his services he was all this time during the war engaged one way or another in harassing the Tories & after the close of the war in fighting the Indians. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state & that he has lost his written discharges.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ George Willis, X his mark

S/ David Graham, JIC

S/ John C Sheffield, JIC

S/ Folton Kempf, JIC

State of Georgia Dooly County: Personally came before us Lewis Powell<sup>3</sup> and being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that he is personally acquainted with the aforementioned George Willis, and he knew him to have served in the war of 1779 – and that the facts stated in the foregoing petition of the said Willis are correct, and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

S/ Lewis Powell, X his mark

[On October 9th, 1833, in Decatur County Georgia, William Hawthorn gave an affidavit that he was a resident of Bladen County North Carolina in the year 1779 and has reason to believe and does believe that George Willis, "now of Leon County in the Territory of Florida" resided in Bladen County and served in the revolutionary war as a volunteer under Colonel Thomas Roberson [sic, Thomas Robeson]. William Hawthorn signed his name and identifies himself as an "Ordain the Preacher of the Baptist denomination."]

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<sup>2</sup> There is no "Robertson" County in North Carolina. The veteran is no doubt referring to Robeson County which was named after Col. Thomas Robeson

<sup>3</sup> [Lewis Powell S31915](#)