

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wilson R11686

fn30VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/5/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia Norfolk County to wit

On this 19th day of May 1834 personally appeared before the Court of Norfolk County sitting; William Wilson a resident of the Town of Portsmouth in the said County of Norfolk aged seventy-two 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 7th of June 1832.

That early in the year 1777 he was at the age of sixteen years placed by his father John Wilson who was Colonel of militia in the County of Norfolk Virginia, as a private in the company of militia commanded by Josiah Wilson. This company was called into service in the Revolutionary war to repel the invading enemy as well as to resist their ally, the refugees who were numerous. The nature of the service was this – when danger was apprehended from the repeated invasions of the British, the company was ordered out by the Colonel of the Regiment and continued in service for a longer or shorter period until the enemy left the County or the refugees were put down. The County is low very much intersected with rivers, creeks, marshes and swamps and the duty of defending and securing it very arduous. His Captain the said Josiah Wilson was killed by the refugees about the middle of the year 1778. He can say with certainty that in the various tours of duty as aforesaid between his first entrance into the service and the time of the death of his said Captain Josiah Wilson he served nine months.

After the death of said Josiah Wilson he volunteered in the company commanded by a William Hull in the same Regiment and was engaged with his company in the same sort of service under similar orders and continued to perform the light duty at various times for the further term of at least nine months – his services in this company ending sometime in the year 1780.

In the year 1779 the said Colonel John Wilson died and the command of the Regiment devolved on Matthew Godfrey.

After his said service in Hull Company as aforesaid he served during the years 1780 & 1781 in the company of the militia commanded by Captain John Portlock of the infantry & in the company of Captain Payne of the Cavalry of said County – they were called in the service in the like manner as first stated & performed similar duties. He served in the various tours of duty under those officers 6 months at least in Portlock's Company and 3 or 4 months in Payne's Company that he is now 72 years of age.

Portsmouth May 19, 1834

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any state.

W. H. Wilson

The Court propounded the following interrogatories to the applicant

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the Parish of Saint Brides in the County of Norfolk on the 5th day of December 1761.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I believe there was a record of my age in my father's Bible which was sold upwards of 40 years ago at his sale, since which time I have not seen it.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. I was living with my father Colonel John Wilson in the Parish of Saint Brides when called into service, I continued to live in the Parish till the year 1794 when I moved to the town of Portsmouth in the said County of Norfolk and do now there reside.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was a volunteer. I was not drafted, nor never was a substitute.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer – I do not think there were any regular officers with the troops where I served, nor were there any Continental regiments I can recollect of – I only recollect Major William Hoffler [¹] a Continental officer who was stationed at Portsmouth.

The General circumstances of my service are contained in my declaration – my father John Wilson was Colonel of the County. In Wirt's *Life of Patrick Henry* who was Governor of Virginia an account is given of his services. The particular warfare in Norfolk County is [a] matter of History.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. I received no written discharge – after the surrender of York I was discharged.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I am known by almost every Citizen of the County having been Clerk of the Court of this County for more than 40 years. There is no person living I know of who can testify to my services as a soldier of the Revolution, but there are great many persons living who believe that I was, some of whom can testify to the fact of having heard their ancestors say so who were in service with me.

[David Fentress, a justice of this court, and Josiah McCoy gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[The court record was attested by William H Wilson, clerk of the court. Relationship, if any to the applicant is not stated.]

W. H. Wilson

[fn p. 3: On Dec. 25, 1851, William H. Wilson filed a power of attorney authorizing the attorney to pursue the claims of the heirs of William Wilson, a soldier of the Revolution who died in Portsmouth Virginia on or about 1838. The relationship, if any, of William H. Wilson to the veteran is not stated.]