

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wright R11894

f31NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/12/2008 rev'd 1/25/13

[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.]

The State of Alabama, Montgomery County

On this the 24th day of December A.D. 1846 personally appeared before me William S. Boyd a an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County of Montgomery John Wright a resident of said County of Montgomery in the said County and State aged eighty five 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 passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That about fifteen or twenty days after he was sixteen years old; he was drafted in the County of Granville, in the State of North Carolina: where he then resided: to serve a tour of three months in the militia of the State of North Carolina; that on account of his youth, his Father William Wright, hired a man by the name of Bailey as a Substitute for him (his Christian name not now recollected) his Father gave Bailey one thousand dollars Continental money to serve as a substitute for applicant (John Wright) he does not now recollect the names of the company officers, under whom he was drafted, or the field or company officers under whom his substitute Bailey served; but does recollect that Thomas Satterwhite was the Colonel of the County of Granville, at that time; and after he had furnished his substitute gave him Applicant his discharge.

That he entered the service of the United States the second time under the following named officers, and served as stated.

That he was drafted in said County of Granville: in the militia of the State of North Carolina: to serve a tour of three months; which tour he served, fully out, in person; the day month or year that he was drafted he does not precisely recollect; but thinks that it was in the year 1778: his officers were first Richard Harrison who was Captain at the time we turned out; but was soon promoted to the rank of Major, and William Hicks, made Captain in his place (who continued Captain as long as I served in that tour), William Heston [or Hestor] was first Lieutenant under Hicks, & his Brother Benjamin Histon [or Histor] Ensign: Colonel Joseph Taylor commanded the Regiment to which our company belonged: that in this tour he was in the Battle of Giford [Guilford] Court House [March 15, 1781]: that after the Battle of Guilford Court House he was sent to bury the dead and carry the wounded to the Hospital: that he was detained at the hospital attending to the sick & wounded until his time of service expired: he does not now recollect the Continental Regiment to which he belonged or was attached: that General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] was the Commander in Chief in the Battle: that General Butler [John Butler] was the head commander before he joined General Greene: that Colonel Washington [William Washington] was in the Battle & commanded the Horse: that Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] arrived upon the ground soon after the Battle was over: that the hospital in which he served was at Guilford old Court House where the battle was fought: that he does not know through what country the Army marched through after the Battle as he was detained at the Hospital. That in this tour he might as properly be called a Volunteer as a drafted militia man: as when the draft was about to take place; he

with the balance of his company; in order to choose their officers agreed to Volunteer; and did so, and elected Richard Harralson Captain; & then marched to Guilford Court: & in order to avoid the enemy before we joined General Greene we marched a very circuitous route through the counties of Wake, Orange & Caswell & joined General Greene at Haw River at a then noted place called the high rock some 18 or 20 miles from the Battle ground that he received his discharge after the expiration of his term of service from Doctor Wallis [sic, Wallace?] as well as he now recollects.

That he entered the service of the United States a third time under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he Volunteered under Colonel Long who put him to work in a public workshop at a village called Harrisburg near Oxford in Granville County; where he was employed, principally, in sawing with a whip saw getting out timbers for wagons for the United States service, he served three months in this public shop; and received a discharge from Major Batt Birdsong; either in his own name or in the name of Col. Long he does not now recollect.

That he served three tours in all of three months each: first by substitute the other two in person making in all nine months six in person and three by substitute. He does not recollect in what year his service was, in the work shop. That during the two tours which he served personally he was not engaged in any civil pursuit. That he never received a commission; but was a Soldier in the ranks during each of his terms of service. That he has no documentary evidence of his service: that the several discharges that he received are lost or destroyed he thinks that they were probably burned, at the time that his Father's house was burned in Granville County North Carolina. That he knows of no person now living, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, except two females who reside in the State of Georgia; and their testimony would only be from hearsay; that is from what they heard others say.

That he was a resident citizen of Granville County North Carolina during all of his several tours of service above set forth.

He said John Wright the Applicant 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. That he has never applied for a Pension until this time; for the reason that he has always been of the opinion that pensions were granted by Congress, only to those who were wounded in battle or unable to support themselves that heretofore he has always been able to live comfortably without resorting to his Pension; but now his circumstances all reversed he claims his Pension.

The following interrogatories being propounded to the Applicant, by the Magistrate to which he gives the annexed answers. Interrogatory the first When and in what year were you born?

Answer: That he was born in Louisa County in the State of Virginia: in the year 1762.

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

Answer: That he has no record of it but to the best of his recollection he was born in the year 1762.

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

Answer: He was living in the County of Granville State of North Carolina when he was called into service: that he removed to the State of South Carolina York District about the year 1789 or 90 he lived there about 15 years then moved to Wilkes County in the State of Georgia where he lived about five years; he moved from Wilkes to Jasper County Georgia where he lived up to the year 1821 he then moved to the said County of Montgomery in said State of Alabama where he has resided up to the present time

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

Answer: He was not substituted but was drafted as stated above.

Inty 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: That can now recollect no more than he has already stated.

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

Answer: That he received a discharge three times as above stated: but they are all lost or destroyed as stated above.

Inty 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: That Dennis Allen, Caleb Moncreif [?], Franklin Armstrong, Isaac Willith, James G. Turner, the Honorable Dixon H. Lewis Senator in Congress from Alabama Honorable Henry W. Hilliard Representative in Congress from Alabama are all acquainted with Applicant and to whom he refers for his character &c.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this day & year above written.

S/ William S. Boyd, JP

S/ John Wright, X his mark

[Dennis Allen, Caleb Moncreif & Franklin Armstrong gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 22: Note: "List of rejected claims printed in 1852 shows calls of rejection as follows: Service getting out timbers for gun carriages not regarded as military service, & his other tours were under 6 months."]

The following additional documents from this file was graciously submitted for inclusion in the database by Peggy Haythorn who transcribed them:

[f p. 17]

**State of Georgia,
Meriwether County**

Personally appeared before me, Thomas Walton, J.P., an acting Justice of the Peace for said county. Sarah Reeves (sic), who being duly sworn, deposeth and says that she is eight-three years old, that she is the sister of the late John Wright, a soldier of the Revolutionary War. That she knows of the said John Wright being drafted in the North Carolina Militia in said war of the Revolution, that he served as a soldier in said war for the space of nine months in all, that he first served a tour as a substitute in the place of his father for the space of three months, that he was afterwards drafted and served a tour of three months and was at the Battle of Guilford; that she has often heard him speak of his service in said war and at the Battle of Guilford, and also that he worked at the whip saw in getting out timber for gun carriages for some of the time he was drafted for; that she thinks he was drafted twice in said Militia during said war, and thinks he served out the time for which he was drafted each time and was regularly discharged. That he removed from Granville County, North Carolina, soon after the Revolution to York District, S.C., and from thence to Wilkes County, Georgia, afterwards to Jasper County, Georgia, and thence to Montgomery County, Alabama, where he died in the fall of 1847; that while living in Montgomery County he had his house burnt and has heard him say all his papers were burnt with it and William B. Wright is the son of the said John Wright and the only heir of the said John Wright.

(Signed)

Sarah (X) Reeves (sic) (her mark)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, Thomas Walton, J.P., August 26, 1853.

[f p.14]

Georgia

Polk County

On this 17th day of March 1854 personally appeared before me Thomas A. Chisolm an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county William B. Wright a resident of said county and state, aged about sixty seven, who being duly sworn deposed and says and makes the following declaration. That his father was a soldier in the war of the revolution that he served as a soldier in said war nine month in all as he is informed and believes that his father, John Wright died in the year 1847 in Montgomery County Alabama and that he left no widow, but that he left him the said William B. Wright surviving heir as his only surviving child. That application was made claiming a pension and his papers filed in the pension office soon after his death by Charles B. Pearson of Tuskegee Alabama and a report made on the application September 14th 1848. In said report it is stated that his father employed a substitute in one of the tours for which he was drafted, which he thinks is a mistake. That his father was a substitute himself in said tour as he was informed by his father and by his grandfather and that he the said William B. Wright makes the forgoing declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the pension laws of the United States.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me.

William B. Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William B. Wright". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.