

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Wright R11899

Mary Wright

f98NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/4/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 12]

State of North Carolina, Surry County: Court of pleas and quarter Sessions February Sessions
A.D. 1833

On this 12th day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before William P. Dobson, Mallory Smith & William C. Martin Justices assigned to hold the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for the County and State aforesaid Now Sitting – Thomas Wright Senior a resident of Surry County & State of North Carolina aged 74 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 & served as herein stated.

That he volunteered as a Soldier in June 1776 in the County of Surry State of North Carolina under the command of Captain Jacob Ferree [Jacob Free] I am not certain who the Colonel was [sic, Col. Martin Armstrong], this enlistment was in the War with the Cherokee Indians called the War with the Cherokee Indians¹ – we marched on through Wilkes County then South West to Johns River thence on to the head waters of the Catawba River. We ranged the Country there and the head waters of the Yadkin River – thence down the Yadkin to Fort Defiance which Fort we built. After we had built said Fort and for some time being stationed there it was believed the Indians had returned to their nation for that Cause part of the troops was discharged I was one of those thus discharged my discharge was verbal not written, from which place I returned home in August 1776 I served two months in this Tour the next day after my return from Fort defiance as above stated I volunteered again under said Captain Free to March into the Cherokee Nation Col. James Martin I think was the Colonel rendezvoused at Cub Creek in the County of Wilkes from thence marched for the Cherokee Nation passed by pleasant Gardens in the County of Burke, Crossed the Blue Ridge at the head of the Catawba River, thence down Swannanoa River – thence on to the Nation to the Overhill Towns had several skirmishes and drove the Indians from their town Burnt it, Destroyed the Cattle & Crops the command of this Army was by General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], Major William Sharp was his Aide [?], Parson Hall was Chaplin to the Army, the enemy being routed and driven from there, Volunteers were called for to go to the Valley towns to Join the Virginia Army who had marched there. Obeying said call I volunteered under said Captain Free Marched to the Valley towns finding the Indians at that place dispersed the town, destroyed &c we then marched back to the Army and from thence we marched to the inhabited part of the Country and were discharged again verbally not written and returned home in this Tour I served three months.

In the Revolutionary War I rendered the following Service, in the spring or forepart of the

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

Summer in the year 1780 as well as I can recollect the war called the Tory war raged in the Western part of North Carolina until the Surrender of the British under Lord Cornwallis the Tories rose and assembled themselves into bands and bodies some went to the British who were then marching in the Southern part of the Country and some were assembling in bands Robbing, Plundering & Sometimes killing the Whigs as they called them. In this dangerous, brutal and hart [sic, heart?] appealing Crisis of the Country I performed my humble path of service in behalf of my Country. Agreeably to a regulation which was adopted by the true friends of the Revolution I volunteered myself a Minute man holding myself ready at every moment and at any time which continued up to the time of the Surrender of the British under Lord Cornwallis at York [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], being one year and four months under the orders this enlistment I served as a Soldier under several Officers to wit part of the time under Captain Horn [John Horn] – again under Captain Gibson Wooldridge and again under Captain Samuel Moseby & Colonel Joseph Phillips & Colonel Joseph Williams of Surry. The object of this service of various purposes, some times to prevent the injury the Tories were rising to do, and likewise to make preparations for attacking the British as they were marching through the Country under Cornwallis, during this Service I was kept marching and ranging various parts of the Country when we supposed or would learn the Disaffected might be assembled, having different places where we were sometimes stationed. I will mention two of those places namely the Moravian town or Salem & old town which was our head quarters, Carmichael's Ford on Dan River, Giles Hudspeth's [? Headpeth's or Heedspeth's] [ford] on Yadkin [River] at one time while stationed there, an express came from Colonel Joseph Phillips crossed over the Yadkin Joined the troops under him ranged the Country then we took some prisoners carried them to Salem old town headquarters. In the winter 1780 as well as I can recollect the General Assembly sat or made an attempt to sit in Salem I was among the soldiers there for the purpose of guarding said Legislature; while the British were in their march through the Country eastward I under the Command of Captain Gibson Wooldridge marched to the Virginia line on Dan River for the purpose of joining other troops, while remaining there an express came that the British under Lord Cornwallis had passed on, they passed into Guilford County where a battle ensued [March 15, 1781]; this was the most intense Juncture of time I mean when the British were marching through and were adjacent to the Section of the Country, the British being within such a Distance as gave the disaffected the Conveniency [sic] of reaching and joining them and to others becoming more bold and desperate in their acts of Robbing and killing. In this Situation which the Country was in during the time the Tory War raged we had to go Armed Continually even while a person would take his restless sleep it was Common to sleep with their Arms of Defense. I then have served say in the Indian war five months and in the Revolution already mentioned I volunteered my services in the Defense of my Country as a Minute man as before stated one year and four months that he has no Documentary evidence and does not know of any person who he can procure who can testify to his Service with the exception of Captain Andrew Carson² of Iredell County and by him only a part of my service & Captain Carson being a Resident of another County and being Aged it would be inconvenient to procure him before this Court. 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 any State. In Answer to the 7 Interrogatories propounded by the Court agreeably to the Directions prescribed by the War department &c

1st I was born in Fauquier County State of Virginia on the 18th day of February 1758
2nd There is a record of my age in my family Bible
3rd I lived in the County of Surry North Carolina and have lived in said County ever since and at the same place I now live at.

2 [Andrew Carson S8173](#)

4th I volunteered to the Indian War. I volunteered myself a Minute man in the Revolution.

5th I am not certain any of the officers in the Indian War were Regular. I do not know as to that. Besides officers named in Declaration I remember Colonel Martin Armstrong and a brave officer by the name of Francis [Captain Henry Francis] who was Slain at the battle with the Tories at the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780].

6th I never received any Discharge in writing they were uniformly verbal by the commanding officer.

7th I referred to Major Joseph Williams, Josiah Cowles & the Reverend John Angel our and Court.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ T. Wright, Sen.



[John Angel, a clergyman, and Joseph Williams gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina Surry County }

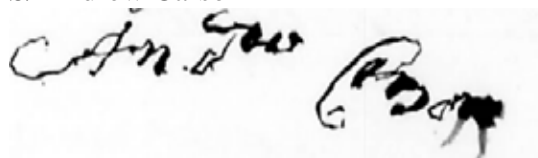
Personally appeared before me Joseph Cowles one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Surry Captain Andrew Carson of the County of Iredell and made oath in due form of law that Thomas Wright Esquire Senior Served in the Indian Cherokee War as a Soldier that this deponent remembers said Wright being in the Army serving as a Soldier and assisted in the building of Fort Defiance and that he also was in the said War when it was prosecuted and carried into the Cherokee nation faithfully Serving as a Soldier that this Service as Performed by him was for five months at the least. I do not Personally recollect the Service performed by said Wright in the Revolutionary War but from facts as detailed by said Wright [text obscured by an ink blot] to that War I know that must have a part of the time served together.

Sworn to and subscribed this 9th day of February 1833

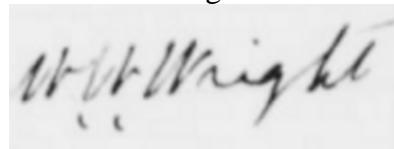
Attest:

S/ J. Cowles, JP

S/ Andrew Carson



[p 16: Power of attorney dated February 24, 1853 executed in Wilkes County North Carolina by William W Wright who states that he is the son of the veteran Thomas Wright.



[Veteran was allowed a pension; he died June 22, 1840 in Surry County, NC; he married January 7, 1780 in Surry County NC , Mary Clanton; she filed for a widow's pension; she died June 14, 1844 in Yadkin County, NC at age 85; the following family data is reflected in the file:

The children of Thomas and Mary Wright are as follows:

John Wright born September 23, 1781 [died sometime before 1/23/1853]

Daniel Wright born August 13, 1784
Lucy Wright born October 27, 1786 [married someone named Belt]
Amelia Wright born March 22, 1789 [married someone named Davis]
William W. Wright born February 26, 1791
Nanny Wright born April 22, 1795 [Nancy Frost or Nancy Steel or Steal]
Thomas B. Wright born August 29, 1797
Mary (Polly) Wright born July 18, 1804 [married Henry Foote]

[p 7 family record taken from a Bible in the possession of Mary Foote:

Thomas Wright & Mary his Wife was Married Jan^y 7 - 1780
John Wright Son of the above Parents was Born Sep^r 23 - 1783
Daniel Wright was Born August 13 - 1784
Lucy Wright was Born October 27 - 1786
Amelia Wright was Born March 22 - 1789
Father Departed this Life October 30 - 1789
William W. Wright was Born Feb 26 - 1791
John in Law Departed this Life Sept 22 - 1793
Nanny Wright was Born April 22 - 1795
Thomas B. Wright was Born August 29 - 1797
Polly Wright was Born July 18 - 1804

[Veteran's father (not named) died October 30, 1789; Veterans' father-in-law died September 22, 1793]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 20 months in the North Carolina militia.]