

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Wright R11907

f65VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/21/11

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

State of Virginia Norfolk City to wit

On this 4th day of August 1849 personally appeared before me S. Hartshorn – a justice of the peace for the city aforesaid Colonel Stephen Wright aged eighty-five years a resident of the city of Norfolk and State of Virginia 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 as a private in Captain Booker's Company of militia in the year 1780 and served twelve months at love point & Hoflers Creek [Hoffler's Creek] – he was then appointed Ensign by Captain Charles Conner [also spelled Charles Connor], that they then were ordered to Yorktown and took up their march for that place and after reaching a very near point to York Town, they were ordered back to go to Princess Anne County, to catch the Tories, the Battalion was commanded by Major Dicks that he the said Wright had charge of a squad of 15 men and took 14 Tories prisoners at one time, that he then went from Princess Anne County to the Town of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk to the Barracks, and remained there on duty until after the surrender of Cornwallis at York Town. He then went to York Town in a company detached from the Battalion commanded by Major Dicks to guard the prisoners, and when they got to York Town, those in authority there had succeeded in getting a sufficiency of troops and sent them on to Port deposite [?], they then by quarter returned to Portsmouth to the Barracks, where he the said Wright served as before with an embodied Corps called into service by competent authority, he served after he left Hofler's Creek and to love point at the different Corps as before stated as Ensign twelve months and more making his whole service in the war of the Revolution two years, and that he was not employed in any civil pursuit during his whole service, and that as he had no commission as Ensign he does not claim a Pension as such, only as a private, that he is now old and infirm and claims at the hands of his country for Pension which is justly due to him, and that he does not know of any person by whom he can prove his service, that the reason why he has never before applied for a pension is this, that he has always been able to do without 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 any State.

S/ Stephen Wright, X his mark

Quest: Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the city of Norfolk in the year 1763

Quest: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have, it is in my family Bible

Quest: Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the

Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived near Crany Highland in Norfolk County when called into service. I have lived in the County and city of Norfolk since the revolutionary war and I'm now live in the city of Norfolk.

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

Answer. I volunteered

Quest: 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. Colonel Gibson, Major Dick's, Major Hofler, Major Bracy, Captain Conner, and Captain Booker. I don't recollect the number of any Regiment at this time  
S/ Stephen Wright, X his mark

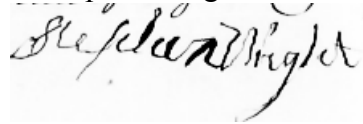
[Jeremiah Hendrix, a clergyman, and R. S. Bernard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Virginia City of Norfolk to wit

On this 4th day of November 1850 personally appeared before me Nathan C Whitehead a Justice of the Peace in and for the city of Norfolk State aforesaid Colonel Stephen Wright a resident of the said city 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 was born in the County of Norfolk State of Virginia aforesaid in the year 1764 and is now in his 86th year. Deponent was required from time to time during the War of the Revolution to perform military services in the Towns of Norfolk, Portsmouth and the adjacent Counties – which service he performed during the greater part of the year 1780. In the summer of 1781 Deponent in common with the young men of the County was drafted to perform a regular tour of duty and was shortly afterwards enrolled as a private in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain Charles Conner, which Company was then in service – and constituted one of the quota of men raised for the defense of the State. The duties performed by Deponent assisted in digging upon the entrenchments then in course of the erection in and about the town of Portsmouth, going out upon scouting parties, constant drilling and more arduous service of expelling the Tories from the Counties of Norfolk and Princess Anne. The post of Ensign having become vacant in the company commanded by Colonel Conner – deponent was duly & regularly appointed to fill the vacancy and shortly afterwards, to wit: somewhere about the middle of October 1781, orders were issued directing the larger portion of the troops stationed in about Norfolk and Portsmouth to march with all dispatch to Yorktown. A detachment of men was immediately placed in charge of deponent which he commanded in the capacity of Ensign and forthwith embarked on board of one of the Virginia state vessels commanded by Captain John Archer of the Navy and the command reached York in time to witness the raising of the siege and the surrender of the forces under Cornwallis. After remaining in York for a brief space Deponent again returned with his command to Portsmouth and continued in active service until there was a general reduction of the troops throughout the State. That during this expedition in passing through Hampton, deponent with the American officers stationed and in service at Hampton dined with the French Admiral on board the flagship, then moored in Hampton roads. Deponent did not, however, continue longer in active – but just on the eve of his discharge from the service

– he was invited by his near relative and then Guardian Captain W. Westcott,<sup>1</sup> a distinguished officer of the Virginia State Navy, and one of the retained officers in that branch of the public service, to join his vessel, (one of the small cruisers belonging to the Navy) which was about to sail for the West Indies. Deponent joined said Cruiser acting as aid to Captain Westcott, and sailed from Hampton direct for the Island of Martinique. In the prosecution of the voyage, and just at daybreak, they discovered a strange sail, at some distance off, which subsequently proved to be the British frigate *Cerberus*, Sir Jacob Wheat, commander, who immediately commenced a pursuit and after a chase of twelve hours, we were captured and carried to Bermuda where the Officers and men were thrown into the hulk prison ships and kept confined until the close of the War. The officers taken prisoners and thus confined were Captain Westcott, Lieutenant John Crew, sailing master, Joseph Marshall and Deponent, all of whom were retained in close confinement and not discharged until after the proclamation of Peace in April 1783. The Deponent 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 – or if any, only on that of the Agency of the State of Virginia.

S/ Stephen Wright



[f p 33: Joseph N. Brough gave testimony that he is the son of William Brough who died in Hampton sometime in the fall of the year 1832; that his father was an intimate friend of Colonel Stephen Wright and knew him to have been in officer of energy and merit who served in Hampton during the revolution.]

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<sup>1</sup> "WESTCOTT [WESCOTT], WRIGHT VA Wright Westcott [Stewart, 265] (Wescott) [NOAR, 332] was commissioned on 18 June 1776 to command the Virginia Navy Sloop *Scorpion*, on the Potomac River. On 7 September 1776 he was ordered to Portsmouth, and then to join Commodore BOUCHER in Chesapeake Bay. On 11 September he was ordered to transport troops to New York. [NOAR, 332] He was aboard the *Scorpion* in December 1776. [Stewart, 265] Westcott later commanded the Virginia Navy Galley *Norfolk Revenge*. On 28 May 1778 the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk in Nansemond River with a loss of prisoners, including Lieutenant EDWARD MORTON. [Stewart, 53] Westcott and the members of the crew who escaped were ordered by the Virginia Navy Board to proceed to Jamestown for reassignment. [Stewart, 53] After the *Norfolk Revenge* was sunk Westcott transferred to the Virginia Navy Galley *Henry*. He was one of the retained officers of the Navy. He was the guardian and near relative of Stephen Wright, who started with him to Martinique. They were captured by HMS *Cereberus* and put in prison [Stewart, 265] Westcott died 1 February 1784. [Stewart, 266]." Posted by Ken Kellow at <http://www.awiatsea.com/Officers/Officers%20W.html> [viewed 10/21/11]