

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wright, R11910

Transcribed by Will Graves

f15NC

rev'd 7/5/17

[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.]

State of North Carolina, Rockingham County} August Sessions 1832

On this 29 day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Francis Rose, Ebenezer O'Neill & C. L. Ladd the Court of pleas & Quarter sessions now sitting William Wright Senior of the County of aforesaid aged seventy-eight 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 7th June 1832.

[He was] living in Guilford County North Carolina, entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. Volunteered in the month of March 1778 for a tour of three months in the North Carolina Militia under Captain John Leak, Lieutenant John Davis & Ensign William Lewis, marched to Salisbury in Rowan County where we joined our Regiment – James Martin was our Colonel, A Mr. Paisley was Lieutenant Colonel and a Mr. Blair was Major, all of the County of Guilford marched from Salisbury to the head of the Catawba River to Cathey's Fort where we were joined by troops from the upper parts of the State under the command of General Griffin Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] from Cathey's Fort we marched on over the Mountain to Tennessee against the Indians. General Rutherford detached Col. McDowell [Charles McDowell] with 1200 troops to attack the Indian Towns. My Captain & his company made a forced march in order to attack the Indians at a certain point of their Town Watauga. But the South troops arrived there before we did & engaged the Indians dispersed & pursued them to what was called the Valley towns our company only arrived in time to aid in destroying their towns in a few days we took up our return march to Cathey's Fort our term of service having expired we were discharged the service & returned home. The second time I was drafted to go into the service but I hired a substitute for to serve in my place. A third time I was drafted but the situation of my affairs at home required my attendance & I gave a man ten Bushels of Corn to go in my place. About this time I took up a couple of Continental deserters one of them was by the name of Benjamin Land [? could be Benjamin Lard] who had been at his father's house a considerable time dressed in female clothes & passed for one of his father's Daughters. The other man's name was Reuben Land – after this I was frequently called out into service some times 10 or 12 days at a time. This continued to be the case for upwards of a year a little while before the Guilford Battle [Guilford County Court House, March 15, 1781] I was called out on service & entered as a volunteer under my former Captain Leak & Joined General Greene's [Nathanael Greene's] Army we were mounted troops. I had a fine fleet Horse, and was very frequently sent out on express to different places. Just before the Battle of Guilford Colonel John Williams was ordered with an express to Colonel Butler [sic, General John Butler] who was then laying at Fossil's [?] Mills in the County of Orange. Colonel Williams took myself and another trooper with him & we set out. But before we reached Butler Williams' Horse tired down & he had to stop, he then gave me the express & directed me not to eat nor sleep until I

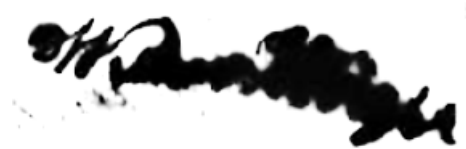
delivered it to Colonel Butler, which, I soon delivered to him; & he immediately made preparations to take up the line of march to join Greene's Army who was then near Guilford Court House. I returned immediately & reported to General Greene and in a very short time Colonel Butler Joined General Greene with all his troops which I believe was on Sunday morning -- & in a few days the Army engaged the British under Lord Cornwallis -- & in a short time thereafter I was discharged the service & returned home.

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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Gallaway, CCC

W/ William Wright



[James Scales & Charles Barnes, Sr., gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Questions propounded by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in the year 1755 in Frederick County Virginia

2nd 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 at the same place where I now live at the time of the Revolution & have continued to do so to the present – which is now Rockingham County NC.

3rd 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 always turned out as a volunteer

4th 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.

Ans: Alexander Martin was a Colonel of the continentals I believe. I do not now recollect the names of any other except those as already set forth in the body of the declaration.

5th 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 do not now recollect whether I did or not, & if I did, I do not know what has become of them.

6th 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.

Ans: James Scales and Charles Barnes Know of my having served in the war of the revolution &c.

[p 3: Power of attorney dated February 3, 1853 executed by Nancy Wright & Sally Gates of Rockingham County North Carolina in which they state they are the daughters of William Wright, a revolutionary war soldier. Both signed with their respective marks.]