

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Wilson R195  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Martha Anderson<sup>1</sup> f18SC  
rev'd 5/31/10 & 7/7/20

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

[p 3]

South Carolina, Anderson District

On this Sixth day of August in the year of our Lord 1856 Personally appeared in open Court before the undersigned Judge of the Court of Ordinary in and for said District and which is a Court of Record Mrs. Mary W. Langston aged about 75 years, a Resident of said District and State, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed July 4<sup>th</sup> 1836. That she is the daughter and heir at law of Martha Anderson deceased late of this District and State formerly the widow of James Wilson deceased, who as this deponent has been informed and believes Entered the Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War and served as herein after stated, that said James Wilson during said war lived in what is now Abbeville District, then a part of Ninety Six District in this State, and not far from where General Andrew Pickens and Col. Robert Anderson then lived and entered the militia under these officers about the year 1778 or '9 as a private horseman and served before and after the fall of Charleston several months, and then he joined a Regiment of Militia under Colonel Hayes [Joseph Hayes] and served Several Months and received a mortal wound in the battle of the "Cowpens"<sup>2</sup> in what is commonly known as "Tarleton's defeat" of which he died, and what is now perhaps Spartanburg or Union District in this State in January 1781. That afterwards, to wit, upon the passage of a Resolution of the Legislature of this State in 1786 the widows of those who died or had been killed in the service in the Revolutionary War were allowed pensions, and accordingly her said mother was placed on the South Carolina pension Roll as such widow of said James Wilson-- that after a few years she married one William Anderson who had (unknown at this time to this deponent's said mother) a wife then living, upon discovering which she parted from him and after his death, to wit, in the year 1824, her said mother upon a proof of these facts was restored to her pension which she continued to receive until a short time before her death, her said mother having died in this District a pensioner of South Carolina on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January in the year 1840 leaving this deponent and James Wilson (now dead) the only children her Surviving. That she never applied for a pension from the United States and this declarant further refers to the proofs to accompany this for the particulars of service, marriage &c.

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

S/ Mary W. Langston, X her mark

S/ Herbert Hammond

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<sup>1</sup> former widow

<sup>2</sup> Sic, see footnote 4 below. Based on the affidavit of Col. Andrew Pickens it appears much more likely that the veteran was killed at Fair Forest Creek on May 8, 1781.

The State of South Carolina, Pendleton District

Before me John T. Lewis Clerk of the Sessions & Peace & by virtue of Office one of the Justices Quorum in & for the District aforesaid personally came & appeared Martha Anderson formally Martha Wilson widow of James Wilson a Soldier who died in the service of the United States from wounds received in the battle of the Cowpens who being first sworn in due form of the law upon her oath deposes & saith that she is the identical Martha Wilson to whom with four of her children a pension was allowed by the legislature of the State aforesaid for & in consideration of the above stated services of her husband, James Wilson. That she is called by the name of Anderson by an illegal marriage with William Anderson who at the time of marrying her had a wife living as she afterwards found & in consequence of which she left the said William Anderson & would no longer live with him but that the name of Anderson has since attached to her and been that by which she has been most commonly known & that by which she drew the last money which she has received on account of the said Services of her husband James Willson [sic]. That she drew the last sum she believes in 1806 through the agency of John Wilson Esq., deceased, then a Senator from Pendleton District, Paul Hamilton then being the Comptroller General. That she has not since made application but considers herself still entitled to receive her said pension as she is still a widow and considers herself to be the widow of James Wilson and not of William Anderson who is also dead, having refused to live with him or acknowledge him her husband for the reasons above stated. That she believes when the pension was first drawn for her she lived in Abbeville District but when she received the last she resided where she has ever since done in Pendleton District & that she is in reduced & necessitous circumstances & by old age & infirmities much in need of the assistance of her Country.

S/ Martha Anderson, X her mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D. 1824.

S/ John T. Lewis, C. C. G. S. & Ex Officio Q. M.

No. 145 Issued the 8 of June 1785 to for Estate of Mr. James Wilson for forty three pounds five

Book S shillings and eight pence half penny sterling for duty done in the militia and for sundries for militia use per amount audited No. 42 Principal £43.5.8 ½ Annual Interest £3.0.7

Mr. James Wilson deceased his account of duty in the militia of as private in four and since the reduction of Charleston also for sundries on militia at count the whole amounting to Currency

£383

Stg £43.5. 8 ½

etc.

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South Carolina Audited Accounts<sup>3</sup> relating to James Wilson  
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 8620  
Transcribed by Will Graves

AA87

7/8/20

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<sup>3</sup> The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.



Brigadier General

These may certify that the within named James Wilson  
Killed by the Enemy when on duty in May 1794 &  
that I believe the within articles as mentioned were  
at the time he was killed  
20th March 1794  
A. S. Fisher  
Brig. Genl.

[p 67]

Petition of Martha Anderson 5<sup>th</sup> December 1800  
Committee on Pensions

[p 68]

To the President of the Senate and the Rest of the Honorable Members now met and sitting in  
General Assembly

The Petition of Martha Anderson of the State of South Carolina

Humbly Sheweth that your petitioner's Husband James Wilson was killed in the service of the  
United States of America at the battle of the Cowpens and left your Petitioner a widow with three  
small Children and the Day after her Husband's Death she was Delivered of a fourth Child and  
[paper damaged and text missing] said four Children to Raise and support and had neither any  
land or Negroes left by her Husband and that the State of South Carolina made provision for the  
Support of orphans left in that Situation and your Petitioner did [paper damaged and text  
missing] some part of her annuity but your petitioner did intermarry until that time she was  
entitled to an annuity and the sum then Due to your petitioner was 38 pounds and your petitioner  
did apply at different times for her annuity but never could get more than 8 pounds and the  
remaining 30 pounds she never could obtain though often times applied for. Your petitioner  
therefore pray that your Honorable body will take her case into your serious Consideration and  
Grant her such Relief as you in your Wisdom should think meet<sup>5</sup> and your petitioner as in duty  
bound will ever pray

S/ Martha Anderson<sup>6</sup>

Martha Anderson

Your petitioner further begs leave to Represent to your Honorable body that there was an indent  
in the treasury of this State at Columbia made out for services done in the Militia of this State to  
your Petitioner's Husband James Wilson and by some means to your petitioner unknown Robert  
Stark Esquire did draw said indent out of said office and your petitioner has often applied to said  
Robert Stark for a satisfaction for said Indent but he refuseth to allow her any and as your  
petitioner is exceedingly poor that unless your Honorable body will interfere in her behalf and  
grant her some Relief she must forever lose the last Earnings of her Deceased Husband as she

<sup>5</sup> In Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of 1755, the first definition of the word "meet" he gives is "Fit; proper....".  
Johnson noted that even at that time the word "meet" was rarely so used. It must have become fairly popular in  
South Carolina in the early 1800's, however, as it appears in many petitions submitted to the SC Legislature.

<sup>6</sup> her signature appears to me to be in the same handwriting as the petition and since he signed other documents with  
her Mark, I doubt this is her actual signature

Cannot go to law to obtain it your petitioner therefore prays that your Honors will take her and her Orphaned children case into your generous Consideration and Grant such Relief in the premises as in your wisdom you shall see meet and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

S/ Martha Anderson

[p 69]

State of South Carolina

Before me John Wilson a Justice of the Quorum for said State personally came Martha Anderson of the state aforesaid and District of Pendleton and being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist and on oath saith that her husband James Wilson was a true friend to his Country in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain and was killed in the service of his country at the battle of the Cowpens on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1781 and that she was left a widow with 3 small children and the day after her husband received his death wound she was delivered of a fourth child [cont'd on p 70]

and had no land or Negroes left by her said husband and that she Remained a widow near about four years and her oldest child was nine years old at the death of her husband the second child was seven years old at said time and her third Child was five years old at its father's death and the youngest born the day after the death of her husband as aforesaid

Sworn and subscribed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 1800 before me

S/ John Wilson J Q

S/ Anderson, X her mark

Treasury Office Columbia 11 December 1800

It appears by the Books in this Office that the Children of James Wilson have been paid Sixteen Pounds on Account of Annuities and it does not appear that Martha Wilson has received any Money for her own Accounts

S/ R Witherspoon, Treasurer

[p 72: The petition of Martha Anderson dated Oct. 18, 1824 transcribed from the federal pension file above.]

[p 75]

The State of South Carolina Anderson District

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the said State in General Assembly convened,

The humble petition of Martha Anderson formerly Martha Willson [sic] of the district and State aforesaid

Respectfully Sheweth:

That she was the lawful wife, and afterward relic of James Willson [sic] a "revolutionary Soldier, who died in the Service of the United States, or rather of the State of South Carolina, in which State he Served during the whole of the Revolutionary War, until the time when he fell in battle of the Cowpens, leaving your petitioner with four small children, in a State of poverty and suffering having been robbed by the Tories of their only Two Slaves, as well as of all the property of Value.

And your petitioner begs leave to state further that in Consequence of mental derangement, to which she was for a considerable time, unfortunately subjected, she was totally incompetent to prosecute her rights, or seek redress, for wrongs and injuries – in consequence of which, there has been added to the loss of her husband, loss of both health and property, and that she received nothing in exchange for these losses until after the close of the said War, when she

was placed upon the pension Roll of this State, and drew for herself and children until she unfortunately intermarried with one William Anderson, who then, as she Subsequently learned, had a Wife living. – That your petitioner and the said William Anderson separated and he is since dead.

And your petitioner begs leave further to state, that from and after the time of the said intermarriage with the said William Anderson, She received nothing by the way of Annuity or otherwise from the State, until within, and for, the last five or six years, when your petitioner made application to your Honorable body by way of petition and was again reinstated on the roll of pensioners under the name Martha Anderson, taking the name of her Second husband, but was not allowed, nor has she ever received anything by way of arrears.

Your petitioner would not now ask anything further from the Country was it in her power to live well without it – But she considers her claim both equitable and legal, and as she is reduced in her means, as low as she will can be, and far advanced in life, being now more than Eighty years of age, & exceedingly infirm, She makes this call upon your Honorable body, as the last hope of Comfort, for her few remaining days & as from a Country which she for an active part in Serving, during that time which tried the hearts and souls of all.

Your petitioner therefore prays your Honorable body to grant her the arrears Justly due her for her annuity from the date 1785, at the rate of five pounds per annum, until the year 1825, at which time your petitioner was again placed on the Roll as above stated.

Hear her Supplication & she will feel in duty bound ever to pray for your & the public Welfare &c &c

Test J. C. Lewis

Martha Anderson, X her mark

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The State of South Carolina Anderson District} Before me John C Lewis clerk of the Sessions & peace &c &c for the district aforesaid, personally came and appeared Mrs. Martha Anderson fully named in the foregoing petition, who being first sworn in due form of the law upon her Oath Deposeth and saith that she is Martha Anderson, formerly Martha Willson, the identical person to whom a pension has been granted, and for a time paid by the State of South Carolina, for the reasons assigned in the foregoing Memorial, and since withheld for reasons which by her same Memorial, she hopes that She shows to be groundless – She also swears that her Statement throughout the whole of her petition is Just & true as Stated and Signed by her

S/ Martha Anderson, X her mark

Sworn to & Subscribed before me 26<sup>th</sup> October A.D. 1831

S/ John C Lewis

C.C. G. S. & C C Pls.

& Ex off. Q. U.

[Note: There is no documentation in the file that indicates what, if any, action the General Assembly took on this petition.]