

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Britton Willis S1270

fn20SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/31/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Muhlenberg County: Set

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Judge of the Muhlenberg Circuit Court now sitting, Britton Willis a resident of said County of Muhlenberg & State of Kentucky, aged seventy-four 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.

States that he was born in North Carolina removed in childhood to Saluda old Town in South Carolina -- went from there at seventeen or eighteen years of age into Georgia, where he remained until eight or ten years after the war -- then returned to South Carolina Pendleton County and lived there about fifteen years after which he removed to his present residence where he has been about twenty-seven years. He states that at the age of seventeen or eighteen years and while living at the Saluda South Carolina, Troops were raising to serve on the Frontiers of Georgia, called minute men, for a term of three years -- that he enlisted and entered the service of the United States with those Troops for three years, under William Baldwin Captain his son William Baldwin Junior Lieutenant, and John Emberson [?] Ensign, were first marched, together with another company under Captain John Burkes [Burker?] to Carr's Fort, Wilkes County, Georgia, but the precise time of entering the service he does not recollect, went to Carrs Fort in the Summer, kept the Fort and guarded the Frontier until the following Spring -- both Companies were then marched up on Broad River, where we built some defenses and continued guarding the country until next Spring -- were then marched to Augusta, the rendezvous of the different Troops intended for and Expedition to Augustine [St Augustine]. At Augusta Captain & Lieutenant Baldwin resigned or went into some other service, for the minute men were not compelled to go on this expedition and such as went were informed that the service would be in commutation of the balance of their three years as minute men. He states that Samuel Tillett as Captain and his brother Giles Tillett as Lieutenant, then took charge of Baldwin's company. He went under these officers on the expedition -- stayed a few days at Sunbury -- thence onwards by Camy's Cowpens, where a great Eclipse of the sun took place and several deserters were shot. General Elijah Clarke (perhaps Colonel then) and Major Manider [?] commanded the expedition. Marched from Camys to St. Mary's River and joined the Regulars from Charleston. The march continued some further, and we had several skirmishes in one of which Colonel Clarke was

wounded in the leg. The expedition returned without reaching [St] Augustine. This applicant's company were marched to Cherokee Hill within about fifteen miles above Savannah and were there discharged, but this applicant has long since lost his discharge, was then engaged in various scouting parties against Tories & Indians, but could not now detail them as to the times, places etc., continued in this kind of service until he was ordered to Augusta at the second Siege of that place, served through the Siege which continued about four weeks – James Little was Captain of this applicants company General Elijah Clarke and Major Smith were the chief officers now recollected. After this he served at the siege of Savannah, commanded by the same James Little as Captain, General Clarke & Major Smith Count d'Estaing commanded the French -- after raising the siege he continued to serve in various small affairs against the Tories until he marched in the expedition against the Cherokee nation commenced by Generals Pickens, Clarke & Anderson James Lytle still commanded the company to which applicant was attached. In this expedition we burnt several Indian Towns and had various skirmishes in one of which he was shot through the wrist & his left arm, on the return of this expedition this applicant continued until the close of the war to do duty in various scouting & ranging parties against Tories & Indians, making the different periods for which he served near 4 years. He states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services.

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 & year aforesaid.

S/ Britton Willis, X his mark

[Isaac Bard, a clergyman, and Charles F. Wing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

#### Commonwealth of Kentucky Muhlenberg County Set

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid the said Britton Willis mentioned in the declaration aforesaid to which this certificate is attached, who being duly sworn deposed and saith by way of amendment to his original declaration aforesaid, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below & in the following grades -- For two years and five months I served as a private in the troop called minute men in which service I enlisted for three years, but was discharged for the balance of the term in consideration of going on the Expedition to Augustine -- I do not recollect the name of the Officer who signed my discharge but it was regular & legal, but has been long since lost -- These minute men were commanded by Colonel Elijah Clarke afterwards General Clarke William Baldwin commanded our company of which his son William Baldwin Jr was first Lieutenant & John Emmerson Ensign -- Before starting on the [St.] Augustine Expedition, Captain Baldwin & son resigned the command of my company and Captain Samuel Tillet & his brother Elijah Tillet took charge of it. I cannot from the causes aforesaid and the great lapse of time specify more particularly than in my original declaration the character & description of these troops, the times when they served and officers by whom commanded.

For twelve months I served as a private militia man commanded by James Little Captain, \_\_\_ Smith Major & Elijah Clarke General and was engaged in various scouting parties against Tories & Indians and guarding the frontier -- it being then Wilkes County Georgia against the Indians, served also during this last term at the siege of Savannah under the last named Officers.

I do not recollect who were the principal officers commanding the Americans, but Count d'Estaing commanded the French and General Pulaski commanded a corps of Cavalry -- I also served during the same term I believe it was -- at the Siege of Augusta commanded by the same James Little Captain -- Major Smith & Colonel Clarke.

For six weeks I served as a private militia man under the said J. Little in an expedition from the Frontiers of Georgia against the Cherokee Indians. This Expedition was commanded by Generals Pickens, Clarke & Anderson. Generals Pickens & Anderson were from South Carolina & Clarke from Georgia -- I was regularly discharge from each of the said services but have forgotten by whom my discharges were signed and I have not preserved them -- during each of said periods of service I was wholly engaged in military duties and not employed in any civil pursuit and for these services I claim a pension -- I cannot for the causes aforesaid state more specially the periods of the war when I served or names of officers or Regiments -- I am according to the information of my parents and my disbelief seventy-four years old but have no record of my age whatever -- The individuals who will certify as to my veracity and their belief of my having been a soldier of the revolution I refer the Department to Charles F. Wing, Thomas Salisbury, Richard Reynolds, James Weir, Henry McLean, Edward Ramsay, Albritton Drake, Major M. Wells all of whom are in long had been acquainted with me.

S/ Britton Willis, X his mark

[Attested by John Campbell, JP]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 2 years service in the South Carolina militia.]