

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Willis S1603

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee } S.S.

Hawkins County }

on this 3^d day of October 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Hawkins County now sitting John Willis a resident of Hawkins County in the State aforesaid aged sixty seven 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 and served as herein stated - That in the fall of 1780 about the first of September, this declarant entered the service of the united states as a volunteer under Captain [Eliphaz] Shelton in the County of Henry State of Virginia, and was marched under said Shelton to a place called the Hollow [in present Patrick County], otherwise, flower gap under the Blue Ridge [Flower Gap on the Blue Ridge on the present Patrick-Carroll county line] - against the Tories, who were very numerous in that part of the country that at one time declarants company was stationed at McGowan's a considerable time then again at a place called Hedgepeth's [sic: Hedspeth's] near the blue ridge, and was on duty at different points guarding the settlements against the incursions of the Tories - the Lieutenants name attached to said company was Francis Barret [Barrat or Barrett]. after continuing three months, this declarant with the other volunteers were marched home and arrived at home about the tenth of December 1780. He rec'd no written discharge that he remembers - Again about the first of January 1781 hearing that Lord Cornwallis had Entered North Carolina in pursuit of General [Nathanael] Greene, and that volunteers were much needed to aid Gen'l. Greene in repelling the Enemy from the country this declarant with several others residing in his neighborhood in the county of Henry, volunteered a second time under Captain Shelton, and marched from home with the Regiment commanded by Col. [James] Lyon about the 18th of January 1781 towards Guilford Court House [site of the battle on 15 Mar 1781], and when the troops got within about twenty miles of Guilford Court House in North Carolina, the said Col. Lyon after having loitered on the way - He determined to return home, and would not march any farther alledging that his force was too weak to oppose the Enemy and that his retreat might be cut off should he proceed any farther, and accordingly this declarant was marched home under Col. Lyon - which they reached about the 1st of april having been out on duty other three months

This declarant received no discharge, other than a verbal one - Again about the first of October 1781 This declarant marched as a volunteer under Captain Shelton to York Town in Virginia to aid in the capture of Cornwallis - but upon reaching the head quarters of General Washington, and when within about a days march of York Town, information reached Captain Shelton that Lord Cornwallis had surrendered [19 Oct], when this declarant with the company commanded by Capt Shelton returned back, and reached home about the first of November having served fully one month on that march - making in the whole seven months and ten days

He states he served with no regular officers that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service and that he is acquainted with Samuel Spears & Thomas Barrett

That he was born in Hallifax [sic: Halifax] County Virginia He has no record of his age - there is no clergyman living in his neighborhood - He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

John hisXmark Willis