

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Wills S17198

fn23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/30/11

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

State of Missouri County of Clay: SS

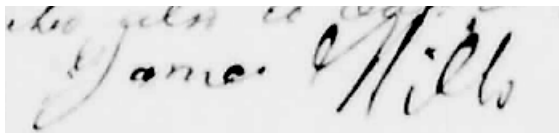
On this 12th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before J T V Thompson, Unbeal [?] Allen and John Camron the judges of the County court of Clay County in the State of Missouri now sitting James Wills a resident of Clay County Missouri aged sixty-nine years who being first duly sworn 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 to it. That he was drafted into the service in Montgomery County in the State of Virginia in March 1781 for the first time, for the particular purpose of guarding the frontiers at Aps Valley about eighty miles next of where he resided, that he was marched from the place where he resided and where he was drafted under Daniel Howe, who he thinks was a Lieutenant of militia under whom he was marched to the place of destination as above and then stationed under sergeants and no higher officer that he was connected in the his service with no other officers than as above either field or Company that he was engaged in this service something upwards of three months he thinks three months and a half and was discharged without receiving a written discharge that he was in no battle and did no other service than as above, that he was born in Chester County in the State of Pennsylvania and lived there until he was about ten years old when he was removed into Montgomery County Virginia where he resided until he entered the service as stated above, that he has no record of his age but has always understood that he was born on the 17th day of July 1763, that in the fall of 1783 he removed to the State of Tennessee where he lived until 1820 when he removed to Clay County in the State of Missouri where he now lives. That he has no documentary evidence by which he can establish his service nor is there any living witness by whom he can prove the same.

He further states that in the next January 1782 he thinks or about the middle he was again drafted into the Service in the same County and state under Captain James Burn who was under the command of Colonel William Preston both of Montgomery County Virginia that he was drafted this time for the purpose of going into North Carolina to meet Cornwallis' Army, but after being marched one or two days he was ordered back for the purpose of shoeing horses for the service of the United States, he being a blacksmith, in which service he was employed during the balance of this tour of service that he was all this term under the orders of his Captain and in the service the same as if he had been marching and fighting in this service he continued until the 20 of March or it may [been] some time later, following when he was discharged in all upwards of two months, that he received no written discharge that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove this tour of service nor is there any living witness by whom he can establish it that he knows of, in this state.

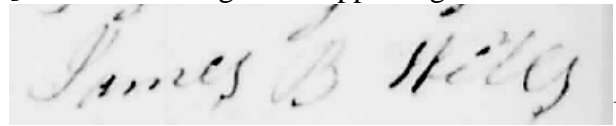
He further states that in the next summer he was again drafted and put under Captain Burn & attached to Colonel Preston's [? very faint] Regiment for the purpose of being ready for service against the Tories and any other service in June and August he was called out for the purpose of quitting the Tories in June he was out eight days and took several and they were whipped, in August he was out three weeks in which tour he took a good many, whipped them and got them to enlist these were all taken in Virginia that he was called out in numerous other cases of this kind but the time so short as to be in considerable otherwise than as to force him to be in readiness. That he received [indecipherable word] no written discharge and that he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove it nor is there any person by whom he can prove the service he was again this last service attached also to Colonel Preston's Regiment & still under Captain Burns

S/ James Wills

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wills".

[Davis Magill and James Dickie gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[James B. Wills gave a supporting affidavit in favor of his father's application.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Wills".

State of Missouri County of Clay: SS

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace within and for the said County James Wills who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age & infirmity he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below. In the first tour of service not less than three months and twenty days, in the second term of service [indecipherable word or words] not less than two months and ten days. In the third not less than eight days & in the fourth not less than twenty-one days. And the other service performed he was not engaged less than thirty days making altogether not less than seven months and twenty-nine days and he further states that all the service he performed except the first tour of service was under Captain Burns and attached to Colonel Preston's Regiment & he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ James Wills

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.55 since per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months and 29 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]