

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Brittain Willeford (Williford) S1740

f28SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/28/10 rev'd 1/20/16

[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 7]

State of Tennessee Giles County: At the dwelling house of Hardy Willeford the present residence of Brittain Willeford

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November in A.D. 1832 personally appeared before me Robert M. Bugg Esquire an acting justice of the peace in and for said County, Brittain Willeford aged about ninety years by the 20th day of March next who is unable to appear in Court by reason of bodily infirmity & a resident in the County and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement or 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 and served as herein stated under the following named officers.

In January 1780 he volunteered and entered the service under the command of Colonel Benjamin West. He does not now recollect the names of the subaltern officers. He was a part of the term of his service in Colonel John Thomas' Regiment and occasionally under the command of Colonel Rouebuck [sic, Benjamin Roebuck]. He states he acted as Sergeant during a part of his service. He was principally engaged in scouting parties in this service. He was never in any engagements, except two little skirmishes. He was marched to join General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] as he was retiring before Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] but did not reach him before the engagement took place between them at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. But reached him in time to guard the prisoners, that were taken. And he was marched with said prisoners through part of North Carolina. He does not recollect that he ever got any discharge, he was returned a soldier of the Revolution to the general Assembly of the State of South Carolina here he got a certificate or Indents as they were vulgarly called for land. But he does not now remember for how much, he also states that he was under the command of General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] in South Carolina near a little place called Ninety Six where most of his services were performed except the time that he was engaged in guarding the prisoners -- the prisoners above referred to all the same, that were taken by General Morgan when he defeated Tarleton. He also states that he had an encounter with a Tory Captain by the name of Nat. Young, who gave him a wound on the head with a stick the scar of which he still wears. He was also taken prisoner by the Tories, but he remained but a short time in confinement the Captain of the party finding that they could not proceed with sufficient speed with the encumbrance of him along dismissed him.

He positively states that he was in the service of the United States in said war for the term of at least eighteen months altogether. He lived during the war in Spartanburg County in South

Carolina in 1815, he removed to Wilson County Tennessee lived there one year, in the latter part of the year 1816 he removed to Giles County Tennessee thence he moved to Maury County Tennessee thence back to the said County of Giles, where he has lived ever since and where he now lives. Applicant is so exceedingly aged & infirm, that he can remember but few of the incidents, that occurred during his service or much of the Country through which they passed, while in service. He has no documentary or other evidence by which he can prove the above services, nor any persons whose testimony he can procure to establish the same except Mark Johnson-Jackson of Maury County & his son Willis Willeford of Calloway County State of Kentucky –

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.

Questions to be put by the Court by the direction of the war department

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the state of Virginia South Hampton County on the 20th of May O. S. 1742

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have a record of my age in an old family Bible of mine, which I left at my son Wylie Williford's in Maury County Tennessee

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I have already answered this question fully in my Declaration

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I volunteered in all of the above service

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

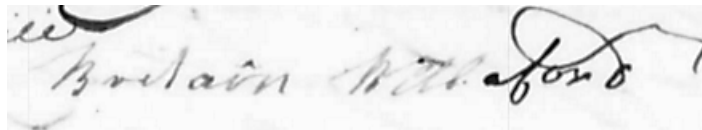
I have set forth the inquiries in this question as fully as I can from memory

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I never received a discharge as I now recollect of.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

I am known to John Laird, Elisha White, William Dravering[?], John Fry, Joshua Tacker, John Tacker, Martin Laird, Martin McCall and George Malone & Basil Compton & Allen Hill  
S/ Britain Willeford

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Britain Willeford". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[attested by Robert M. Bugg, JP]

[Allen Hill, a clergyman, and Basil Compton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

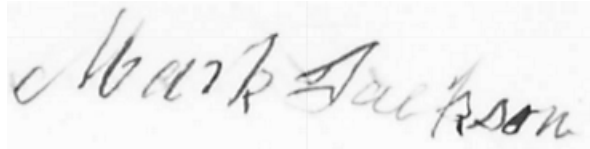
[p 22]

State of Tennessee Giles County: At the dwelling house of Hardy Williford in said County

This day being the 25th day of August 1833 personally appeared before me Robert M.

Bugg a justice of the peace for said County Mark Jackson<sup>1</sup> aged 90 years the 12th of November last a citizen of Maury County & said State, who being first duly sworn according to law doth upon his oath make the following statement to wit: That he has been personally acquainted with Brittain Williford of Giles County & said State for the last seventy years. That he knew him well before & during the Revolutionary War. That he knows that the said Williford was a soldier of the Revolution, that said Williford entered the service of the United States in Spartanburg County now Spartanburg District in the State of South Carolina in the month of January 1780 under the command of Colonel John Thomas. Deponent does not recollect the names of the subaltern officers under whom said Williford served, nor the length of said Williford's service, Deponent being at that time attached to another Regiment and under the command of different officers. But he distinctly recollects to have frequently met with the said Williford when on scouting parties. Some considerable length of time after the said Williford had entered said service. He does not recollect when said Williford left said service but he thinks he was discharged in the said County of Spartanburg in said State of South Carolina. That the said Williford had been believed & reputed to be a soldier of the Revolution in the respective the neighborhood where he has lived since the Revolution. That he never heard of the same disputed. That he deponent knows that the said Williford was a true Whig & Republican and at an early period in the war took a firm and decided stand on the side of liberty -- & that said Williford has always been an excellent character & has always been a man of unquestionable integrity & veracity -- And that this Deponent has entire faith & confidence in the state months which the said Williford now makes of his services in the Revolution.

S/ Mark Jackson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[p 26]

State of Tennessee Giles County At the house of Hardy Willeford in said County

The amended declaration of Brittain Willeford of said County in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a justice of the Peace for said County Britain Williford aged 91 years on the 20th of May 1833 old style, who being first duly sworn deposed and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot now swear positively as to the precise length of the different terms of his said service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades

To the best of his recollection he served on the part of the United States in the war of the Revolution, as orderly Sergeant for the term of 6 months under the command of Colonel John Thomas. For the whole term of 18 months, mentioned in applicant's declaration, he was under the command of the said Colonel Thomas except when he was occasionally dispatched on scouts or foraging parties, then for the time that these expeditions required he was placed under the command of Colonel Roebuck. Applicant was thrown into this service occasionally & also sent to carry dispatches on the account of his being a good horseman; and also on account of his having a good horse of his own during the whole time of his service during the whole term of his service he was a militia man a private soldier except 6 months above stated when he served as

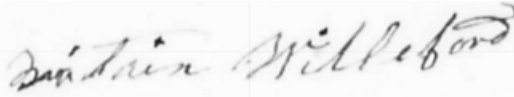
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<sup>1</sup> [Mark Jackson S1675](#)

orderly Sergeant as above set forth.

He was principally while in service in South Carolina, after he had been marched out of North Carolina as mentioned in his declaration, he was in no civil service during the said term of 18 months, he was as he formerly stated under the superintending command of General Pickens during all of his said service. Colonel Roebuck above mentioned was Colonel of the cavalry. The length of time that applicant was with him in the scouting parties above referred to he cannot recollect precisely, he thinks, he was under the command of Colonel Roebuck altogether during his said service for the period of 3 months, for which services he claims a pension.

S/ Britain Willeford



Sworn to and subscribed before me the 3rd day of July 1833

S/ Robert M. Bugg, JP

[p 3]

State of Tennessee Giles County: November Sessions of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County for the year 1832.

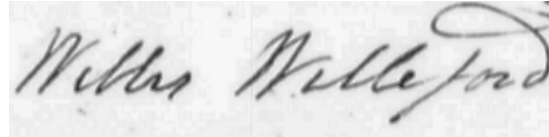
This the 20th day of November in A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court, Willis Willeford aged 59 years on the 14th day of June last a citizen of Calloway County in the State of Kentucky formerly a citizen of Giles County Tennessee who being first duly sworn according to law, upon his oath made the following statement. That he was born on the 14th day of June 1778, that he is the son of Brittain Willeford of Giles County Tennessee, who he is informed intends making application shortly to the war department for a pension under the provisions of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he has always understood & believed since the first of his recollection that the said Brittain Willeford was a soldier of the Revolution -- that, indeed, he himself distinctly recollects that the said Brittain, did entered the American service in said war some time in the year 1780, as he believes, he knows it was the same year that Charlestown in South Carolina was taken by the British forces. He does not now recollect how long he was absent on this, or any other expedition during the war -- But he well recollects that he was frequently absent from home during the latter part of the war -- and that he always heard it said then & never doubted then or since, that he was absent in the service of the United States according to the best information that deponent is possessed of, he must have been in the service something like eighteen months in said war. He also well remembers, that the said Brittain received a wound on his head, the scar of which he still wears -- which was said then to be given by a Tory, who was called Captain Young, & this deponent saw the said wound shortly after it was given before it was bound up, and while it was fresh and bleeding. He also states, that he saw him taken prisoner, by the Tories, and that he was absent in their custody for some time, he can not now state positively how long. That at the commencement of the war the said Brittain lived as he has always understood in the County of Warren in the State of North Carolina that he removed from there into the State of South Carolina in that part of the State, which has since been called Spartanburg County now & Spartanburg district in the year 1779, where he resided during the remainder of the war from thence, in the year 1815, immediately after the close of the late war, he moved to the State of Tennessee Giles County, where he now resides. He further states that the said Brittain Willeford has been reputed and believed to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary war in the neighborhoods respectively where he has resided since the war -- and that this deponent has never known it to be disputed or questioned.

He also states, that from what he has always understood and believes, the said Brittain was ninety years of age on the first day of June last.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 20th of November 1832

S/ German Lester, Clerk

S/ Willis Willeford

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Willis Willeford". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a Sergeant 12 months as a private of cavalry.]