

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wesley S18271

fn20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/29/11

[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.]

County of Halifax State of Virginia, to wit

On this 28th day of October 1833, personally appeared before the County Court of Halifax County now sitting, John Wesley, a resident of the County of Halifax in State aforesaid, aged seventy 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 provision may by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States between the year 1778 and 1780 (the precise date he cannot now recollect[]) being drafted and marched from the County of Caroline and State of Virginia, in a company of drafted militia commanded by Captain William Sutton, and marched to Williamsburg, where we were discharged, after about four weeks service. John Homes was paid-master, Samuel Temple Colonel and Phillip Johnson (of Caroline Court-house) Major – The regulars in service at same time of our discharge (about the first June) was sent to Charlestown South Carolina where they were captured. William Gregory a private soldier, particularly, whom I saw after the capture aforesaid. About the first of March 1781 I was again drafted and entered the service of the United States under Captain Robert Long from Caroline County in the State of Virginia, and was marched to the City of Richmond in Virginia, where I was attached to the Regiment commanded by Colonel Matthews Beverly Stubblefield being the Major: from thence I was marched to Jamestown, from thence, I was countermarched to Richmond aforesaid, from thence we were forced march three weeks through Henrico, Hanover, Spotsylvania, Orange, Culpepper and Fauquier Counties in Virginia, where we met General Wayne at the head of the Maryland troops – from thence we were marched to Point of Fork on James River in Virginia, where Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton] had destroyed Country Stores of provisions, and done other mischief from Point of Fork, we turned down the three notched road in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis, as far as Louisa County in Virginia where I was discharged by Colonel Matthews aforesaid – after having served about six months lacking two weeks – the soldiers who were to have relieved us about this time had from a sudden emergency been called to Fredericksburg. About three weeks afterwards I was again drafted and entered the service of the United States at Savage Fields on James River in Charles City or New Kent County in Virginia, Barnett Todd of King & Queen County was my Captain, & we were attached to the 3rd Regiment commanded by the aforesaid Colonel Matthews and the same Major Stubblefield from thence we were marched down James River from Williamsburg, the Army nearly reached Jamestown when we met General Wayne's division, retreating before Lord Cornwallis with whom he had been engaged in battle & were ordered to retreat – we then marched by Colonel Matthews to Bacon's Ordinary within six miles of Williamsburg, where the American Army was surprised by Tarlton's Corps at the Tavern aforesaid, where Colonel Matthews informed us he would be damned if we all would not be killed or taken to a man, and

said shift for yourself boys. I continued with the fragments of the same Regiment under Captain Todd aforesaid two or three weeks when we were discharged by the said Captain Todd, about ten miles above Bacon's Tavern aforesaid, about the time General Washington repaired to the siege of York. Not having seen or heard of Colonel Matthews or Major Stubblefield since, except Colonel Matthews whom I saw in the evening of the day of his defeat, at Byrd's Tavern about twelve miles from Bacon's Tavern, of James River – where he [paper torn text missing] he had brought out every man save. In this tour I was engaged nearly the full term of 3 months – though the precise time I cannot now say with accuracy.

I have no written discharges – having been discharged with many others (now probably dead) who were in service with me in the immediate vicinity of our respective residences (chiefly Caroline County) being assured by our commanders that written discharges were unnecessary. I was born in the County of Caroline & State of Virginia in the year 1763 – my age was recorded in Reedy Church, St. Mary's Parish, Caroline County Virginia. I resided in the County of Caroline aforesaid until about 1783 I then removed to the County of Halifax Virginia where I have resided ever since.

I have no other evidence of my services aforesaid except the affidavits of Elizabeth Wilkinson, Wiley James & Reuben Salmon herewith filed.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jno Wesley

[fn p. 16]

We Wiley James and Reuben Salmon do hereby certify that we have been acquainted with Mr. John Wesley for about 20 years and I the said Salmon lived 2 years on his land we have both heard him speak of different occurrences that transpired during his soldiership, such as hard marches, their fair, and once an attack; their escape &c &c this and the like, we have heard him say years ago which induces us to believe that he served as a Soldier & is entitled to his pension, we also state that we believe Mr. Wesley to be a true Republican and an honest Citizen. Given under our hands this 20th of September 1833

33. *Wiley James*
Reuben Salmon

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]