

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Richard Willeford (Williford) S22060

f21NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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State of South Carolina Sumter District

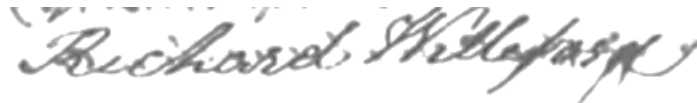
Personally appeared in open Court on the first day of November 1832 -- the Court of Common Pleas -- now sitting for the District of Sumter aforesaid Richard Willeford Resident of the District aforesaid -- Aged Seventy-Six years -- who being duly Sworn in open Court according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832 -- That he was born the 28th of April 1757 -- in the State of North Carolina Bertie County [sic, Bertie County], his father & family emigrated to Duplin County in the same State and there remained until the Claimant entered the United States service February 1777 as a volunteer under General Moore¹ Col. Rutledge [Thomas Routledge], Frances Hill Capt. Jesse [illegible] Lieut. -- Robert Kae Ensign -- and marched under the above officers to Wilmington from thence to old Brunswick, and remained till sometime in April & marched back to Wilmington & remained until the -- at which time General Caswell [Richard Caswell] marched his Army down & took [our] place and we were discharged -- and that Claimant received a discharge for the 3 months service -- from General Moore -- in July 1780 the Claimant was drafted in the Militia to serve 3 months in South Carolina -- after we crossed the line -- the -- Claimant then hired a Substitute in his place for the said term of 3 months -- a man by the name of Thomas Royal who was a bold hardy man and immediately took my place under Capt. Thomas Page -- and marched to Pedee -- and Continued in South Carolina -- the said term of 3 months -- after which he returned home and I received a Certificate for his Service from the same Capt. I delivered him up to and paid him for the service of the 3 months -- February 1781 -- the Claimant volunteered his Services -- under Capt. Francis Hill -- and marched to bluefords Bridge [sic, Buford's Bridge]² the British then having possession of Wilmington there we joined General Lenington [sic, John Alexander Lillington] Col. Kinion [sic, James Kenan] & Col. Moore while at the Bridge a party of British & Tories surprised us in the night and we stood our ground -- the next day Col. Brown [probably Arthur Brown] marched round on the other side & fired on the British -- but was forced to retreat and received a wound in

¹ Probably a reference to Colonel James Moore who commanded the Bertie County militia regiment

² J D Lewis notes: "The bridge was a recently constructed "swing bridge" that was built by a man named Mr. Buford in the early 1770s. But, by the late 1770s, it had been purchased by a Mr. Heron and everyone in the vicinity knew it as Heron's Bridge - primarily because he strengthened it considerably and made it much more reliable. But, the "old timers" still called it Buford's Bridge." https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

his arm -- in a few days the Claimant being Sergeant at that time was sent to Rocky Point with a guard of 12 men, in order to prevent the British -- or Negroes -- from Crossing the River [indecipherable word or words] of Cape Fear, where we remained until late in April -- at which time the guards was called in -- and we marched to Rutherford's Mills to the Main Army then under the Command of General Malmada [sic, [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] -- a Frenchman -- who marched us up to Limestone from thence to Kinston on Neuse River where we received our discharges -- for 3 months duty it being sometime in May -- October 1781 -- the Complainant [sic] joined Capt. William Kenan's horse troop as Sergeant for 3 months -- we went to Rocky Point where Army then lay Generals Lillington, Butler [John Butler] & Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] it was then agreed to take Wilmington by storm, but news came Cornwallis was taken [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] -- the Claimant with the Regiment of horse and Major John Molton [John Moulton] was sent below Wilmington a party of the British having landed near that place, when we arrived the British had just gone on board their vessels and making for Wilmington and in a few days we marched for Wilmington and when we arrived the British had left the place and we remained until a few days before new Christmas -- then we marched up to Duplin Court House -- where this Complainant as the officer of the guard took charge of a large party of Tories and kept them until sometime in January 1782 -- when we were relieved by another guard which moved the Tories to Wilmington -- I was then discharged. The Claimant saith that all his discharges have been lost or destroyed -- the Claimant hereby Relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State, Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Richard Willeford



S/ B. J. Earle, Presiding Judge

[Henry D. Green, a clergyman, and Stephen Hanks gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of South Carolina Sumter District

Personally appeared before me Franklin J. Moses a Justice of the Quorum in and for said district and State Richard Williford who makes the following oath by way of addition to his declaration for a pension and in answer to the objections pointed out in the brief sent by the Pension Department. That he has no record of his age -- the same was recorded in the Bible of his father -- which Bible the last he saw of it was in the possession of his father in North Carolina.

That he did service in the Revolution 9 months in his only person, and 3 months by his Substitute who he paid. That he was a volunteer during the whole term of his service, and was drafted when he procured a substitute. That 6 months of his service he was a Sergeant, the rest of it a private. That there is no living witness that he knows of who can testify to his services -- and for this reason he could not afford the testimony of any -- that he received 4 written discharges all of which are lost or destroyed. That he names the Rev. Henry D. Green -- Stephen Hanks Esquire, Frances S. Kennedy Esquire -- Rev. Henry Young -- Benjamin Gerald Esquire, Jesse Peebles Esquire as respectable citizens in his neighborhood who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his Services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

S/ Richard Willeford

Sworn to before me this 12th of September 1833
S/ Franklin J. Moses

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private & Sergeant for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]