

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wright S31502

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 7/4/17

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

[p 3]

State of Kentucky [Hart County] Sct.

On the 8th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices thereof now in Session John Wright Senior age 71 years the 25th day of this Inst. [?] 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier in Hillsboro North Carolina under Captain McFarlin [James McFarland] our General's name was Butler [John Butler] his Christian name however he does not now recollect at which place they rendezvoused, as to the name of any of the officers other than the one above stated, he does not recollect. From thence they marched to Camden Rudesley's [sic, Rugeley's] Mill, where we were commanded by General Gates [Horatio Gates]. From which place under the command of General De Kalb we were marched towards Charleston South Carolina and on our way from Camden to Charleston we joined with General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] who took command of the whole war, and after the defeat of General Sumter at the mouth of big Fishing Creek [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780] South Carolina we were discharged, having served three months.

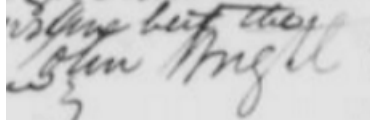
That after returning home, in about two weeks he again volunteered under Captain John Duglass [John Douglas] and Major O'Neel [probably William O'Neal] under whom he served six weeks as well as he now remembers against the Tories. And after they defeated the Tories on Deep River North Carolina we were marched to Haw River in the same State where we joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] who there took the command of us. We then marched to Guilford Court house and after the battle [Battle of Guilford Court House, March 15, 1781] at that place we were marched to Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina still under the command of General Greene where we remained until the surrender of Cornwallis [Yorktown, October 19, 1781], when we were discharged having served __ months this campaign.

That the length of time he was in the service of the United States was to the best of his recollection two years and six months. That he was in the following engagements, To wit: Sumter's Defeat, the defeat of the Tories at Deep River, the defeat of the Tories at the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780] of the Yadkin, the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], that he has no written discharges or documentary evidence at this time, not knowing that they would aid of any benefit to him after the conclusion of the war he did not take the necessary precautions to preserve them, nor does he know of any person living, in this Country by whom he can prove his service.

That he was born in the State of Virginia Hanover County from whence he moved to Taswell County [sic, Caswell County] North Carolina where he resided for 12 or 13 years, then he moved to South Carolina Chester County where he resided for 18 or 20 years. From whence

he removed to Hart County Kentucky where he has resided for 27 years and yet resides in said County. He further states that his name is not enrolled on any pension agency and that he draws none from the government and he hereby relinquishes all claim to any pension but the present claim.

S/ John Wright, Seal



[Jesse Craddock Esq., attorney-at-law, and B.C. Wood, a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both of Hart County Kentucky gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 16]

State of Kentucky, Hart County

On the 15th day of May 1833 John Wright, a resident citizen of said County personally appeared in the Court Circuit Court, in open court, and being duly sworn according to law, stated, on his oath, that owing to his advanced old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his services, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For three months I served as a private soldier in the militia of North Carolina as a volunteer, under the command of Captain McFarland and General Butler; For two years and three months I served as a private soldier, in the militia of North Carolina also, and was not discharged until after the surrender of General Cornwallis at Little York in the fall of the year 1781. It was in the year 1777 or 1778 as well as his memory serves him now that he first entered the service and was, but a few weeks, not exceeding three or four, that he was out of actual service in the Army – and for such service I claim a pension – and the said John Wright in answer to the several interrogatories, required to be answered by the Secretary of War – answers and says to the first Question, he was born in Hanover County State of Virginia on the 25th day of October 1761 – Second – He has a record in his family Bible made by his father and now in his possession, according to which he is of the age above stated – Third – when he was called into service he resided in Caswell County State of North Carolina – after the war he removed into Chester County South Carolina where he lived, from 18 to 20 years, and from thence removed to this County, then called Hardin County, he removed to year in the year 1806, where he has continued to reside – until this time – continues to reside – Fourth – He volunteered his services in the different campaigns above stated. Fifth, he knew Captain McFarland, General Butler, Baron De Kalb, General Sumter, General Greene, Captain Johnston (I knew at the battle at Guilford), Captain Douglas, Major O'Niel and others. He cannot remember the number of any of the Continental Regiments, but remembers that there were Continental regiments in the Battle at Guilford Courthouse & over places, in which he served with the Army. Sixth question – He received a discharge but has long since lost his discharge never supposing it would be of any service to him – Seventh Question – He would mention Dr. B. C. Wood, John Harris, Robert Blackwell, Colonel Ben Copeland – John Oldham and many others who can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his having been a soldier of the revolution – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Wright



[p 19]

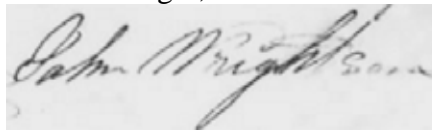
State of Kentucky, Hart County Sct.

On this 4th day of October 1833 John Wright of said County came before me a Justice of the peace in and for said County of Hart, and made the following amendment to his former declarations in order to obtain a pension from the government under the act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832. Said Wright being by me first duly sworn according to law, stated, that the time he entered the service of the United States as a soldier of the Revolution in the Army of the United States was in the latter part of the spring of the year that General Gates was defeated at the Battle of Camden, whether he is correct as to the year of this took place or not he cannot swear positively he thinks it was in 1778. He served in his first term of three months, in the company commanded by Captain McFarland, in this tour however from the time he left home which was in the spring till he was discharged was not less than five months as his term of service did not commence, until about two months after he left home, when he entered the State of South Carolina where his service commenced in which State it was principally rendered – after returning home from the first tour he remained at home not exceeding a week before he again volunteered and entered the service under Captain John Douglass against the Tories for no particular time, but was engaged in this tour or excursion six weeks to the best of his recollection, was discharged as he also was in his first tour, returned home, and remained about two weeks, and again volunteered and entered the service in the Army commanded by General Greene in a company commanded by Captain John McNeil, in this tour he entered for no particular term of time, and on this occasion he continued in the Army until he was discharged at 96 in South Carolina the fall that Cornwallis surrendered at Little York. The fact is well known as part of the history of this country that owing to the number of the Tories and their depredations and cruel murders, in North & South Carolina about this time, that men considered themselves more safe in the Army then in the country at their homes; and this was the reason of his continuing in the Army. This was also the case with many others, the drafts of the militia were from three to four months, but said affiant was never drafted, he served his country as a volunteer. And the whole of the time he was in the service he was not engaged in any civil employment he acted as a soldier of the whole time. His time of service in the Army was the time he has stated according to the best of his recollection from the latter part of the spring 1778 to the fall of the year 1781 with the exception of three weeks of intervals which he was at home in that time – which he has stated heretofore to have been two years and a half upon reflection and calculation it will be found to be three years and at the least three months, deducting the time not in the service between tours. In his first tour Colonel Pacely [sic, John Paisley] commanded the Regiment to which he was attached. In the second tour O'Neil was the Major there was no Colonel, it was a body of men were called out to suppress the Tories. In his third and last tour Col. William Moore commanded the Regiment, in which he belonged, who he has seen since the revolution in Carthage Tennessee about 20 years since where he resided.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day & year above named.

S/ Blatchley C. Wood, JPHC

S/ John Wright, Sr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Wright Sr.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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