

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wells S3494

fn27VA

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.]

State of Tennessee Giles County: Before William B Pepper, Esquire

On this 6th day of October in A.D. 1832 personally appeared before the said William B Pepper Esquire a justice of the peace for said County William Wells a resident of said County & State aged seventy-eight years since December last, who is unable to appear in Court by reason of his bodily infirmities & 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 & served as herein stated – when he entered the United States service he resided in the County of Prince George in the State of Virginia. He listed [enlisted] in the regular service for the term of three years – He went into said service under the command of Captain Thomas Ruffin & Lieutenant Haley Every [probably Billy Haley Avery], in General Muhlenberg's Brigade. The troops to which applicant was attached rendezvoused at Williamsburg in the said State of Virginia. He thinks, they marched from thence to the White Plains in the State of New York but of this applicant is not positive, He being very old & his memory is treacherous. He thinks the headquarters of his associate [?] troops, were some time at said White Plains – He was marched extensively through the State of New York, from thence they marched into the State of Delaware and to Brandywine Creek, And he was at the celebrated battle fought at the plains of Brandywine -- So much spoken of in the history of the Revolutionary War – he was actively engaged during this whole Action – thence he was marched & crossed the Brandywine at Brassil's ford – He also recollects of crossing the Brandywine frequently – Thence he was marched to Germantown in Pennsylvania. And he was also in the battle fought there between the British & American troops. This battle commenced early in the morning at the being of the Revilee [reveille] – The United States troops here pursued the British on to Philadelphia, whence they retreated back by Germantown – into the State of New Jersey – He was some time in the neighborhood of the Valley Forge in the meantime – which place is about twenty miles distant from Philadelphia as well as he recollects – And after marching on various expeditions he was finally discharged at in of his term – having served the entire term of three years, the period for which he had enlisted as above stated. He received his discharge from General Weedon [George Weedon], but believing that it would not be serviceable to him he has long since lost it. Applicant set out & entered into the above service early in the said War. – After he was discharged he returned home, into Prince George County in the State of Virginia in which state he resided during the remainder of the war, & until about 24 [?] years ago, when he removed to the State of Tennessee, Davidson County. Thence he removed to Giles County & said State where he has resided for the last twenty-two years. Applicant both from infirmities of body & mind, cannot, now remember, so as to relate

with certainty many incidents which occurred to him during his service in the United States Army. He has no documentary evidence of his service, And knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service, except Lester Morris¹ of said County & state who Applicant supposes has some knowledge of the circumstances of his said service. 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/ William Wells, X his mark

Questions put by the said justice to said applicant

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in the County of Prince George in the State of Virginia – in the month of December in 1753 or thereabouts.

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

Ans. I have no Record of my age, & only know it from memory of what was told me from my infancy.

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

Ans. I have answered this question in the above declaration.

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

Ans. I was enlisted as above stated.

5th 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.

Ans. The whole of these services above stated were performed in the Continental Army

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

Ans. This question is answered above.

7th 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.

Ans. Captain Marcus Mitchell, Isaac Mason Esquire, Charles C Abernathy, Lester Morris, William B Pepper, Alexander Trapley, Lewis Brown, Thomas Brown Esquire, William Brown Esquire, Rolla [?] Brown, & Davis Brown, William D Abernathy; many others are resident in my present neighborhood.

S/ William Wells, X his mark

[Facts in file: Veteran died August 20, 1833; there is no family data in this file.]

[fn p. 16: Gilbert D Taylor, a clergyman, Hannah Lester Morris gave the standard supporting affidavit



Handwritten signatures of Gilbert D Taylor and Lester Morris, with a closing bracket to the right.

State of Tennessee Giles County: Same Term of said Court

And the said Lester Morris after being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath in

¹ FPA S2003

addition to the statement made above make the following – That he the said affiant was himself a soldier of the Revolution and shortly after he quit the service in said War, he became acquainted with the said William Wells in the State of Virginia Brunswick County & that from conversations, that he had with the said Wells he affiant is satisfied, that the said Wells was a Soldier of the Revolution, and that the said Wells was believed and reputed to be a soldier of the Revolution in the neighborhood where he resided in Virginia – And that affiant never heard it disputed.

S/ Lester Morris

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 3 years service in the Virginia Continental line.]