

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Wilson S3565

Transcribed by Paulette Haynes

State of Tennessee

Bedford County Court, February Term 1833

On this 6th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty three- personally appeared in open Court before the whorshipful William McCliore, Samuel Phillips and John B. Armstrong Esquires gentlemen justices of the peace appointed to hold the court of pleas and Quarter Sessions for said county now sitting; James Wilson Senr. a resident of said county aged seventy five years four months and twelve days who after being sworn 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 entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated (to wit) That he entered the service of the United States as a drafted soldier in the county of Mecklenburgh [sic, Mecklenburg] and state of North Carolina on the first of August in the year 1776 and was placed in a company commanded by Captain Robert Irwin in a regiment commanded by Col. Adam Alexander who was under the command of Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. He says his other company officers were Lieut William Barnett and Ensign David Reed; and was mustered into service at Virgils Springs in the county of Roan in said state of North Carolina, and was marched from that place against the Cherokee nation of Indians - he says he was marched up the Cataba River [sic, Catawba River] and across the mountain to Swanano? River [sic, Swannanoa River], and from that across Frenchbrod river [sic, French Broad River] to Watauga town, he says there was a small skirmish between the Indians and Americans before they reached Watauga town, but very little damage done on either side, Deponent states he was then marched to another small Indian Village but does not recollect the name of it where Genl Williamson [Andrew Williamson] passed Genl Rutherfords troops with the troops from South Carolina. He further says that after remaining there for some time he was marched back to Mecklenburg county where he says he was discharged in writting the first week in November for a tour of duty of three months - deponent further says that afterwards some time in the month of Nov 1777 he entered the service of the United States as a drafted soldier and was placed in a company commanded by Captain William Barnett in said county of Mecklenburg; but was taken from the company by order of the commanding officer and placed as a waggoner to drive a publick waggon in carrying the baggage for the troops under General Davidson to Sherrils ford [sic, Sherrills Ford] on the Yadkin River, he says he was then ordered back to the Town of Charlotte in Mecklenburg where he continued in service driving said waggon until he was discharged for a three months tour of duty in writting on the 10th day of February 1778 by an officer in General Greenes [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army but does not recollect the name at this time recollect his name; Deponant further states that he entered the service of the United States again in the month of October 1779 as a drafted soldier and was placed in a company commanded by his former Captain William Barnett in a Regiment commanded by Col. Robert Irwin and marched into the neighborhood of Sugar Creek and to various other places in Mecklenburg county, and across the Catawba river, into the chartered limmits of the State of South Carolina, then claimed by the Indians of the Catawba tribe. He says he was in several skirmishes with the Tories and British scouting parites, and was then marched back to an encampment near the house of Mr. John Gillalands in said county of Mecklenburg where he was discharged in writting by his captain, he thinks in the month of January 1780 for a tourer of duty of three months. - Deponent states that he entered the service again as a drafted soldier in the same county Mecklenburg about the first of June 1780 and was placed a a company under the command of David Reed who was under the command of Col. Robert Irwin and was marched to the Hanging Rock in South Carolina he says he

was in the Battle at that place between the troops under Genl Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and the British and Tories where he lost his Capt. who was killed in that engagement he thinks the battle took place between the 10th & 20th of July 1780 - he states he was then marched back home to Mecklenburg county where he was discharged in writing by Col. Robert Irwin about the first of September 1780 for a tour of duty of three months - Deponant says that he entered the service again as a volunteer about the last of September in the same year 1780 in the same county Mecklenburg under the command of Majr James White to go against the British who were on their march to Charlotte in the county of Mecklenburg N. Carolina and was in a small skirmish with the advance or front guards of the British before they reached Charlotte but the Americans were overpowered by the enemy and were compelled to retreat, he says he was then marched to a place called Tuckasiege ford [sic, Tuckaseege ford] on the Catawba river where the Americans encamped and remained for some time but on receiving information that Genl Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed at Cowans ford [sic, Cowan's ford] on the last mentioned river he was marched into Roan county [sic, Rowan County] on the Yadkin river where he says he remained in service for three or four weeks and the term of three months which he volunteered to served having expired, he was marched home and dismissed, He further states that he volunteered in obedience to a proclamation issued by Genl Greene under a Col. but does not recollect his name, and served four weeks making in the whole a term of actual service in the War of the Revolution of not less than nineteen months for which he claims a pension and altho a part of his service was performed in the character of waggoner he declares it was not upon civil contract but as a drafted soldier- He further says that he has no documentary evidence whatever at this time; and that he knows of no person whos testimony he can procure who can testify as to his sevice except what he can prove by the testimony of Robert Carithers; and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in the United States and he hereby relinquished all and every claim to a pension or anuit except the present-

Interrogatores by the Court-

Int. 1st- Where and in what year were you born- I was born in Mecklenburg county in the state of North Carolina on the 25th day of September in the year 1757 agreeable to my Fathers family record.

Int. 2nd- Have you any record of your age and if so where is it- I have no record of my age at this time.

Int. 3rd- Where were you living when called into service- I was a citizen of Mecklenburg county in the state of North Carolina during all the time I was in service.

Int. 4th- Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live- I remained a citizen of said county of Mecklenburg for about three years after the close of the war when I removed to the State of Georgia, and from there I removed to Williamson County Tennessee and from that Bedford county in the last mentioned state where I have lived about twenty four years and where I now live.

Int. 5th- How were you called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom- I was a drafted soldier during all my service except the two last tours which I served as a volunteer.

Int. 6th- State the name of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service- I do not recollect the names of any regular officers who was with the troops where I served, nor do I recollect the name or number of any regiment where I served at this time, and I believe my declaration

contains the most prominent circumstances of my service that I am able at this time to give.

Int. 7th- Did you ever receive a discharge and if so what has become of it- I did receive four discharges in writing, but what has become of them I cannot tell. I took but little care of them, not knowing they would ever be of service to me, they have long since been lost.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their opinion of your service as a soldier of the Revolution - Ans. The Rev. George Newton, John Wortham Esq. and James Brittain, subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid.

James Wilson (seal)

* (transcriber's note) James Wilson was the brother of the Revolution War soldier Robert Wilson who's widow Jane applied for a pension in 1838 while a resident of Williamson County, Tennessee.