

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Wilson S3569

f48NC<sup>1</sup>

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 1/18/11 & 3/7/24

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Tennessee, Carter County} Circuit Ct. September Term 1832

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Samuel Powell Judge &c now holding the Circuit Court in and for said County, Joseph Wilson, a resident of the County of Carter and State of Tennessee aged Seventy four 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 Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered into the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That sometime in the month of June 1779, as well as he recollects, he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Ninian Hoskins, and was at that time a citizen of Washington County North Carolina (now Carter & Washington Counties in Tennessee). After he volunteered as above stated, his company joined Colonel John Sevier at a point on Doe River about half a mile above the place where Elizabethton now stands. That from thence he marched under Col. Sevier, as his superior officer, through the wilderness, to French Broad River and after crossing it, they went to Boyd's Creek<sup>2</sup> five miles distant and were there attacked by the Cherokee Indians. Col. Sevier's force at that time amounting to about two hundred and fifty men: but the number of Indians is not known by this affiant. The engagement continued about half an hour and the Indians were completely routed. The number of the Indians was not accurately ascertained, but supposed to be about 80 in killed and wounded. Affiant states that at this time he was acquainted with Captain Robert Bean, in addition to the officers above named. After the engagement above described and while Col. Sevier's force yet remained on the battle ground an express was received from Col. Arthur Campbell of Virginia instructing Col. Sevier not to proceed any further (as was his original intention) into the Indian country until Col. Campbell should come up with him. Col. Sevier accordingly went back about five miles and encamped five days in an island situated in the French Broad River waiting for the arrival of Col. Campbell, where the troops during that time were without food. On the fifth day Col. Campbell joined Col. Sevier with about five hundred and fifty men from Virginia under his command and on the day following Colonels Campbell and Sevier began their march for the Indian Towns. The same day they arrived at the Big Island Town, an Indian village on the Tennessee River, which was burnt and a great number of Indians killed and taken prisoners by the white people. They then penetrated the Indian country still further and destroyed in their progress all of the

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<sup>1</sup> Indian War 1791

Born in VA.

<sup>2</sup> Battle of Boyd's Creek (Tennessee, then North Carolina) December 16, 1780

<http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boyds creek.html>

Indian towns in succession amounting to thirteen in number. Among others they destroyed the following towns to wit: Tellico, Chota, Cowee and others whose names are not now recollected. Chilhowee was the last Indian town they burnt & the most difficult to conquer, as the whites were engaged eight days in skirmishing with the Indians before that town before a successful attempt was made at firing it. About one hundred and fifty Indians, including women and children were taken prisoners during the excursions and after the battle of Chilhowee were taken to the Long Islands in Holston River & left by Colonels Campbell and Sevier until after the treaty of Long island [July 1777] when they were exchanged so soon as the prisoners were left at Long Island the troops were disbanded and affiant returned home. He served on this occasion three months but never received a regular discharge. After remaining at home about four days, he again volunteered under Captain James Roddy [a/k/a James Rodey] & came to the place where Elizabethton now stands, where he joined Col. Sevier who had about three hundred men under his command, and marched over the Yellow Mountain and through North Carolina into South Carolina where he joined Genl. Francis Marion at a point low down into the Santee River in the swamps. His Lieutenant on this occasion was by the name of Ford [Joseph Ford] and he knew Col. Charles Robinson [sic, Charles Robertson] and Captain Bean. He remained with Genl. Marion ten or fifteen days, when Genl. Pickens [Andrew Pickens] demanded assistance from Genl. Marion (as affiant understood) in order to march against the Tories & Indians who were then ravaging the country in the vicinity of Savannah. Forty or fifty men were sent under Captain Harrison [Michael Harrison] among whom affiant was. They joined Genl. Pickens & remained under him two or three months traversing the country through Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, until Genl. Pickens & Col. Charles McDowell met at \_\_\_ [blank in original] Ford on Broad River in North Carolina, when Capt. Harrison's company (affiant among the number) was placed under the command of Col. McDowell. A short time after this event affiant marched under Col. McDowell, (who had now joined Genl. Morgan [Daniel Morgan]) to the Battle of the Cowpens<sup>3</sup> in which engagement he was. Affiant there knew Major Joseph McDowell, and Col. Washington [William Washington]. After the battle of the Cowpens affiant marched under Col. McDowell back into North Carolina, where he continued marching over the country, until the news of Cornwallis's surrender [York town, October 19, 1781] was received, when he was discharged. Affiant thinks that from the time he left Tennessee until he was verbally discharged by Col. McDowell, he was in service two years.

After the revolutionary war was over affiant volunteered under Captain Tipton, M. Carver County Tennessee and marched under him to be Fort Washington on the Ohio River, where they joined General St. Clair. He was present at St. Clair's defeat, & nearly all the officers of his company were killed. He was gone on this occasion about seven months, though he volunteered for six months only.

Affiant was born in 1755 or '54 in Amelia County Virginia and came to this country when a boy, & was resident here ever since. The place of his residence was at the time of the Revolution a part of Washington County North Carolina, and since the establishment of Tennessee included in the County of Carter. He has no record of his age and no documentary evidence by which to establish the veracity of his statements. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except his brother's William & John Wilson, each of whom volunteered, at the same time he did, and both of whom served with him at the time their affidavit is subjoined. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state to his knowledge.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court.

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<sup>3</sup> January 17, 1781 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

Test: S/ A. M. Carter, Clk

S/ Joseph Wilson, X his mark

By S/ Wm B. Carter, DC

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State of Tennessee, Carter County: Circuit Court September Term 1832

William Wilson<sup>4</sup> age 72 years and John Wilson<sup>5</sup> aged 76 years, each citizens of the County and State aforesaid, make oath that they have heard the foregoing affidavit of their brother Joseph Wilson read and know of their own knowledge that some of the material facts therein stated are true. That he knows that Joseph Wilson volunteered under Captain Hoskins and served the campaign under Col. Sevier as he states. They also know that he volunteered under Captain Roddy & went with them under Col. Sevier into South Carolina as he states, and joined General Marion. They also know that he was one of the detachment sent under Captain Harrison to the assistance of General Pickens and they believe that after that time he served as he states.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court 17<sup>th</sup> September 1832.

Test: S/ A. M. Carter, Clk

S/ William Wilson, X his mark

S/ Jhon Wilson [sic]



By S/ Wm B. Carter, DC

[Green Moore and Abel Dugger “(there being no clergyman resident in Joseph Wilson's neighborhood)” gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Affidavit amendatory of Joseph Wilson's declaration

State of Tennessee, Carter County} Personally came before me David Nelson an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County, Joseph Wilson, who makes oath – That after having performed a tour of duty first specified in his original declaration, he served as follows. In the latter part of the summer or early in the fall of 1779 – '80 as well as he recollects he volunteered as stated in said declaration under Captain James Roddy, at the place where Elizabethton now stands, in the Regiment of North Carolina militia commanded by Col. Sevier; and marched across the Yellow Mountain and through North Carolina into South Carolina, where he joined Genl. Francis Marion, under whom he continued to serve until the expiration of three months, for which term of time he had volunteered. Without having obtained a discharge he immediately volunteered under Captain Harrison of General Pickens Command and remained in said service, for the term of three months, for which time he had also volunteered. That at the expiration of said term of time, he immediately again volunteered under Col. McDowell, and joined General Morgan, and marched to the Cowpens, where he was in the engagement which took place between the British and Americans, well known as the Battle of the Cowpens. He continued under said officers until the expiration of three months, for which period of time he had volunteered. Without having obtained any discharge he again immediately volunteered under Captain Harrison for a three months tour, and was commanded by General Pickens & Lee. He marched back into North Carolina, with a view to intercept Col. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton],

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<sup>4</sup> [William Wilson W2218](#)

<sup>5</sup> [John Wilson W6540](#)

who, as well as affiant recollects, was then supposed to be on his march to Virginia, to join Lord Cornwallis. He continued in said service and under said officers, until the expiration of his term of service – to wit, three months. He then volunteered under the same officers, and continued in the same Regiment, and in the same service until the surrender of Cornwallis, when he was verbally discharged by Col. McDowell. He thinks the last term above mentioned commenced in February 1781, and terminated in the succeeding November. It was composed of three three months tours, performed under the same officers last mentioned. At the end of each of the tours, he immediately again volunteered under the same officers until he was finally discharged as above stated. During the whole of the time mentioned in this affidavit and in this affiant's original declaration, he was not engaged in any civil pursuit, but continued, as stated, to volunteer in the service of his country. He is very confident that he served the seven tours of three months each mentioned in this affidavit, and also the first tour spoken of in his original declaration, amounting in all to twenty four months actual service, during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 18 March 1833.

S/ David Nelson, JP

S/ Joseph Wilson, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for two years of service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]