

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilson S3573

f40NC/VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/18/11: rev'd 3/6/24

[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.]

[p 9]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County} County Court October Term 1832

On this 19th day of October 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Lincoln County Tennessee, now sitting, John Wilson, aged about 85 years a resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 viz.

I was born the 11th of May 1747 as appears by a record of my age left by my father & now in the possession of my brother, but I have no record myself – my birthplace was in Augusta County Virginia. In 1772 I moved to the settlements on the Holston River in East Tennessee [sic, then North Carolina] where I lived when I first entered the service of the United States – Some time in the fall of the year 1776 the Cherokees having made considerable inroads upon the white settlements and the troops being called out to oppose them I volunteered in a company from Virginia which was marching against them commanded by a William Christian [of the Virginia militia] with whom I had been previously acquainted and attached to the Regiment commanded by Col. Christian – we marched against the Indians<sup>1</sup> on the Tennessee River and destroyed many of their towns, the principle of which I think was called Chota or Echota but my memory is so much impaired by old age that I cannot now recollect the names of the different places. The Indians always fled at our approach so that we had no engagement with them at length the Indians beg for peace and a treaty was formed with them. I was then dismissed and returned home having been engaged between six & eight weeks. Some time in the latter part of the fall or first of the winter of the year 1779 or 1780 I now forget which the Cherokee Indians having broken the treaty made with them I volunteered in company commanded by Captain Andrew Cowan and we joined the forces under the command of Col. Archer Campbell [sic, Arthur Campbell] from Virginia who was sent against them – we then marched from the Holston to the Tennessee and crossing went to the Hiwassee towns which we destroyed and on our return we destroyed the towns on the Tennessee called the Tellico towns – we destroyed everything belonging to the Indians that we could find. The Indians fled, so that he had no battle with them. We returned home I think between the middle and the last of January following – but my memory is so bad, that I cannot now state with any certainty as to dates.

In the latter part of the spring of 1780 as I now think – I volunteered in the Regiment

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776\\_TN.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776_TN.html)

commanded by Col. Isaac Shelby but I cannot recollect who was the Captain of my company. We marched from Holston across the Yellow Mountain & through North Carolina in which state we joined the forces under Genl. McDowell [Charles McDowell] & marched on across Broad River into South Carolina to meet the British & Tories & we had a small skirmish<sup>2</sup> with some of their advanced parties when they fell back and the time for which I volunteered (being three months) having expired I was dismissed & returned home.

In the fall of the year 1781, being on a visit to my father in Augusta in Virginia, news arrived that Lord Cornwallis had taken a position at Yorktown and a draft being ordered, my brother was drafted and I volunteered and went in the place of my brother to join the Army of General Washington, which was then besieging Cornwallis in Yorktown. I remained with Army, until the British Army surrendered [October 19, 1781] to Genl. Washington, and the prisoners were marched to the barracks. I was then dismissed and went home, but I never had a written discharge. I continued to live in East Tennessee after the revolutionary war till about twenty five years since, when I came to this County where I have ever since lived. I have no documentary evidence, nor do I know of any person whose testimony I can procure, to testify to my services.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. I would refer to Reverend Ebenezer McEwen & Robert Cunningham for my character for veracity &c.

Sworn to in open Court the day and year aforesaid

Test: S/ Robt. J. Inge, Clerk

S/ John Wilson



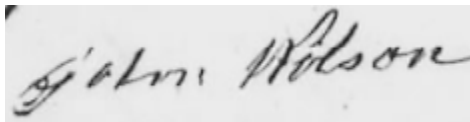
[Ebenezer McEwen, a clergyman, and Robert Cunningham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Lincoln County} Personally appeared before me Thomas S Stovall an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, John Wilson duly sworn deposes and saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades: viz. For seven weeks I served as a private under Col. Christian. For two months & a half I served as a private under Col. Campbell. For three months I served as a private under Col. Shelby. For two months I served as a private in the Army of Genl. Washington at the time of the siege of Yorktown & for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed this 18th April 1833 before me  
S/ TS Stovall, JP

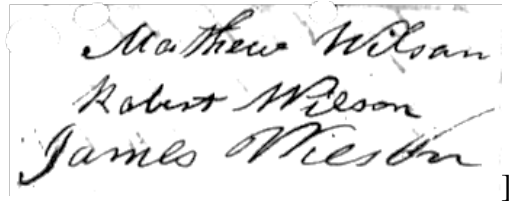
S/ John Wilson



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<sup>2</sup> This may be a reference to the engagement on September 12, 1780 at Cane Creek.  
[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cane\\_creek.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cane_creek.html)

[p 6: On September 21st, 1837 in Lincoln County Tennessee, Matthew Wilson, Robert Wilson and James Wilson gave testimony that Matthew Wilson was the duly appointed and lawful administrator of the estate of the late John Wilson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that said John Wilson died April 23, 1837 leaving no widow or children surviving. The relationship, if any, of the affiants to the veteran is not stated.



Matthew Wilson  
Robert Wilson  
James Wilson ]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30.44, commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months and 4 days service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]