

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of James Wiley S42075

NC Sea Service

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 30 July 2015.

State of North Carolina }
Washington County Court } August Term 1819

The petition of James Wiley a citizen of the unites states born in the State of North Carolina begs leave to state to state to you the Honable the Secretary that he is nearly sixty years old and very infirm and extremely indigent and thinks himself justly entitled to receive the bounty of he believes his grateful Country your petitioner further deposeth that he entered the army in April 1781 and was regularly and honourably discharged in May 1782 that he belonged to the North Carolina line of infantry fifth regiment and served in that line twelve month or more that he was discharged by Captain B Bailey and believing that his discharge was of no service after the peace it is lost or destroyed that the regiment was commanded by Col Hardy Murfree and he discharged at the high Hills of Santee that General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was commander in chief at that place that he was under the immediate command of Capt [William] Goodman and his discharge was signed by Capt Benjamin Bailey after the death of Capt Goodman who was killed [at the Battle of Eutaw Springs SC, 8 Sep 1781] the deponent further states that he was at the battle of the eutaw springs under Captain Goodman and General Green, he further deposeth that he served under Capt King and Lieutenant Gibbs and was in the battle at Stono [Battle of Stono Ferry SC, 20 Jun 1779] he also states that he served three months independent of the time above stated in South Carolina and Geogia the deponent further states that in the year 1777 he entered on board the Ship of War called Caswell commanded by captain Wilson of the marines and lived on board twelve months or more [see endnote] your petitioner therefore prays that the relief held out by the laws of his country may be extended to him as he in duty bound will ever pray James Wiley being sworn in open Court at Washington Court House on the 18th day of August 1819 deposeth that all the facts set forth in the foregoing petition are true to the best of his knowledge and belief

James Wiley

State of North Carolina Washington County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term 1820.

A schedule of the whole Estate & income of James Wiley resident of the State & County aforesaid & his necessary Clothing and bedding excepted

150 Acres verry inferior Land valued at	\$125.00
1 Mare (20 years Old) and Colt \$20	20.00
1 Bridle & Saddle \$6.50	6.50
A feew Articles of old farming utensils	11.75
15 head of hogs & 5 Ditto Cattle \$35. 7 Barrels Corn \$10.50	45.50
1 Old horse Cart \$1.25. 2 Old Cut Saws \$5	6.25
A feew Articles of old house hold & kitchen furniture	10.87
A feew Sweet potatoes \$2.50. 100 lb seed Cotton \$5	7.50
A feew Books \$2.50. 6 Shreaves flax & 2 Small Sides Leather \$2.30	4.80
3½ Bushels wheat \$2.26 1 Cow \$10 600 lb fodder \$6	18.26
1 Curry comb	<u>00.30</u>

Dollars 256.73

James Wiley

I James Wiley do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has

any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. So help me God Sworn to in open Court it being a Court of Record James Wiley
November Term 1820 being the 23rd day of said month.

James Wiley being duly sworn on the Holy evangelist of Almighty God before me Downing Leary one of the Justices of Washington County Court being a Court of record having original Jurisdiction & having the power of fine and Imprisonment maketh the following Statement as to his Debts and his family in order to obtain the pension allowed by Several act of Congress. To Charles Wiley for the Corn I had of him four years, One hundred and Twelve Dollars, which has been due ever since 1816 and is still due. I owe Doctor James Norcom for medical services fourteen Dollars. I owe Joseph Christopher for Corn at least Ten Dollars, besides a number of Small Debts which I owe but do not recollect the amount. Sworn to before Downing Leary the 13th Sept. 1822 James Wiley

The said James Wiley further deposeth that, Luranea Wiley his wife in her Sixty first year as he believes and has been unable to do any work for nearly three years, or very little labour of any kind, Rosanna Wiley his daughter is in her Twenty Second year, Nancy Wiley his daughter is in her nineteenth year; the said James Wiley further Swears that he does believe that Three fourths of his land is not worth and would not sell for five Shillings, and the ballance broken and trifling & of little value.
James Wiley

State of North Carolina

Washgton County [14 March 1821]

James Wiley makes Oath that the land returned in the Schedule returned to the war department is three fourths swamp not worth the taxes that the other one fourth is worth very little I swear that I am old and infirm and also that I have not been able to cultivate a crop or work thereat for seven or eight years and I do verily believe that these infirmities were produced by the severities of cold Hunger and fatigue I suffered during the revolutionary war James Wiley
Sworn to before me George E Badger Judge of the Superior Court of law and Equity of said State

State of North Carolina } Ss.

Washington County }

On this 20 day of August 1823 personally appeared in open Court, being the Court of Pleas & Quarter of Washington County, a court of record, created and established to be a Court of record by the laws of this state, James Wiley, resident in Washington County aged now about 62 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress, of the 18 March 1818, and the 1 May 1829 that he the said James Wiley enlisted for the term of twelve months on or about the 16th day of April in the year 1781 in the State of North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain [Clement] Hall and was changed to the company commanded by Captain Goodman, in the regiment commanded by Colonel Hardy Murfree in the line of the State of North Carolina on the* continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps until about May 22 1782 when he was discharged from said service in the State of North Carolina, that his name has been placed on the pension list, and dropt therefrom on account of his property:

*The writer, nor Wiley, cannot understand the intention of this Blank, in the form furnished by the War Department.

And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820 the said James Wiley doth solemnly swear that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for

certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed marked A. That since the exhibition of his first schedule the following changes have been made in his property – as contained in that schedule See the next page marked B.

A

A schedule of the whole Estate of James Wiley of Washington County, late a private in the Revolutionary army, is necessary clothing and bedding excepted with a just Valuation thereof on the 8th day of August 1823

The Crop of Corn, Cotton, Potatoes &c now growing, on Chas Wileys land	20
1 old Loom worne out	50
1 Saddle	5
1 old table	25
3 Chairs	75
1 woolen wheel, not paid for	3
1 chest, old & broken, without lock or hinges	40
Some Crockery ware & spoons	1
Some old wooden ware	50
1 Iron Pot	1
2 Jugs 50, 4 old barrels 40	90
2 old Hoes & 2 axes	1 10
some Flax	35
1 Box Iron & Heater	75
6 old books	90
1 sow & Pigs	2 50
1 Tray, Bowl & sifter	50
3 Gums & 2 old saws	2
2 Frows & 1 drawing Knife	1
2 Hammers	75
1 adz & 2 old Hammers	50
5000 Shingles	7 50
1 Bridle, good for nothing	20
1 old Cart, lying upon the side of the Road from home, thrown away	25
About 3000 smooth shaved shingles	<u>10</u>
	\$61 60
1 side of leather in Tan by Wm Sutton on shares, he to have half	<u>1</u>
	62 60

James Wiley is indebted as follows

To Doctors Sawyer & Norcom	14
To Reuben Clifton \$3½ or \$4½	3 50
To Jos Christopher	10
To Downing Leary	2
To Sam'l Sleight	8

To Olive Snell on a bastardy bond as the security of Jno Skinner the reputed father. Jno Skinner is now believed to be more than Insolvent & in jail on an Indictm't for murder. Mr Fagan the only other security is dead, & his Estate is Insolvent; and Olive Snell is now prosecuting Jas Wiley on the bond in Court. The amount due on this bond is not known to Wiley: some paym'ts

having been made; nor does Wiley know when the bond will expire. But the price to be paid annually until the bond shall expire is believed to be fourteen Dollars.

There are some other little debts but Wiley cannot now state the amount of them. Signed

James Wiley
B

Copy of the schedule sent to the war department, take from the Clks office
150 acres very inferior land valued to \$125

Changes that have been made therein since that time.

This land was in two tracts, one of 100 acres, the other of 50 acres – not adjoining. Charles Wiley, the son of James Wiley paid the consideration money for the 100 acre tract, but being at that time involved in debt and thinking the land might not be safe if the title was conveyed to him, procured the title to be made to his father, and thus the tract stood at the time of making the schedule and James Wiley the father was not willing, seeing the title was in him at the time, to state upon oath in filing his said schedule that he was not the owner of the land. But that since the filing of the said schedule Charles Wiley has got out of difficulty, or nearly so, and James Wiley has conveyed to him the said 100 acre tract. The deed of conveyance was written by a man ignorant as to the amount of consideration that would have answered the purpose of this conveyance, and thinking that some consideration was necessary to be mentioned in the deed, named the sum of fifty dollars, but James Wiley the deponent declares that the truth of the transaction is above stated, and that he did not receive any consideration whatever of his son Charles, and that no understanding or promise of any kind whatsoever existed between him and his son Charles by which he is entitled to receive, or by which he expects to receive any consideration whatever for the said conveyance.

1 Mare (20 years old) & colt 20—

The mare is dead. The Colt, and the other tract of land, of 50 acres, James Wiley, has sold since the filing of his said schedule to his son Charles for \$112 & his interest thereon being the amount of a debt due by the said James Wiley to his son Charles – his son Charles agreeing to discharge him of the debt & interest for the said land and colt. The deed for the land has been executed & delivered & the colt has also been delivered to his son Charles.

[The rest of this account is not transcribed here.]

James Wiley's family consists of the following persons.

- 1 of himself aged about 62 years, his profession to work in the producing of corn & other articles of a farm & in getting Lumber. He is illy able to work. health precarious & uncertain & easily affected. Labour & exposure make him sick. He works in good pleasant weather, but not all day for want of strength; and without more assistance than he has the authority to command, or the property or income to procure, he says upon his Oath he could not maintain himself.
- 2 of his wife, aged 62 or 63 years – a poor old woman. she has been sick for several years. The debt due to Sawyer & Norcom was contracted for her relief. She was down & unable to work for nearly three years – is some better now having recovered her health a little. She works at spinning, occasionally, takes what care she can of matters within the house but does little or nothing for want of more strength & health.
- 3 of his Daughter Rosa aged about 23 years. She has ordinary health. Works in spinning, weaving, and assists in cooking, & other work in the house. Works in the garden, washes & scours.
- 4 of his Daughter Nancy aged about 20 years. She has ordinary health also, and works with her sister as above stated to the same purpose, & with like effect.

These are all that compose the family of James Wiley. Signed James Wiley

[On 15 Feb 1830 James Wiley applied again for a pension.]

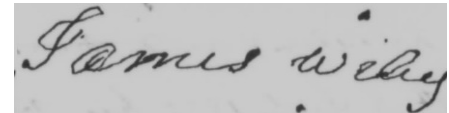
State of North Carolina } I Jeremiah Steely [pension application S42028] being duly Sworn upon
Washington County } the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God deposeth & saith that he is well

acquainted with James Wiley and has been for fifty years or thereabouts that is verry infirm and poor and has been for a number of years and altogether unable to support himself this deponent further says the said Wiley was in the Militia the first time he saw him during the revolutionary war. the said James Wiley served twelve months in the Continental line. General Green commanded in Chief under Col Hardy Murfree that he was at the battle of Outaw Springs that James Wiley was at the battle of Stono at which time he belonged to the militia and afterwards joined the regular army as stated above the deponent further states that James Wiley served on board the ship Caswell nearly twelve months a United States Ship
(Signed) Jeremiah Steely
[Caleb Collins (S41490) made a similar statement.]

NOTES:

According to Patrick O'Kelley's *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 1 (Booklocker.com, 2004), the row galley Caswell was built after the spring of 1778 and protected the passage near Ocracoke for about a year until it was sunk by ship worms.

On 6 Sep 1836 James Wiley stated that he had been reinstated on the pension list. The following appears to be his signature on the document.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wiley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

A Treasury-Department document states that the children of James Wiley received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 6 Dec 1838.

Not all of the 90 pages in the file are transcribed here.