

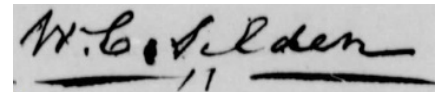
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Wilson Cary Selden S4815 VA Half Pay
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 2 June 2015.

District of Columbia }
County of Washington } SS

On this thirtieth day of June 1832, personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid Wilson Cary Selden, a resident of Exeter, Loudon [sic: Loudoun] County, Virginia, aged 70 years and upwards, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832. That he entered in the army of the United States as Surgeons Mate in the year 1779, in the Marine Hospital, then at Hampton, that he was appointed a full Surgeon in June 1780, and attached to the regiment of Artillery Commanded by Col Elias Edmonds of the Virginia line, and was marched to the State of South Carolina. that being attacked with a dangerous illness, he was advised by his Colonel to go to sea, which he did. that about three weeks from the period of his embarkation, the letter of marque in which he sailed was captured by the enemy, and the declarant, with many others made prisoners of War. that in 1782 he was liberated and parolled; that he never resigned his commissioned but constantly held his rank as full Surgeon to the end of the War.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. C. Selden". Below the signature, there is a horizontal line with the number "11" written in the center.

I do hereby certify that Doctor Wilson Cary Selden of Loudoun County Va. was Surgeon during the Revolutionary War in the Artillery of the Virginia State line. Having had frequent opportunities of hearing of Dr. Selden I am enabled to state the following particulars. He was stationed with the regiment in which my half-brother the late Capt. Peter Kemp also served in Hampton and Norfolk. After having served between two and three years in that part of Virginia the Regiment was ordered to the South. While there, the time of two of the companies being out, my brother was ordered to march them to Richmond, but Dr. Selden remained behind and was present at Gates' defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. In July or August in the year 1782 Dr. Selden in company with the late Dr. [James] McClung visited my brother with whom he had formed an intimacy during their service in the army. Dr Selden was in the army three years and I have no doubt remained in commission to the end of the war.
[signed] W. Wedderburn

I accidentally met with Doctor Wilson Cary Selden at Fortress Monroe [at Hampton VA] in the latter part of July this year, who shew me, the certificates of several gentlemen in relation to his having served in the revolutionary war. of this I have no doubt because, many years ago, I have heard my mother speak of Doctor Selden's services, in the War, and in speaking to me of the different actions would mention the Doctors name, where he had been. My mothers knowledge of the matter was owing to Mrs. Washington, the mother of Genl Washington, being next door neighbor to Uncle James Mercer of Fredericksburg
Geo. M. Brooke/ Bt. Brigdr Genl [George M. Brooke, Brevet Brigadier General]
Fortress Monroe/ 28th July 1831.

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Doctor Wilson C. Selden of Loudoun County in the State of Virginia deposes & says that He is now in the 72^d year of his age; That in January or Feb 1779 he entered into the revolutionary service of Virginia in and of the United States in the War against England, & continued in that service till the war was ended; that He entered the service of his country in the character of Surgeon's Mate & was attached to the Regiment of Artillery commanded by Lt. Colonel Elias Edmonds, that he commenced his public service in the Marine Hospital at Hampton; that he was very soon afterwards ordered to Little York where, on his arrival, he was duly appointed a Surgeon to the Regiment aforesaid; that from Little York he was ordered to Williamsburg, & from thence to South Carolina; that during this whole period he the said Selden regularly discharged his duties as a Regimental Surgeon of the Army. That after the dreadful defeat (or rather the massacre) of Col. Buford's Troops in 1780 [defeat of Abraham Buford by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton at the Battle of Waxhaws SC, 29 May 1780] disabled soldiers were removed to Waxhaw Hospital in South Carolina. Of those wounded & disabled there were a great many: & that about 150 of Col. Buford's Men that were taken prisoners by the enemy were so badly wounded that they could not be moved, & were, therefore, parolled by the capturing enemy. Col. Buford & a few of his cavally [cavalry?] escaped the massacre of Tarlton; the rest of the Regiment was cut to pieces. That Col. Buford's Regimental Physicians were all either killed or disabled or had retreated with Col. Buford, & that he the said Selden was the only medical officer that could then be procured to dress & superintend the officers & soldiers who had been wounded and disabled in Col Buford's defeat. That he the said Selden was accordingly ordered to perform that arduous service, & did perform it amidst the dying & the dead. That for three whole days & nights after the defeat aforesaid he the said Selden was exclusively employed in that painful & melancholy service. That owing to severe exposure of his health while in the public service he contracted a painful & dangerous disease of the Lungs which occasioned an habitual spitting of blood & threatened his life. That in the hope of removing this disease the said Selden was advised by experienced Physicians & by his Commanding officer to try sea-air; & that for that purpose the said Selden obtained a Furlough from Col. Edmonds to visit the West Indies. That accordingly, he the said Selden, having been then as this Affiant deposes more than three years in [undeciphered word] actual service as Surgeon to the Regiment, set sail for the W. Indies, on board the United States Brig or Letter of Marque the Holker, of 16 guns, commanded by Cap'n Paral[?]. That just before reaching the Port of destination the Brig was captured by an armed British Ship, & carried into St. Eustacia where the said Selden was thrown into prison with many Captives & Felons, & confined there for six weeks. From this prison the said Selden deposes that he was removed by the enemy to St Johns in Antiga [Antigua]; having been detained from his country about six months. And, the said Selden deposes that he never did resign his commission; but that he continued in the service until the end of the war; unless, indeed, the continuity of the service was broken, (& he is advised that it was not:) by his capture as aforesaid.



City of Richmond Sc.

Doctor Wilson C. Selden this day came before me and subscribed his name to the foregoing Affidavit; & made oath before me that the said Affidavit contains the truth, to the best of his knowledge & belief.

Given under my hand & seal this 23^d of May 1833

James Rawlings/ sen'r. ald[er]man in & for the said City of Richmond

Commonwealth of Virginia } To wit
Elizabeth City County }

Personally appears before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said county Thomas A. B. Jones formerly called Thomas Jones, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists deposes and says that he was born as he has been informed and believes in the year 1749 and is now about 84 years of

age, that he was a soldier in the First South Carolina Regiment and afterwards in Pulaski's Regiment. That he knew Doct'r. or Surgeon Wilson Cary Selden well during the Revolutionary War, and knows that he was in the Medical Staff or Medical Department and acted a Surgeon in the Army. The deponent knew that the said Surgeon Selden was engaged professionally as a Surgeon during the war as he saw him frequently up to 1781. That he knew him well afterwards and that he officiated in the capacity of Surgeon during the whole time the Deponent saw and was acquainted with him, and that the whole time he did see him while the war lasted he was performing duty as a Surgeon in the Army.

That the deponent knew Doct'r. Selden since the Revolution and declares that he was his family physician in Hampton for nearly Three Years or more.

Subscribed and sworn in Hampton Virginia this the eleventh Day of June 1833 before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County. Wm. Hope JP



Commonwealth of Virginia Elizabeth City County

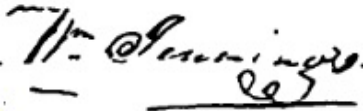
Personally appears before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid William Jennings Senior [S5615] of Hampton Virginia who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposes and says that he was born about the 7th Novem. 1751 as he always understood and believes, and is now near 82 years of age. That he was in the Land service at the commencement of the Revolutionary War and afterwards in the Naval Service under the command of Capt. Richard Barron until the close of the Revolution, and the declaration of Peace. That during and previous to this War he was well acquainted with Doct'r. Wilson Cary Selden who was a Surgeon in the Continental Army and was part of the time stationed at the Hospital, Hampton; and had charge of that department there. That the deponent knows that Surgeon Wilson Cary Selden served in the Army until the close of the War.

That the deponent was under his charge in the Hospital at Hampton for about two months during the Revolution, that he had frequently seen Surgeon Selden before when he was officially engaged in his medical duties.

That this deponent was not only a patient under the treatment of said Surgeon Selden while he was officially acting as Surgeon but also after the Revolution when Doctor Selden was engaged in private practice.

Subscribed and Sworn to this 11th June 1833.

Wm. Hope JP



Exeter June 25th 1833

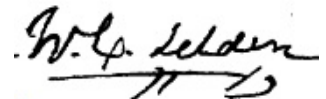
My dear Friend

Immediately on my arrival in Washington, I had the pleasure to meet with an old Hampton acquaintance; & on mentioning my Military claim to him, He informed me, that two old men, now alive in Hampton could settle this business for me. I have applied to them, and send you a copy of the result: the originals with seals of the county court I retain untill I hear from you,

write me as early as convenient to your self in reply, & believe me your sincere Friend &

Relation

Love to your Mother



NOTE: On 14 Dec 1843 Mary B. Selden applied for the half pay for life which her late husband, Wilson Cary Sheldon, stopped receiving while he collected a pension up to 14 March 1835, when he died in Loudoun County.