

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of George Wilson S6391

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia State } SS.

Lewis County }

On this fifth day of February 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of Lewis county now sitting George Wilson aged 73 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 7th June 1832. that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated That he volunteered in October 1779 as a private in the North Carolina militia in a company commanded by Captain Legate or Leggett to serve for two years He was attached to a regiment of Militia He thinks the 3rd North Carolina Militia regt. He started from the County of Anson in said state in the middle district as it was called sometimes called Fayetteville district He was marched first to Fayetteville. Thence to Hillsborough. Thence to Halifax thence to a place now called Raleigh Thence to Edington or Edenton Thence to Newbern. Thence to Wilmington. Thence to Cape Hatteras. Thence to Cape Lookout. from thence to Charleston in South Carolina Thence to a place called Georgetown. Thence to Beaufort [See endnote.] Thence to a place near a small town called Camden where we joined the continentals and Militia under General [Horatio] Gates We had a general engagement [Battle of Camden] here sometime in August [16th] 1780 with the British at this place the Americans were defeated with great loss and declarant was taken prisoner. He attempted to escape from the enemy and him and a few of his fellows had travelled some miles towards North Carolina and were overtaken by the enemys cavalry led by a man named Welch who had deserted from Capt Legates company and who had lived a neighbor to declarant. He and his comrades were taken back and put on fatigue all day and confined at nights after about four months when on fatigue a little distance from the main body of the enemy He and most of his comrades were attacked by a troop of General Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] cavalry and carried safely to Genl Greenes army. About this time he recollects that a General or Col McDowell [Col. Joseph "Quaker Meadows Joe" McDowell] with a body of Militia had an engagement with the British at a place called Kings mountain [7 Oct 1780] in which the British were defeated with the loss of many prisoners during this winter He was detached from General Greenes command with some other Militia troops and placed under General [Daniel] Morgan. whilst under his command we had a battle at a place called Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]. The British were defeated here we took from them a number of prisoners. As Genl. Greene retreated toward Virginia He sent his prisoners that were not exchanged ahead and declarant one of those that guarded them. He continued to guard them to a place near Winchester in Virginia and there continued untill sometime in November 1781 when the British prisoners taken at Yorktown in Virginia at the surrender of Cornwallis arrived at the barracks when He was discharged by a captain Semmerille a Virginia officer He having served from October 1789 [sic] till November 1781 constantly except while he was a prisoner. He acted the whole time as a private soldier. He then went to that part of Virginia which is now Randolph County. There He volunteered in March 1782 to act as an Indian spie under captain Henry Blinker Spied in what is now Randolph Lewis Harrison Nicholas and Greenbrier counties. He acted three months under captain Blinker then three months under captain Knowls from June till last of Augt. 1782. Then under captain Benj'n. Wilson from 1st. Septr. 1782 till sometime in Dec'r. 1782 rec'd verbal discharges from them all. Then in March 1783 volunteered as an Indian spie for three months under captain Westfall. served till June 1783 when he was discharged verbally. He served in all fully three years as a private soldier in the Militia and Indian Spie. his first service was from October 1779 till November 1781 as a Militia man. Then as an Indian spie from March 1782 till Dec'r. 1782. Then again from March 1783 till June 1783 in all three years. He saw and experienced much suffering He has no documentary evidence. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid. George hisXmark Wilson

The seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department He answers first

- 1st. That he has been told when a boy by an uncle who raised him in Anson county North Carolina That he was born at a place called Co. Tenancy He does not know in what state
- 2nd. He has no record of his age.
- 3rd. He was living with his uncle in North Carolina in Anson county. Since the war of the revolution he lived in Randolph County in what is called Tygarts valley until 1813 in that year he removed to that part of Harrison where he now lives which is now Lewis county.
- 4th. He was a volunteer during the whole of his services first in N. Carolina Militia then Virginia Militia & Lastly an Indian spie
- 5th. He saw Genl. Gates, Genl. Morgan and knew Genl. Greene well he saw many other generals, Cols &c. and then knew their names but he has forgotten them he does not remember the Nos or names of Regts. he knows he saw Virginia troops of different characters some Militia and some state troops & some cavalry. The circumstances of his services he has set forth as far as his frail memory will enable him now to do.
- 6th. He never rec'd. but one written discharge that was from a Va. officer Captain Simmerille. he soon lost it.
- 7th. He is known in his neighborhood to Nicholas Gibson [pension application S8559] a highly respectable old man whom he has known for many years in the County of Randolph and who represented that county for years in the Virginia Legislature and is now a Justice of the peace in Lewis county There also lives Francis Riffle whom in like manner he has known many years (at least 40) he is an old man. (there are no Clergyman residing near him.) They can testify as to his veracity and their belief of his revolutionary services as a soldier of the revolution —

George hisXmark Wilson

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Lewis and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

George Wilson Lewis county. Servd. 2 yrs.

In this case, the evidence collected is somewhat voluminous - a special report is superceeded. - Mr. Wilson has given his bond for the money drawn with interest upon which a suit has been instituted - Mr. Wilson states he has never seen his [pension] certificate and therefore is unable to return it - "he presumes that James Bennett [see endnote] has the certificate."

W. G Singleton Nov. 5, 1834

NOTES:

The troop movements claimed by Wilson before the Battle of Camden are unlikely, since the coast of the Carolinas was firmly under British control at the time. It is equally unlikely that a militiaman served for so long continuously, or that one from the eastern part of NC was in the battles at Kings Mountain and Cowpens, or that he received a discharge from an officer from a different state.

James H. Bennett, Delegate-elect to the Virginia legislature, was one of the "Lewis Speculating Gentry" who tricked many old, illiterate men into putting their marks on fraudulent pension applications. The pension certificate was sent to Jonathan Wamsley, another of the "Lewis Speculating Gentry."