

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Willoughby West S7865

fn23VA

Transcribed by Kay Lynn Sheppard

rev'd 8/30/11 by WG¹

[Will Graves; note relating to revisions/additions made by him as shown in italics in the transcription set forth below: 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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

North Carolina 2785[torn]

Willoughby West Sr.

of Currituck in the State of N. Ca. who was a Pri. in the [blank] commanded by Captain [blank] of the Rg^t commanded by **Co^l Wilson** in the N. Ca. line for 9 mos.

*Va. Line

Records corrected Aug. 8, 1904

Inscribed on the Roll of North Carolina at the rate of 30 Dollars _____ cents per annum, to commence on the 4th day of March 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 26 day of June '34 and sent to? **Jn^o H. Wheeler**, Present

Arrears to the 4 th of Mar '34	\$ 90.00
Semi-anl. allowance ending 4 Oct ^r '34	<u>15.00</u>
	\$105.00

{Revolutionary Claim }

{Act June 7, 1832 }

Recorded by **Nath. Rice**, Clerk

Book E, Vol. 6^{1/2}; Page 79

State of North Carolina } Court of pleas & Quarter Sessions
Currituck County } August Term 1832

On this 29th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before **Caleb Etheridge John B. Jones W. Bray** and **Benjamin T. Simmons** Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the state and County aforesaid now sitting **Willoughby West Senr.** a resident of Currituck County aged about seventy five 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 July 7th 1832. He saith that he entered the service of the militia of the State of Virginia in August or September 1775 a private and volunteer that he was stationed most of the time near the lines of North Carolina & Virginia; that he remained in the service untill the British evacuated Norfolk. He was in the battle at the Bunch of Walnuts under **Captⁿ Bradley** and **Lieutenant Porter** and after that Battle he retreated with the army to the Great Swamp where a battery was erected and the British then made attack but were defeated and retreated after which the Americans went back to North West Bridge under **Cap^t**

¹ Note by Will Graves: My revisions/additions appear in italics.

Bradley; Gen^l Thomas Mathews had command of the Virginia line at the time. He afterwards followed the enemy with the army near Norfolk and remained in the service until the enemy left Norfolk and then was stationed at Fort Nelson where he remained until driven out of the Fort by the enemy. He remained in the service near five years but is an unlettered man and cannot give a very particular account.. He was acquainted during his service with **Co^l John Wilson** of Norfolk Co., Va. and **Co^l Godsey [Col. Godfrey** in a later record] and **Co^l Lincone** of the Virginia line. He knew **Co^l Dozier, Co^l Lamb & Gen^l Gregory** of the North Carolina line. He further states that he was born in Norfolk County Va. and did not remove until after the close of the war & since

the peace he has resided in Currituck County N.C. He has no documentary evidence and cannot prove his Service by any person now living. He knew **Joshua Ball** at North West but does not recollect any other North Carolina soldier that he knew at the time that are now living. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid
(signed) **Willoughby West Senr.**

We **William Doxey** a clergyman residing in Currituck County NC & **Jeremiah Land** of the same place do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with **Willoughby West Sen.** who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration & that we believe him to be of the age of Seventy five years and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a revolutionary Soldier & that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid
(signed) **W^m Doxey**
Jeremiah Land

Joshua Ball being duly sworn maketh oath that he knew a Soldier at North West Bridge during the revolution by the name of **West** & he believes to have been the same man who hath subscribed and sworn to the above declaration & he further has understood & believes he was a soldier during the revolution.

(signed) **Joshua Ball**

And the Said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states and the Court further certify that it appears to them that **William Doxey** who has signed *the preceding certificate is a clergyman and that Jeremiah Land is a credible person and that their statement is entitled to credit.*

I Spencer Hall Clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Currituck and State of North Carolina do certify that the foregoing contains a true copy of the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Willoughby West Senior for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal of office this 15 day of September A.D. 1832

S/ S. Hall, CCC

[fn p. 5]

The Amended declaration of Willoughby West made in addition to his declaration of the 29th of August 1832. He states that he entered the Service as stated in his original declaration in August or September 1775 and remained a common soldier in the service until sometime in December 1780 and that from the time he first entered the service in 1775 until he was discharged in December 1780 he was never out of the service and consequently he says he served more than five years. He states that at

the battle of the Bunch of Walnuts mentioned in his original declaration there were two companies engaged the one under the command of Captain Bradley to which this declarant belonged and the other under command of Captain Wm Wilson. The Americans were defeated at that battle & retreated to the Great Swamp. Colonel Mathews had command when the enemy attacked us at Great Swamp Battery mentioned in his original declaration. He says that during the first part of the time Colonel John Wilson had command but most of the time he was under Colonel Mathews. He remembers a French officer who was in the Army by the name of Linco and that by his orders a corn house at North West [river] with a considerable quantity of corn was burnt. He remembers also that the soldiers censured him for burning the corn house he calls they believed the enemy could not have gotten the post if it had been bravely defended – He further states that at the time he entered the service he was living in Norfolk County near the North Carolina line and that as soon as the war closed he came into the County of Currituck North Carolina where he has resided ever since. He does not remember that he ever had a written discharge, if he did have one he has now forgotten it and only remembers that he was told by Captain Bradley that he was discharged.

He further says that he remembers seeing Thomas Poyner² at North West and that he has called on the said Poyner to state whether he remembers this declarant and that he finds he does not remember enough about him to state anything distinctly. He further says that he knows no one by whom he can prove his service. He belonged to the Virginia line of Militia and removed from that State so long ago that he has lost sight of all of the acquaintances he had during the war if any are now living.

(Signed) Willoughby West Senr.

[Isaac Baxter, 51, Sheriff of Currituck County, gave a supporting affidavit as to the character and credibility of the veteran.]

[fn p. 10]

State of North Carolina Currituck County

Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace Willoughby West Senior of said County and State who being duly sworn saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served as follows not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. I served at the commencement of the War in the Militia 3 months as a private in Captain William Hall's & Lieutenant John Butt Company Colonel John Wilson & Colonel Godfrey commanding. That at the expiration of the above time I went to Portsmouth and joined a Company, as a private, commanded by Captain James Bradley & Lieutenant Porter and was in garrison somewhere about six months & retreated from Portsmouth to the Great Bridge and was at the Battle at said Bridge. Colonel John Wilson & Colonel Godfrey commanded the Virginia Line. After the Battle we encamped about two miles from the Bridge about one month from thence we retreated to the North West where we threw up a Breast work and was encamped there about four months. We spiked our Cannon burnt the corn House by order of Colonel Linco, we then had to retreat up the North West River to the Bunch of Walnuts and then to the Great Swamp – we stayed there a few days and then returned to the North West & from thence to Portsmouth – I then joined Captain George Hall's Company as a private and was in garrison at Portsmouth and for Nelson and served one year under the command of Colonel Matthews and at the expiration of that year I joined again and remained until the cessation of hostilities. If ever I had a written discharge I do not recollect it all of which time I was not employed in any civil pursuit for which service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 4th of June 1834.

² [Thomas Poyner S7335](#)

S/ Willoughby West, Senior, X his mark

S/ W. Bray, JP

September 14, 1937

Mr. H.H. West
214 South Hill Street
Los Angeles, California

Willoughby West S.7865
BA-J/MCS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your request for an abstract of the papers on file in the pension claim of **Willoughby West** who applied for pension from Currituck County, North Carolina.

The date which follow were obtained from papers on file in pension claim S.7865, based upon the military service of **Willoughby West**.

He was born in Norfolk County, Virginia. The date of his birth and the names of his parents were not given.

While a resident of Norfolk County, he enlisted in August or September 1775, and served until December 1780 as private with the Virginia troops under Captains **William Hale** or **Hall**, **James Bradley** and **George Hale** or **Hall**, and Colonels **John Wilson**, **Godfrey** and **Matthews**; he was in the battles of Great Bridge, Bunch of Walnuts and Great Swamp, Virginia.

After the close of the Revolution he moved to Currituck County, North Carolina.

He was allowed pension on his application executed August 29, 1832, at which time he was living in Currituck County, North Carolina, aged seventy-five years and he was then referred to as **Willoughby West, Senior**.

There are no data relative to the family of **Willoughby West**.

Very truly yours,

A.D. Hiller, Executive Assistant to the Administrator

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia line.]