

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wright S7974

Transcribed by Will Graves

f19NC

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[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' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Sampson County} Superior Court of Law Fall Term 1833

On this 7th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the honorable Robert Strange John Wright Senior a resident of Sampson County aged seventy-four 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 June 7, 1832.

That he was born in the year 1759 that he has a record of his age on a piece of paper now in his possession – that when called into service he was living in Duplin County – for the last forty years he has resided in Sampson County where he now lives – that he entered as a volunteer under Captain Elias Faison Lieutenant Josiah Knolly [could be Knotly] of Duplin old Court house in April 1777 – that he then was marched to big Coharie [Coharie River] in pursuit of the Tories – and remained and served until the last of October 6 months. That in October 1779 he again entered as a volunteer under Captain Daniel Williams Lieutenant Tom James at Duplin Old Court house for three months Col. Kenan commanding officer – and by him was marched to Fayetteville then Cross Creek from thence to South Carolina on Pedee [River] near Cheraw and remained until the expiration of three months – the 15th of January 1780. That in the month of September 1780 he again volunteered under Captain Williams Colonel Kenan in pursuit of the Tories; and was in the engagement with the Tories at Porterines Mills [Portevent's Mill]¹ in New Hanover County in which service he remained for two months – when he returned in about the first of November 1780 he again volunteered under Captain John Fort Lieutenant James Wright – Col. Dickson commanding officer and by them was marched down to the big bridge in New Hanover County – there entrenched in were joined by General Livingston [? Lillington?] -- from the big bridge marched to Rutherford's Mills – from thence under Captain Fort and Lieutenant James Wright to Harrison's Creek there he was joined by Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] Captain Globack [probably a reference to Baron DeGloback who served under Malmedy] and Major Henderson [probably John Anderson who served under Malmedy] – from thence back to Rutherford Mills. This declarant further states – that he was then placed under the command of Major James Gillespie – and was in the engagement at Rockfish² with General Craig [sic, Major James Craig]-- with Gillespie remained until the first of June 1781 – six months having expired – he was there discharged in a verbal manner. That he recollects the names of General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington], Colonel Kenan, Colonel Dickson, Malmedy and Major Henderson.

That he never received a written discharge – that he was always discharged in a verbal way.

¹ May 16, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_portevents_mill.html

² August 2, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html

That he is known in his present Neighborhood to James and Lazarus Mathus who can testify as to his character for truth and of his services as a soldier of the revolution – That there is no clergyman living in his neighborhood.

Question³ Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the year 1759 in the County of New Hanover

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have a record of my age on a piece of paper which I have now at home

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I was living in the County of Duplin when called into service – of the last 40 or 45 years I have lived in Sampson County where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

I always went as a volunteer

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Of recollect the names of Colonel Kenan, General Lillington, Major Henderson – Col. Malmedy – Captain Globack and Colonel Dickson – the regiments I do not recollect – the circumstances of my service I refer you to my declaration

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

I never received a written discharge – was always discharged in a verbal manner

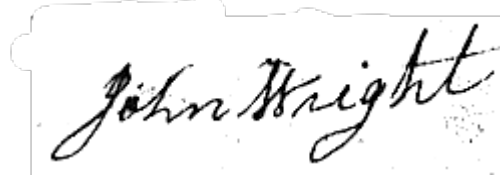
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I am known to James and Lazarus Mathus in my present neighborhood who can testify as to my character for truth and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

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 the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Wright". The signature is written in black ink on a white background and is enclosed within a faint, irregular rectangular border.

³ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

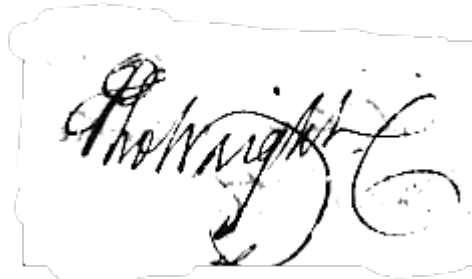
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

I Thomas Wright⁴ do hereby certify that the facts set forth in the above declaration of John Wright are true – to the best of my knowledge and recollection, I having been with him in the tours described.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Thos. Wright

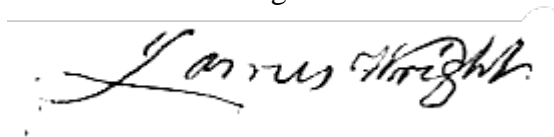
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thos Wright', enclosed within a faint, irregular rectangular border.

[James and Lazarus Matthis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Sampson County

Personally appeared before me James Faison an acting Justice of the peace in the County and State aforesaid Colonel James Wright⁵ of Duplin County State aforesaid who being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith as follows “That he believes John Wright Senior the Applicant in the foregoing Declaration Served as long a time as therein Stated a part of which time he served under me a six months tour our place of rendezvous at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County at the time I was Lieutenant under Captain John Fort during our stay at the Big Bridge we were frequently on the British Lines who were then Stationed in Wilmington under the Command of Major Craig in May 1781 Cornwallis marched into Wilmington after his defeat by General Greene at Guilford Court House was then Sent to watch his movements and after he (Cornwallis) marched for Virginia we were verbally discharged.” And further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and Subscribed this seventh day of February 1834 before me.

S/ James Wright

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'James Wright', positioned below a horizontal line.

S/ James Faison, JP

State of North Carolina, Sampson County}

On this the 12th day of March 1836 before the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared John Wright Senior of the County & State aforesaid aged Seventy-six years the 5th of December last who being first duly sworn doth on his oath declare and say in order to explain his original declaration so as to have the payment of his pension resumed; that he entered the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War as a volunteer light horseman in a company of Duplin militia in the year 1778 as well as I can recollect and served two tours of three months each within the County of (then) Duplin as a private – one of the tours might have been in 1779. In 1780 he served a tour of three months in South Carolina as a volunteer light horseman under Captain Daniel Williams. In 1780 he also volunteered three months in a company of Duplin militia light horse at Rutherford's Mills in New Hanover & at other places in that and in Duplin County – had a skirmish with the Tories at Portevent's Mills.

4 [Thomas Wright S7976](#)

5 [James Wright S9532](#)

In 1781 he served two tours of three months each in Duplin and New Hanover – at the Big bridge in the Spring – in August he was at Rockfish bridge & was there when an attack was made by the enemy & we were put to route – marched to Neuse [River] in his last tour.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me.

Attest:

S/ John Wright, Senr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Wright, Senr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

S/ Peyton R. Parker, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 17 months in the North Carolina militia.]