

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Wilkerson (Wilkinson)¹ W10001 Eva Wilkinson f37VA
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 9/16/11: rev'd 4/29/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

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To the Honorable John C Calhoun, Secretary at War of the United States

I Alfred Metcalf, Circuit Judge in and for the fifth Judicial District of Kentucky and sole Judge of the Jefferson Circuit Court, do hereby certify, that this day, Benjamin Wilkerson came before me and declared under oath, that he is a citizen of the United States in a resident of Jefferson County aforesaid, that he enlisted as a soldier in the revolutionary war, in the spring of the year 1777 for three years, that he served as such for three years, in Captain Dudley's [Ambrose Dudley's] company, in the 2nd Regiment of the Virginia line on Continental establishment, commanded by Col. Smith [probably Gregory Smith], & Lt. Col. Brent [William Brent]; that he fought in the battles of Stoney Point,² Monmouth³ and in several skirmishes with the British troops during the revolutionary war and was discharged at Fredericksburg Virginia by Lt. Col. Brent, at the end of the three years for which he enlisted, but that his discharge is lost, or destroyed; that he does not know that he can prove his services aforesaid by any person living in Kentucky, who actually served with him, unless his Capt. A. Dudley be living, & if he is alive, he is very old, & lives a considerable distance from Jefferson County, that said Wilkerson he is now about sixty-four years of age and from his reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support.

William White also made oath before me, that he & the said Wilkerson were born and raised in the same noble hood in King George County Virginia, that the said Wilkerson was absent from the neighborhood for three years during the revolutionary war, and it was common report that, he had enlisted for three years, and was then in actual service; that his brother John White who is now dead; was in the revolutionary Army three years, & he has often heard the said John say, that the said Wilkerson & he the said John served together, & said Wilkerson was a good soldier; the said William further stated that he had written a letter to Captain Ambrose Dudley, requested him to give such information as he could respecting the service of said Wilkerson; that he received an answer purporting to be written by said Dudley, which letter he produced to me, bearing date "Fayette County April 17th 1818" which is here unto annexed & transmitted –

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of May 1818

¹ BLWt36543-160-55

² July 16, 1779

³ June 28, 1778

S/ Alfred Metcalf

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Fayette County April 17 1818

Sir in answer to yours of the 3rd of this inst. relative to an old soldier who says he was in my Company of Regular troops in the Army of the United States in the Revolutionary war and want some Certificate or assistance from me to establish the facts – the length of time that has rolled around since being forty one years and having nothing but my recollection to help me in this case I cannot say much but Sir what I can say I will say with pleasure and from the best recollection I have I am strongly pressed with the opinion that there was a man in my Company by the name of Benjamin Wilkerson and that he must have been enlisted sometime in the spring of the year 77 that being the year that I was in the Army – and after my resignation a Captain H. Dudley [[Henry Dudley R13891](#)] a distant relation of mine had the command of the company and they were marched to the North to join the main Army these troops were enlisted for three years and did belong to the 2nd Virginia Regiment of Continental troops.

Yours Respectfully
S/ Ambrose Dudley



The Regiment that my company belonged to was commanded by Colonel G. Smith and Lt. Colo. Brent
AD

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State of Kentucky Jefferson County Sct.

On this 12th day of June 1821 personally appeared in open Court this the Jefferson County Court being a court of record established by the Constitution and expressly made so by statute, with power to fine and imprison, Benjamin Wilkinson [sic] aged about sixty Seven years, resident in said County who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows, that he enlisted in the Continental Army in a company commanded by Captain Ambrose Dudley in Caroline County Virginia in the year 1776 or 1777 in the spring for three years that he rendezvoused soon after at Williamsburg; that said Dudley soon after left the company and it was commanded by Captain Harry Dudley [sic, Henry Dudley]; that he soon afterwards marched to the North he believes that Col. Gregory Smith commanded & marched with us to the North – & then that Col. John Gibson took command he believes he was then in the 14th Regiment while under the command of Col. Gibson, that he was at the battles of Monmouth & Stoney Point that he was moved from the North to Fredericksburg in Virginia in the winter called the Icy Winter, where he was discharged by Col. Brent, that he faithfully served three years – that he has now no knowledge or recollection of what became of his discharge.

And the said Wilkirson [sic] 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 whatever disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself within the provision 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 me 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 -- viz. one cow & calf, two sows and pigs, four chairs, six pewter plates, three earthen plates, six knives & forks, one pot & Dutch oven & chest.

That his wife is about the age of forty five years, she is very unhealthy that he has three children living with him viz. Annie, Betsy & John – the eldest of which is about five years of age that he has no other children now living, that he is by occupation a farmer & that he is now infirm and frequently suffers pain from a wound he received at Stoney [Point] from a bayonet in the leg.

S/ Benjamin Wilkerson, X his mark

[p 16: On September 8, 1851 in Marion County Indiana Eva Wilkinson, aged 87, made declaration to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress since 1829; she states she is the widow of Benjamin Wilkinson the revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him September 24, 1792; that her husband died March 1, 1840. She signed her declaration with her mark.]

[p 14: Copy of a marriage license issued in Jefferson County Kentucky dated September 23, 1792 pertaining to the marriage between Benjamin Wilkinson and Eva Russell.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing May 16, 1818, for 3 years service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing March 1, 1840.]

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Addendum to Benjamin Wilkerson (Wilkinson) W10001

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 29 April 2023.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Benjamin Wilkerson late a soldier in the 2 Virg. State Reg't. having produced a proper Certificate of his having lost a discharge given him by me on the 17 of february 1780 I do hereby Certify that the above mentioned Benjamin Wilkerson serv'd three years as a soldier in the 2 Virg'a. State Reg't. and obtaind his Discharge Given under my hand the 15 of oct'r 1784 W. Brent Colo. [William Brent VAS2639] pass'd no. 30 84/ T. Meriwether Com'r.

Copy J. Pendleton

Sir. I must now Colite'e [solicit?] your favour to Deliver my Land warrent to Mr. Wm. Thropshire agreable to what I am intitled to by my Discharge & youl oblige yours &c

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Wilkerson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the late 18th century.

To Colo'l Meriweathers november 23th 1784