

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Wiley W10002

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Indiana Hendricks County SS —

On this 12th day of November A.D. 1832, personally appeared in open Court before Samuel Jessup the sole Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Hendricks aforesaid, now sitting, William Wiley a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy two 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers during the Revolutionary War, and served as herein stated. That in the month of April 1780 in Guilfordford [sic] County in the State of North Carolina, where he had been raised and then resided, being in April previous to General Gates' [Horatio Gates's] defeat at Camden [SC, 16 Aug 1780], he was drafted, and put into the ranks of the militia company commanded by Captain John McAdoo, in a regiment from Orange County commanded by Colonel [Martin] Armstrong (names of other field & company officers disremembered) was soon after being drafted marched from Guilford Courthouse to Salisbury where his regiment joined General Gates' Army - has a distinct recollection of Baron da Kalb [sic: Baron De Kalb]. The Army lay but a short time at Salisbury when General Gates marched for the State of South Carolina passing down on the south side of the Yadkin river to Colsons ferry, near which place a detachment of Gates Army (probably militia) under the command of Colonel Davison [sic: William Lee Davidson] came in contact with a considerable party of Tories, who were engaged by Colo. Davison and defeated with great loss [Skirmish at Colson's on the Pee Dee River, 21 Jul 1780]. At Colsons ferry Gen Gates crossed the Yadkin, marching down on the south side of that river to near the Cheraw Hills, here crossing the Pedee river he marched down on the south side of the same until he came to Lynches Creek where he encamped for some days. At this place the sufferings of the army which had previously been considerable, greatly increased. The soldiers became extremely unhealthy in consequence of scarcity & bad quality of the provisions which they drew; he recollects that on one occasion each soldier drew a small quantity of molasses, which he thinks contributed in no small degree to increase the disease then prevailing in the camp. From the encampment on Lynches Creek the army marched to Rugleys Mills [sic: Rugeley's Mill], or a place called Clermont [Rugeley's plantation]. After laying a few days at this place, Genl. Gates, about the middle of August put his army in motion in order to take a more suitable position nearer Camden, but Lord Cornwallis having formed design of attacking the Americans in the camps on the same night, the two armies consequently met in the latter part of the night [about 2 AM, 16 Aug] and the engagement was commenced, but did not become general until morning. The Americans being defeated, their loss was great in killed wounded and prisoners, the number of which he does not now recollect — da Kalb was mortally wounded — & was discharged shortly after the battle, and returned home having been in the service 4 months at least. He had scarcely reached home when about the first of September he was again drafted, and put into a company commanded by Capt Forbish [John or Arthur Forbis, often spelled Forbes] in Colonel Pasleys [sic: John Peasley's] Regiment, was stationed the greater part of the time while under this engagement at the Waxhaws [SC] was occasionally under the command of Col. Davison (being the same officer who as above stated had engaged the party of Tories at Colsons ferry, & was also under the command of Col. or Genl Rutherford [Gen. Griffith Rutherford] — was in no battle during this tour, the party to which he belonged was raised for the suppression of Tories & to preserve good order in the country. he recollects that this was termed the "pumpion campaign, from the fact, that the men had to subsist a large portion of their time on pumpions [pumpkins] & very indifferent beef — he was dismissed from the service the first of December, having been therein 3 months — He was again drafted some time during the winter ensuing his last mentioned time at Guilford County and under the command of Col. Pasley was marched against a party of Scotch Tories who were operating in favour of the Royal army near Raft Swamps. The Tories had done some mischief, but the country being somewhat settled and the disturbance

quieted this applicant was again permitted to return home having been under this engagement about 6 weeks. The distance he was marched from Guilford to Raft Swamps was probably about ninety miles he was during this term in no engagement nor in company with any Regular soldiers

The said Applicant states that he volunteered to act as spy and ranger in the month of March in 1781 with a small party of militiamen from Guilford County under the command of Captain Forbish and for this purpose was marched to a place called the Iron works & from that towards the confines of the State of Virginia and North Carolina, ranged the Country in various directions, but was in no engagement. he continued on duty under Captain Forbish about fifteen days when he was dismissed from service, was not in company with regular soldiers or officers — That including all the above terms of service this applicant unhesitatingly states that he served at least Nine months. In answer to the interrogatories to be propounded by this Court as prescribed by the war department, this applicant states that he was born in 1760, in Guilford County North Carolina; that he has no record of his age; since the Revolution he continued to reside in the State of North Carolina until about 2 years since, when he moved to Ohio that he removed from Ohio to Hendricks County above mentioned about 1 year ago — For the manner & place of entering the service he refers to the preceeding part of this declaration. he has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person (Nearer than N.C.) whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service he also states that he received a discharge from Capt. McAdoo and has since lost them &c

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 any agency of any state or territory. The Applicant states that he is acquainted with no Clergymen in this County

[signed] W wiley

[Certified by Abner Wiley and Thomas Wilson.]

State of Indiana Marion County SS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace, in and for the County of Marion aforesaid William Wiley who has sworn and subscribed the annexed declarative who being duly sworn, deposed & saith that, by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his third and 4th tours of service, but according the best of his recollection he served not less than the period of six weeks as a private soldier in said third tour & 15 days in the last. that he was in the service as a private soldier for three months at least during the second tour of service. And that he was in the service as a private soldier under his first engagement for not less than four months.

And the said Wiley saith, that he has resided in the County of Hendricks but a short time and that he is not at all acquainted with any clergyman in the State of Indiana, and in fact has had no permanent acquaintance with any clergyman since he left the state of North Carolina which, as appears by the declaration has been but about two years since, & to require him to produce the evidence of a clergyman would be to deprive him of the benefit of the act under which he makes application. That the general circumstances of his service are as fully detailed in the annexed declaration as it is in the power of the deponent at this time to detail the same, that the Capt. under whom he served during his first engagement was of the name of John McAdoo, in Col. Armstrongs Regt. & that on reflection he thinks his Lieutenants name was James Coots. He was under his second engagement in Captain Forbish's Company, in the regiment Commanded by Col. Pasley a part of the time & was the remainder of of the tour under Col. Davison & Col. or General Rutherford. That in his third tour he served under Capt Steward as he now thinks with a Regt. or party Commanded by Col. Pasley. And that in his last tour he served under Capt Forbish & that he has no recollection of any other of the officers names who served during this tour. That the reason of his making this supplemental affidavit in the County of Marion instead of in the Co. of Hendricks where he is a resident is because it is about as convenient to himself & because the person who makes out these papers resides in the said County of Marion.

Sworn to & subscribed this 25th day of Feby 1833

[signed] Wm Wiley

NOTE: On 13 Nov 1843 Ann Wiley, 72, applied for a pension stating that she married William Wiley on 4 Jan 1789, and he died 12 Oct 1838. The license for the marriage of William Wiley to Ann Shannon was dated 29 Dec 1787 in Guilford County NC and signed by James Shannon. In this application she named their children as follows: Abner Wiley, 54; Shannon, 52; Samuel, 50; William, 47; Isaiah, 42; Alpherd, 40. The file also includes an original family record, now largely illegible. Parts of the record were later transcribed in a typed summary as follows:

Abner Wiley born December 25, 1789.

Shannon Wiley " January 4, 1791.

Samuel Wiley " February 24, 1793.

William Wiley " December 18, 1796.

Isaiah Wiley " March 23, 1801.

Alpherd or Alfred " March 18, 1803.

Legible portions of the original record appear as follows:

Allon Wiley was born Septemer the 16 1787

[J]Josiah Wiley was born October the 9 1788

Josiah Wiley was born October the 9th 1788

jesse wiley was born Setember 20 th 1790

Josalehlah wiley was born november 12 1792

J[??]ab jonathan Wiley

Jonathan Wiley was born Setember the 21 year 179[?]

Shanon Wiley [illegible word]

Abner Wiley

Sammueley

William Wileys Childrens age.

Allon Wiley was born the 16th of September 1787

Josiah wiley was Born October the 9th Day 1788

Jassey wiley was Born September the 20th day 1790

Josalalah wiley was Born November the 12th Day 1792

Jonathan wiley was Born September the 21st Day 1794

David wiley was Born august the Forth Day 1796

Elisabeth wiley was Born December the 19th Day 1799

Abenar wiley was Born January the 31st Day 1802