

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Lewis Wills (Willis) W1018

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee }  
Green [sic] County }

On this 1 day of September 1827 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial district of s'd state Lewis Will's resident in said County aged Eighty three years who being first duly Sworn according to Law doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820 that he the said Lewis Wills entered the Army of the United States for the term of Eighteen months on or about the first of May 1781 in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Lamb [sic: Nathan Lamme] in the Regt commanded by Colonel Castins [sic: Thomas Gaskins] in the line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment. That He continued to serve in said Corpse until the expiration of the term of service when he was discharged from the service at Winchester Barracks in the State of Virginia, that during his term of service he was in a battle under General Wain at old James Town [sic: Anthony Wayne at Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] and at the taking of Lord con Wallice at little York [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]

That he hereby relinquishes every claim Whatever to a pension except the present that his name is not on the roll of any state except Virginia and that he has never rec'd one cent from any of the States or the United States by way of a pension

That the following is the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension Viz – That he was not willing to ask any thing from his government while he was able to support himself by his labour But now by reason of old age and bodily infirmity he is reduced to the humiliating necessity to ask assistance from that Government that he has assisted to establish by devoting the best periods of his life to the Service of his Country. That he is a farmer by profession and is in such indigent circumstances that he needs the assistance of his Country

And in persuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. That since the year 1818 the following changes have been made in my property Towit – In the year 1818 I was in the possession of a Tract of Land that I purchased from one Tenker but was unable to pay him for said Land and consequently had to sell it to a Mr. Sam'l. Bowman to pay for the Sar[page damaged] 2 Cows But now dead and horse beast which died some years ago – So that Applicant has not now one dollars worth of property in the world save his wearing apparral necessary beading [bedding] – Sworn & subscribed the day & date first above written Lewis hisXmark Will's [Thomas Lackey (pension application W8023) made a supporting declaration.]

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates compiled at Powhatan Courthouse lists the following: Lewis Willies/ age 16/ height 5' 5"/ dark hair/ grey eyes/ dark complexion/ planter/ born and residing in Stafford County where he enlisted as a substitute for 18 months on 22 Mar 1781. Sized 27 Apr 1781.

On 27 Sep 1845 Elinder Wills, 79, applied for a pension stating that she married Lewis Wills in

Nash County NC on 15 Oct 1792, and he died in Greene County TN on 5 Mar 1832. On 28 Apr 1848 her name and age were given as Elender Willis, 75. On 3 Mar 1856 Jacob Wills, son of Lewis and Elender Wills, applied for the amount of pension owed to his mother up to her death on 22 April 1853 in behalf of himself and the other children, all living in Greene County: Robert Wills, Sophia Wills, Elender Wills, and Martha Wills. William Rollins and William Houston (pension application S1835) made supporting declarations.