

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wilson W1116

Nancy Wilson f137NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/18/17

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County} SS

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord 1838 personally appeared before the Honorable the Circuit Court of the State of Tennessee begun and held for the County of Rutherford on the first Monday instant, Nancy Wilson, aged about seventy-five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1838, entitled "an act granting half pay & pensions to certain widows," that she is the widow of William Wilson who was a Captain of the revolutionary war, He was in the whole of the Southern war of the revolution. This deponent cannot remember at this late period the campaigns he served. She knows he was at the battle at Ramsour's [June 20, 1780], at the battle at Gates defeat [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] and she thinks at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]. He served as Captain every time that she recollects of his were going out. He was wounded at Ramsour's. This declarant does not recollect the dates. Her husband some time during the war was wounded in one or both arms, a bayonet stab (or sword) in the small of his back, on one shoulder he was cut, on his back he was wounded with a ball, his face was burnt badly with powder. Captain Steele was with him at Ramsour's. John Todd or James Todd was Lieutenant of his company at Ramsour's. She does not recollect the officers under whom he served. She states he served at times under Generals Locke [Francis Locke] and Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. There was not a campaign from the time the war broke out in the South till he was wounded in February 1781, in which he was not in the service. He served as a volunteer. She further declares that she was married to the said William Wilson in the County of Rowan, on the fifth day of March in the year 1785, and that her husband the aforesaid William Wilson died on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1817 – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794, viz., at the time above stated.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, the date above.

S/ Samuel H. Hodge, Clerk

S/ Nancy Wilson, X her mark

[p 8]

To the Honorable The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States

Your petitioner, Nancy Wilson, aged eighty years, some twelve months since, made an application to the War Department for a pension under the Act of Congress passed in 1838. She introduced proof, and established the services of her late husband, Captain William Wilson – who served as Captain during the greater part of the Revolutionary War. He entered the service from Rowan County, North Carolina. The proof as to his services was irresistible; but for want

of documentary proof, a pension (as the widow of a Captain) could not be allowed. For many reasons your petitioner could not waive her right to a Captain's pay, and take that of a private. Your petitioner informed the Pension agent that she would receive the pay of a private, reserving to herself the privilege of still applying for that of a Captain when she could get such proof as would be satisfactory to the department. But, on account of this reservation, the Commissioner of Pensions declined of allowing her any pension whatever. In his letter to her of the 27<sup>th</sup> of August last, he says, "The offer (of a private's pension) was made to the claimant in this case; but as it has not been unconditionally accepted, no certificate will be granted."

The proof is satisfactory that her husband was a meritorious officer. He was in many a hard fought battle; and carried honorable scars to his grave. John Wilson, his brother, was killed in the war of the Revolution. Two of his sons, (the sons of your petitioner) fought under the command of General Jackson [Andrew Jackson] in the late war, one of them died at Fort Strother, the other was wounded in an engagement with the Indians, one of her nephews, was killed at the battle of the Horse Shoe, another at Fort Strother, a third was taken prisoner at New Orleans, and a fourth (in the regular service) was wounded at New Orleans. These are some of the family of your petitioner, who have done service for their country. That her husband was stripped of everything, and received for his long services only "promises to pay," is but the history of thousands; and, if the tardy justice of her country at last directs that the relicts of those Revolutionary heroes should receive a recompense for a life of privation and poverty, it is hard that these ends should be defeated by rules impossible, in almost every case, to be fulfilled.

She lays these things before your honorable body, with the documents & papers touching her case (which were laid before the Commissioner of Pensions) and prays that she may have such pension as the proof will justify.

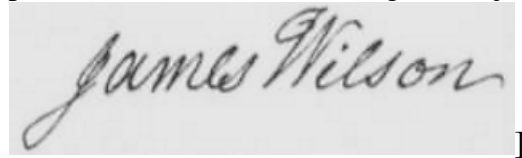
And as in duty &c.

Rutherford County, Tennessee November 20, 1839

S/ Nancy Wilson

[Documents in the file indicate that William Wilson, born about 1746, married Nancy Trott, daughter of James Trott of Rowan County, NC, William died in 1817. William married Nancy on March 5, 1785 in Rowan County, NC. Nancy died October 6, 1854 in Rutherford County, Tenn. William and Nancy had the following children: James, a second child, born February 5, 1788; eldest child (not named) was born 23 months prior to James' birth; two unidentified sons bought in the War of 1812 under Andrew Jackson; William had at least two brothers, one named Samuel who died in 1838 and the other named John was killed in the Revolution.]

[p 6: On November 20, 1838 in Rutherford County Tennessee, James Wilson, gave testimony that he is the 2<sup>nd</sup> child of William and Nancy Wilson; that he has seen the family record of his parents' children but it has been lost; that his own birth was recorded in that record and he made a copy of it showing that he was born February 5, 1788; that the family record kept by his parents was in the handwriting of Benjamin Leach.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The name "James" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than "Wilson".

[p 46]

State of Tennessee, Maury County

Before me Joseph Herndon a justice of the peace for said County, personally appeared

David Dobbins<sup>1</sup> aged 81 years, who after being first duly sworn, Deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Captain William Wilson in the Revolutionary war, that said Wilson entered the service in the State of North Carolina as a Lieutenant of Militia, against the Indians and Tories on Saluda River in South Carolina in the year 1775, and served at that time three months – his superior officers were General Griffith Rutherford and Colonel Francis Lock [sic, Francis Locke], in this Campaign, George Cowen was Captain. That said Wilson served a tour of duty of three months in the year 1776 – as Captain commanding a company in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians, in their nation<sup>2</sup> – the same persons being his superior officers.

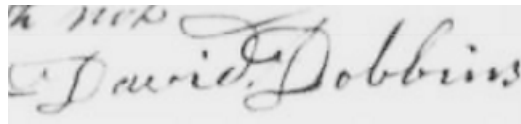
That said Wilson served a third tour of duty of three months, in the year 1779 as a Captain commanding a company against the Scots at a place called Cross Creek, the same persons still being commanding officers. Said Wilson performed another tour of duty, as Captain commanding a company of volunteers at Ramsour's Mill in North Carolina. In this campaign he was wounded by a shot through his thighs; this was in the year 1779 or 1780 – and this deponent believes the same persons were still commanding officers.

Deponent believes that said William Wilson served several other tours of duty, but is not able to state any of the particulars in relation thereto.

The deponent was not present when said William Wilson was married but feels confident that was married in the year 1779 or 1780.

That he was at said Wilson's residence in the year 1785 or 1786 as well as he recollects, that he was then keeping house, and living as a married man, with a woman whose maiden name was Ann Trott, and they then had two children as well as he recollects, and it was reputed and believed in the neighborhood that they were married. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1838.

S/ David Dobbins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Dobbins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

S/ John Herndon, JP

[p 92]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County

Before me George A. Lublett [?], a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid this day personally appeared Hugh Robinson (County Surveyor for the County of Cannon) who after being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that he is 70 years of age, that he was well acquainted with Captain William Wilson, from deponent's earliest recollection until the time of said Wilson's death, which occurred some 10 or 15 years since. Captain Wilson was raised in Rowan County North Carolina. Captain Wilson served as a Captain in the Revolutionary War, from its commencement in the South, till the month of February 1781. He belonged to the rifle & militia Corps. He commanded a rifle company at the battle of the Cowpens; he was slightly wounded there. In this battle John Todd was Lieutenant, General Morgan [ Daniel Morgan] was the commander, and deponent has heard Captain Wilson's say he could here Morgan's voice in the midst of the hottest fire. He commanded a company at the engagement at Ramsour's. Deponent's father was then a private in Captain Wilson's company. There were on the side of the Whigs eight companies – they had no commander higher than Captain, unless perhaps Shelby acted as Major. Six of the captains were killed or wounded; among the former were Captains Falls, Armstrong, Steele and another not remembered, among the wounded were Captain Wilson.

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<sup>1</sup> [David Dobbins S1805](#)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cherokee\\_expedition\\_1776.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html)

His eyes were nearly blown out, & he was blind for a time. Colonel Joseph Bryant commanded the Tories in this engagement. This battle was fought on a creek of the Catawba River. In February 1781, the British were encamped near the residence of deponent's father, and Captain Wilson, with James Todd, John Todd and one Conley were in the habit of going up with their guns near to the camp of the enemy, partly for the purpose of watching their movements but principally to get a shot at the redcoats as they might stray away from camp. One day while on a visit of this kind in a winding road they came suddenly upon the whole of Tarleton's horse, in this dilemma Captain Wilson & companions, in no wise dismayed fired upon them, & then ran off. The enemy overtook Wilson, shot him in the back with a pistol, ran a sword through his right abdomen, and cut his head to pieces; notwithstanding all his wounds, he survived; and this deponent living within a mile and a half, from where Captain Wilson was wounded, assisted in taking him home. Captain Wilson never entered the service again. About the year 1785 or 1786, Captain Wilson intermarried with Nancy Trott, the daughter of James Trott of Rowan. Deponent remembers well when they were married. Though deponent was not at the wedding, he lived in one mile & a half of where they were married; & on account of Captain Wilson's parents being opposed to his marrying the matter was much talked of at the time. After Captain Wilson & Nancy Trott were married they lived within 5 miles of Deponent until about the year 1801 when deponent came to Tennessee. In 1815, they also moved to Tennessee, where deponent knew them till Captain Wilson's death. The widow is still alive & unmarried, living at the residence of her late husband in Rutherford County. Deponent believes that Captain Wilson was constantly in the military service, while it was necessary in the South; he remembers, among the earliest things of his remembrance, of his father's & Captain Wilson's return from the burning of Nicojack [?] in the Cherokee nation in the year 1775. Deponent knows only of three month tours of three months each in which Captain Wilson served as Captain of Militia; though he believes he served during the whole Southern war.

Subscribed & sworn to before made this 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1838.

S/ Geo. A. Lublett, JP

S/ Hugh Robinson



[p 95]

State of Tennessee, Marshall County

James Wilson<sup>3</sup> being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God by & before James M. Riggs a Justice of the Peace in & for said County of Marshall deposeth and saith that he lives in the said County of Marshall in the state of Tennessee, that he is eighty-six years old & upwards, that he served in the Militia during the A revolutionary War for which he now receives a pension from the United States, that he was born in Mecklenburg County North Carolina, that he was well acquainted with Captain William Wilson during the war of the revolution, that the said Captain William Wilson was born in Rowan County North Carolina as he understood and believes, that he expressly knows that the said William Wilson was Captain of a militia company during the Revolutionary War, that he distinctly remembers having seen the said Captain Wilson in command of a company on at least two tours of service, that he the said James Wilson was out doing service as a private on those occasions, but in another company, but that the company he was in, & the one commanded by the said Captain Wilson, we were together on several

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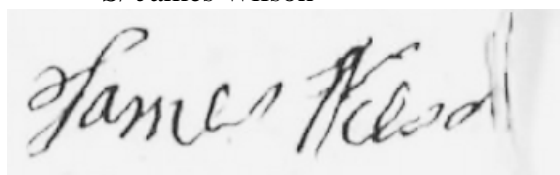
3 He MAY be the James Wilson whose pension is transcribed [James Wilson S3565](#)

occasions during said tours, that he was with said company commanded by said Captain Wilson on several occasions during said tours, when the company he was in & one commanded by said Captain Wilson fell in together, and that on every occasion when they so met he saw the said Captain Wilson in command of his said company, that it was in the years 1778 and 1779 that he met with & saw Captain Wilson in said command of his company as aforesaid, that in the performance of said tours of service they were engaged against the Indians & Tories both in North & South Carolina – that he frequently heard both before and after the occasions when he saw said Captain Wilson in command of his company as aforesaid, that the said Captain Wilson was in command of his Company – that the tours of service in which the said Captain Wilson was engaged, were for 3, 4, 5 or 6 months but never for less than three months, that he has heard & understood that the said Captain Wilson is now dead, & has heard that he left a widow who is now living – and further says that he frequently heard that the said Captain William Wilson was badly wounded at an engagement in which the said Captain Wilson was engaged as Captain of his company at Ramsour's mill, on the South fork of the Catawba [River] in North Carolina – and further saith not.

Sworn & subscribed before me a Justice of the Peace in & for said County of Marshall, State of Tennessee this sixth day of November 1839.

S/ Jas. M. Riggs, JP

S/ James Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Wilson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[p 102]

State of Tennessee, Rutherford County

Before me George A. Lublett a justice of the peace in & for the County of Rutherford aforesaid, this day personally appeared William Mitchell,<sup>4</sup> a pensioner of the United States, who after being first duly sworn deposed & saith that about twenty years since he had frequent conversations with Samuel Wilson brother of William Wilson, both deceased revolutionary soldiers; that said Samuel told deponent William Wilson served as Captain at the battle of the Cowpens, and on the night previous to the battle, a Council of war was held where it was determined that they should fight the next morning; that after this determination, General Morgan went around among the troops to give orders &c that when he got to Captain William Wilson's quarters, he said to him "Captain, don't let your men sleep too sound tonight, for Tarleton will attack us in the morning & we'll feel damn ugly with cold bayonets in our guts." Samuel Wilson was a man of undisputable [sic] character.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 1838.

S/ Geo. A. Lublett, JP

S/ Wm Mitchell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Mitchell". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

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State of Tennessee, Rutherford County

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4 [William Mitchell S4221](#)

Before me George A. Lublett a justice of the peace in & for the County of Rutherford aforesaid, this day personally appeared John Barkley,<sup>5</sup> aged about seventy-five years, who after being first duly sworn deposed & saith, that he is a pensioner of the United States, that he knew Captain William Wilson in the Revolutionary War, that Captain Wilson was a stout man and zealous in the Whig cause during the war: He was Captain of the Militia before he went out to service, he was fond of a military life, this deponent does not exactly know when Captain Wilson first entered the service, but thinks he entered the service when it first broke out in the South; he was at Ramsour's at the battle fought there; he was out constantly during the war in the South till he was wounded at Second Creek near the Yadkin, about the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 1781. Cornwallis lay at the Yadkin three days, viz., from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1781, Captain Wilson did not get over his wounds till the war ended, every time deponent knew of Wilson going out, except perhaps during the first Campaign, he served as Captain of militia. Captain Wilson was married shortly after the war, to Nancy Trott. Deponent lived seven or 8 miles from them, at the time of the wedding, he was not at it, but heard of it at the time it took place, Captain Wilson died in Rutherford County some 20 years since. His widow is still alive, and lives now in Rutherford, & has never married since the death of Captain Wilson.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 1838  
S/ Geo. A. Lublett, JP

S/ John Barkley



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State of Tennessee, Marshall County

Before me Thomas Wilson a Justice of the Peace for said County personally appeared Samuel Hillis<sup>6</sup> age seventy-nine who after being duly sworn Deposed & saith that he was well acquainted with Captain William Wilson in the Revolutionary War, that said Wilson entered the service in the State of North Carolina, that said Wilson Served a tour of duty of three months in the year 1776 as Captain commanding a company in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians in their nation; his superior officers were General Griffith Rutherford and Colonel Francis Locke. Said Wilson performed another tour of duty as Captain commanding a company of volunteers at Ramsour's mill in North Carolina in this Campaign he was wounded by a shot through his thighs, this was in the year 1779 to the best of my recollection and I carried him on my back to my own house after he was wounded in nine different places. I heard of his serving several other tours of duty but is not about to state any other particulars in relation thereto the said witness says he was acquainted with a young woman by the name of Ann Trott and always understood that the said William Wilson married the said Ann Trott. The witness states that he lost his eye sight in the year 1779 and he (the witness) was blind when he carried said Wilson to his house after being wounded.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November A.D. 1838.

S/ Thomas Wilson, JP

S/ Samuel Hillis, X his mark

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5 [John Barkley S2960](#)

6 [Samuel Hillis S2314](#)

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State of North Carolina, Rowan County: to wit

Before me Samuel Marlin a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Rowan aforesaid this day personally appeared Benjamin Knox<sup>7</sup> aged about 80 years who after being duly sworn, deposeth & saith that he was well acquainted with Captain William Wilson formerly of this state and knew him to have the command of a company in the revolutionary war and always heard him spoken of as a brave soldier and further saith that he was with Captain Wilson in a battle called Ramsour's battle where he fought bravely, as to the length of his services he cannot certify but has ever heard him spoken of, as one who rendered great service to his country and further this deponent saith not.

S/ Benjamin Knox, X his mark

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 1839; and I do certify that the above deponent is a person of respectability & worthy of credit.

S/ S. Marlin, JP

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4, 1836, for her husband service as a Captain in the North Carolina militia.]

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7 [Benjamin Knox S8800](#)