

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wilson W2218 Rachel Wilson f41NC
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 1/20/11: rev'd 3/9/24

[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.]

[p 4]

State of Tennessee Carter County } Circuit Court September Term 1832

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Samuel Powell one of the Judges &c now holding the Circuit Court in and for the said County, William Wilson, a resident of the County of Carter and State of Tennessee 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That sometime in the month of June 1779 (as well as he can remember) he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Ninian Hoskins, and was at that time a citizen of Washington County North Carolina (now Carter & Washington Counties in Tennessee). That after he volunteered as above stated, his company joined Colonel John Sevier at a point on Doe River about half a mile above the place where Elizabethton now stands. That from thence he marched under Col. Sevier – as his superior officer – through the wilderness, to French Broad River, and after crossing it, they went to Boyd's Creek five miles distant, and was there attacked¹ by the Cherokee Indians, Col. Sevier's force at that time amounted to about two hundred and fifty, and the number of Indians is not known by this affiant. The engagement continued about half an hour and the Indians were completely routed. The number of Indians in killed and wounded was not accurately ascertained, but supposed to be about eighty. None of the whites were killed as well as he recollects – though a few were wounded. Affiant states that at this time he was acquainted with Captain Robert Bean, in addition to the officers above named.

After the engagement above described and during the time Col. Sevier's force remained on the battle ground, an express was received from Col. Arthur Campbell of Virginia instructing Col. Sevier not to proceed any further into the Indian Country (as was his original design) until Col. Campbell should come up with him. Col. Sevier accordingly went back about five miles, and encamped five days in an Island situated in the French Broad River, waiting for the arrival of Col. Campbell, where the troops, during that time, were without food. On the fifth day Col. Campbell joined Col. Sevier, with about five hundred and fifty men from Virginia under his command and on the day following Colonels Campbell and Sevier began their march for the

¹ Battle of Boyd's Creek (Tennessee, then North Carolina) December 16, 1780
<http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boydscreek.html>

Indians. The same day they arrived at the Big Island Town, an Indian village on the Tennessee River, which was burnt, and a great number of Indians killed and taken prisoners. They then marched into the Indian country further and destroyed all of the Indian towns in succession amounting to thirteen in number. Among others they destroyed the following towns, to wit: Tellico, Chota, Cowee and others whose names are not now recollected. Chilhowee was the last Indian town burnt. The whites were engaged eight days before that town with the Indians, before a successful attempt was made at firing it. About one hundred and fifty Indians, including women and children, were taken prisoners, during this excursion, and after the battle of Chilhowee, they were taken to Long Island, in the Holston River, and left by Colonels Campbell & Sevier, until after the treaty of Long Island [July 1777] when they were exchanged. So soon as the prisoners were left at Long Island, the troops were disbanded and affiant returned home. He was out on this excursion three months – but never received a regular discharge.

After remaining at home about four days, he again volunteered under Captain James Roddy [a/k/a James Rodey], and came to the place where Elizabethton now stands, where he joined Col. Sevier who had about three hundred men under his command, and marched over the Yellow Mountain and through North Carolina, into South Carolina, where he joined General Francis Marion, at a point low down on the Santee River, in the swamps. His Lieutenant on this occasion was by the name of Ford [Joseph Ford of Washington County NC militia], and he knew Col. Charles Robinson [sic, Charles Robertson] and Captain Bean. He remained under General Marion's [command] until the termination of the Revolutionary War, a period of about two years, and during this time was occupied in roving about the swamps of Santee under his command, and in occasionally volunteering upon those excursions which were made by Marion's men from their hiding place. He was present when one hundred and one prisoners surrendered to Major Walton [Jesse Walton of Surry County NC militia] at the two and twenty mile house, which was a British Hospital. He was also present when the firing had commenced between Marion's men & the British near Charleston, and when a British Dragoon, who was a deserter came up and informed Marion that the British had nearly surrounded his Army. Marion perceiving the statement to be correct, gave orders to his men to retreat, and affiant was among those who retreated back to the swamps of Santee & crossed that River the same evening – Col. Sevier did not remain all the time with Marion, but Col. Robinson, Captains Roddy and Bean & Lieutenant Ford, continued there as long as affiant did, and when the news came that the war had ended, affiant was marched home under Lieutenant Ford.

Affiant was born in 1759 or '60 in Amelia County Virginia, and came to this country when he was quite small, and has resided here ever since. The place of his residence was at the time of the Revolution a part of Washington County North Carolina, and since the establishment of Tennessee, included in the County of Carter. He has no record of his age, and no documentary evidence by which to establish the truth of his claim. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service except his brothers Joseph and John Wilson who both volunteered at the same time he did, and who both served with him during the greater part of the time mentioned in this statement, and their affidavit is hereunto annexed. 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 to his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court

Test: S/ A. M. Carter, Clk

S/ William Wilson, X his mark

By S/ Wm B. Carter, DC

[p 7]

State of Tennessee Carter County: Circuit Court September Term 1832

Joseph Wilson² aged 74 years and John Wilson³ aged 76 years, both citizens of the County and State aforesaid, make oath that they have heard the foregoing affidavit of William Wilson read and know of their own knowledge that all the material facts therein stated are true. They volunteered at the same time and place mentioned by their brother William, under the same officers and performed the same services he did in the Indian War. They both volunteered at the same time and place stated by him both in an under the same officers when they went to South Carolina. John Wilson continued with William during the whole time he remained with Marion's Army, and knows of his own knowledge that William served as he states. Joseph Wilson volunteered at the same time William did, and went with him and John as stated in the foregoing affidavit, to South Carolina, and joined Marion's Army, but was absent therefrom a part of the time serving under Colonel Charles McDowell in South and North Carolina. He however believes that William Wilson served as he states, during his absence, and knows that while he continued with him he served as he alleges.

Sworn to & subscribed this 17th of September 1832 in open court

Test: S/ A. M. Carter, Clk

By S/ Wm B. Carter, DC

S/ Jhon Wilson [sic]

S/ Joseph Wilson, X his mark

Handwritten signatures of Jhon Wilson and Joseph Wilson. The signature of Jhon Wilson is written above the signature of Joseph Wilson. Below the signature of Joseph Wilson, there is an 'X' mark and the words 'his mark' written in cursive.

[Green Moore and Abel Dugger gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 35]

Affidavit amendatory of William Wilson's Declaration

State of Tennessee

Carter County} Personally came before me John Ward an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, William Wilson who makes oath, that after having performed the tour of duty first specified in his original declaration he served as follows.

In the latter part of the Summer or early in the fall of 1779 or 80 – as well as he recollects – he volunteered, as stated in Said declaration, under Captain James Roddy at the place where Elizabethton now stands, in the regiment of North Carolina militia, commanded by Colonel Sevier and marched across the Yellow Mountain, and through North Carolina into South Carolina, where he joined General Francis Marion, under whom he continued to Serve until the expiration of three months for which term of time he had volunteered. – Without having obtained a discharge he immediately volunteered under Captain Roddy and remained in the Service for the term of three months the period for which he had volunteered. It was during this period, as affiant believes, that the persons mentioned in his original declaration, Surrendered to Major Walton at the two and twenty mile house.

Having procured no discharge he again volunteered under Captain Roddy and remained in the Service for the term of three months – the length of time for which he entered it. It was during this period, as well as he can remember, that the occurrence before Charleston and the

² [Joseph Wilson S3569](#)

³ [John Wilson W6540](#)

circumstances connected therewith, as described in his original declaration, transpired.

At the expiration of three months last mentioned, this affiant, having received no discharge, again volunteered, under Captain Roddy, for the term of three months, during which period, he Continued in the Service. Having received no discharge he again volunteered under the Same officers &c and Served two three months tours in succession, in the Same manner as before described. He thinks the last term ended Sometime in the fall of 1781. – At the end of this tour, he immediately again volunteered under the Same officers, and Served for the term of three months on each occasion, until he was verbally discharged by Lieutenant Ford, under whom this affiant marched home. During the whole time, affiant served, as stated, in South Carolina, Genl. Marion was his Superior officer; and, with him, Col. Robinson, Captains Roddy and Bean and Lieutenant Ford, this deponent was acquainted. The Seven tours of three months each last mentioned in this affidavit, were performed by this affiant; in immediate Succession of each other, and in all that time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit interfering with his duties as a Soldier. He is Confident of having Served three months as first stated in his original declaration, and also of having Served the Seven tours above mentioned, of three months each, amounting in all to twenty four months actual service performed by this affiant on behalf of the United States during the Revolutionary War.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of March 1833

John Ward, JP for Carter County

William Wilson, X his mark

[On May 25, 1848 in Johnson County Tennessee, Rachel Wilson, 85, made application for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of William Wilson, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband drew a pension to that day of his death on September 27, 1847; that her wedding took place prior to January 1, 1794. In another document the widow stated she married her husband in February 1784 and that they were married by B. Wilson, JP in Washington County North Carolina; that the only record she has of her marriage is in the family Bible of her father and that said Bible is in the possession of another family member who moved to Georgia and she has no information of its whereabouts. The widow died November 21, 1852. In other documents in the file there is a statement that the veteran and his wife Rachel had three children prior to 1794. The widow signed each of the documents contained in this file with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848.]