

## [Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of William Wedgbare<sup>1</sup> (alias, Underwood) W2292 Margaret Wedgbare

f59VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/21/11 rev'd 12/17/15 & 8/10/20 & 10/5/22

[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.]

[Note: The images of the documents in this file are much more legible as posted on [HeritageQuest.com](#) and [Ancestry.com](#) than on [Fold3.com](#) where the images are very faint.]

[p 15]

State of North Carolina Haywood County: Superior Court of Law October Term 1824

This day came William Wigebare [sic] alias William Underwood aged 65 years into open Court being a Court of record for Haywood County for the purpose of obtaining a pension as a Soldier of the Revolutionary Army being unable to support himself any longer by bodily Infirmary. That he enlisted in the Virginia Continental establishment for the war on the 19th of March or thereabouts 1780 for the war, In the County of Culpeper, that he was marched to Cumberland Courthouse & there Inspected & received by Baron Steuben<sup>2</sup> – that he continued to serve faithfully in the Army on Continental establishment serving faithfully as a soldier in various skirmishes under the command of Captain Baron Steuben in the first Regiment of Virginia Regulars on Continental Establishment commanded by Colonel Posey [Thomas Posey], Major Finley [Samuel Finley or Findley], Captain Shelton's [possibly Capt. Clough Shelton's]<sup>3</sup> company, always in service was at the Siege of Yorktown where Lord Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781] after which he fell under the command of General Wayne [Anthony Wayne] & was marched South & was at the time of the Evacuation of Charlestown [December 1782] before that city & also at Savannah [July 11, 1782], that he then continued in Service until discharged as appears from the certificate annexed.

And that he further swears that he has always been a resident citizen of the United States. That he has lived in the County of Haywood for near nine years, that he has not for the purposes of bringing himself within the provisions of an act of Congress passed the 18th of March 1818 and the subsequent acts of Congress making provision for persons Engaged in the Land & naval Service of the United States during the Revolutionary war conveyed away any of his property

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt72-60-55; BLWt11797; and BLWt12684-100-1795

<sup>2</sup> C. Leon Harris points out that the veteran is in error in stating that he was inspected by Steuben in 1780 as Steuben did not arrive to take command in Virginia until 1781.

<sup>3</sup> [Clough Shelton BLWt740-300](#) He is the only VA Captain in the Continental Line by the name of "Shelton" or "Sheldon" that I could find. Capt. Shelton was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston SC on May 12, 1780. At some point he must have been exchanged because he, in his capacity as a Captain in the VA Continental Line, made returns in Lt. Col. Thomas Posey's 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment covering January to April of 1782. See [B52](#) Thanks to Jim Underwood for calling my attention to Shelton's service after his capture at Charleston.

debts due or claims either in law or equity for the purpose of receiving any benefit thereby & for the purpose of obtaining a pension from the United States. That he [is] infirm having met with the misfortune to have his back & [one or more indecipherable words or figures]<sup>4</sup> That he cannot obtain a comfortable subsistence by his bodily labor. That he has no other Property of any kind or claim either in law or equity – by which he expects to gain any benefit except that contained in the following schedule to wit

Schedule of William Widge barre [sic] alias William Underwood

One nag about \$40	That he has contracted for a Tract of land of 50 acres of the State at \$75 & paid only \$9.75 & no more money to pay the balance & that the State will not give him the land until paid for.
2 Cows & calves \$20	
2 beds & furniture \$15	
Kitchen furniture \$7	
Some Poultry \$6.50	
Working Tools[?] \$7	
\$89.50	

He lives on the State's land without any title & has a wife 55 years old infirm & in a consumptive habit & three children now with him a son nearly of full age, a daughter about 15 & Little son about 10 years of age and no way of support but his trade of a farmer which he is not able to do much at.

Sworn to in open Court

S/ John B Love, Clerk

S/ William Wedgebare, X his mark [sic]

[attested October 17, 1824]

[p 59]

THESE are to CERTIFY that the bearer hereof  
*William Wedgebare* in the *1st Virginia* regiment, having faithfully  
 served the United States from the *19th March 1780*  
 and being inlisted for the war, is  
 hereby discharged from the American army:  
 Given at the war office the *30th July 1783*  
 By order of the Secretary at war *[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
 Registered in the books of the regiment,  
 adjutant.

[p 7: On June 28, 1847 in Gilmer County Georgia, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefit to the Georgia agency stating that his reason for moving there was so that his children could take care of him in his old age in his rather helpless condition. He signed this document "William Weagbon alias William Underwood, X his mark"]

[p 20: On October 4, 1852 in Union County Georgia, the widow, Margaret Underwood, aged about 60 years, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of William Wedgbare alias William Underwood, a revolutionary war pensioner; that her husband died May 9, 1852; that they were married May 15, 1832 in Macon County North Carolina; that they continued to live there 14 years; that she now resides in Union County Georgia. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Image 61 on HQ version: On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1853 in Union County Georgia, the widow, 53, filed another application for a pension under the 1853 act; in this document she alleges that she was married to William Wedgbare alias William Underwood on July 10, 1833; that her husband died May 4, 1852 and that she remains his widow. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 28: On May 28, 1853 in Union County Georgia, the widow, 53, filed an affidavit in which she states that her name prior to her marriage was Margaret Willson; that there are two children of the said William Wedgbare alias William Underwood now living whose names are Thomas J Underwood, & Nelson Underwood only surviving children of said William Wedgbare alias William Underwood.]

[p 6: July 23, 1853, John S Fain, ordinary of the County Court of Union County Georgia certified that he has examined the family register in the Bible of Margaret Underwood and that that record shows the marriage of William Wedgbare Alias William Underwood to Miss Margaret Wilson on June 20, 1831 by Thomas Roggers Esquire of Macon County North Carolina.]

[p 11: On March 19, 1855 in Fannin County Georgia, the widow, Margaret Widgbare alias Underwood, aged 53, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Widgbare alias William Underwood.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing April 6, 1825, 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 February 3rd, 1853, for her husband service as a private in the Virginia Continental line.]

[Note: C. Leon Harris noted the following in any email sent to me 12/17/15:

Will, for the past couple of days I have been corresponding with Paul Heinegg, who for 30 years has been compiling information on free African Americans of VA, NC, SC, MD, and DE <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/> He has been very helpful with names on the size rolls I transcribed. He suggested that one of them, listed on the size roll as William Wigborn, a "yellow" man, is actually William Wedgbare alias Underwood whose application you transcribed. I wasn't able to find information on his race in census records, and the only [mention] of race on genealogy sites is that his 2nd of 3 wives was Cherokee. Still, I think it is possible that this Wigborn and Wedgbare were the same person, because

they were from the same county, and in his pension application he says he was "Inspected & received by Baron Steuben," which means he was sized in 1781.

See, also, Leon's size roll posted as [B81](#).]

[Note: On September 27, 2022, James Underwood shared with us a link Culpeper County Classes of drafts for military service of men living in Culpeper County Virginia in January 1781. C. Leon Harris has transcribed that document and his transcription is posted as [B415](#). In Class 19 on page 8 of that document is the following entry which I believe relates to this veteran:

*Wm Wedgroof for the War. 5 1/2 feet  
high a Free Mulatto. 19 yrs of age*

Wm Wedgroof for the War 5 1/2 feet  
high a Free Mulatto. 19 yrs of age]