

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilson (Willson) W26081

Polly (Mary) fn59VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/4/11

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of South Carolina Pendleton District: On this 25th day of October 1820 personally appeared in open Court in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace Oyer and Terminer Assize and General Gaol delivery being a Court of Record for the said District, in State aforesaid, John Wilson aged 65 years, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the first May 1820, that he the said John Wilson enlisted for the term of 3 years on the \_\_ day of January in the year 1777 in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by M. Boyer [Michael Boyer] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Wood in the Line of the State of Virginia on the Continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corps until the \_\_day of January 1780 when he was discharged from the said service in Kiakatt [sic, ?] in the State of New Jersey. That he was in the battles at Brandywine, Monmouth, Germantown & White Plains; and that he has no other evidence, now in his power, of his said services. And in pursuance of the act of the first 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 whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons 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, one small mare, two old iron wedges & one plane table. By occupation a farmer but is not able to support himself and is much afflicted by the wound in his head received in the battle at Monmouth and is very much troubled with pains. Wife Polly aged forty-six years, she has almost lost her eyesight, and is very sickly and helpless: son John Wilson aged thirteen years who is much troubled with the cholic [colic].

S/ John Wilson, X his mark

Sworn to and declared on the 25th day of October A.D. 1820 before

S/ Abm. Nott [Abraham Nott], Presiding Judge

The State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me personally came John Wilson within named a person to me well known and worthy of credit and belief and made oath, That he now resides in Pendleton District where he has resided for the last 12 months, that he his residence not being stated was the fault of the clerk who drew up his declaration & not with intent to defraud the Government, And that by reason of his poverty he is in actual distress.

S/ John Wilson, X his mark

[fn p. 37]

The State of South Carolina Pendleton District: Before me personally came John Wilson and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God and saith. That he is the identical John Wilson who applied for a pension for his services in the War of the Revolution and that he is the same John Wilson who amended his declaration by adding his place of residence, And further he now declareth that he resides in Pendleton District that he enlisted and entered into the service of the United States in the war of the revolution at Stanton in the State of Virginia, under Lieutenant Gambrell [Gamble?] of Captain Boyer's Company of the 12th Regiment of the Virginia Line commanded by Colonel James Wood & General Scott. This deponent saith that Captain Boyer sometimes called Matt Boyer or Mac Boyer this deponent saith that he does not know certainly the Christian name of Captain Boyer it might have been Thomas but he does not know it. Captain Boyer resigned as he understood at the Battle of Monmouth, Lieutenant Gambrell was then promoted, that Ensign McDowell was promoted to Lieutenant and this deponent saith that he served in the same Regiment and brigade for three years & previous January 1780 when he was discharged. He this deponent further saith that the time is so long that he cannot state positively facts as they were or might have been having no expectation that by retaining my new circumstances in his memory he should ever have received any benefit.

He further saith that from the great distance he is from his native abode from the place of his services and his officers he is unable to make a as he could wish to do. All that he can positively swear is that he served three years in the Continental Army and was in the Battles mentioned in his Declaration, that he served the greater part of his Time under Captain Bowyer [sic] – Bowyer he is certain was his Captain's name – and that he lost his discharge it was burned in his house as well as he recollects. – This deponent further saith that he is now in actual need and distress or want of something to support himself – and his afflicted family – This deponent further saith that from his illiterate and uninformed situation he never knew of any provision having been made for the old soldiers until shortly before he applied for assistance – That he is very sorry that he is so reduced in his circumstances that he cannot support himself and a little family without suffering for the necessities of life.

S/ John Wilson, X his mark

[fn p. 10: On February 20, 1845 in Pickens district South Carolina, Mary Wilson, aged as near as she can ascertain 85 years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1844 act stating that she is the widow of John Wilson who was a private in the Virginia Continental line and received a pension for his services in the revolution; that she was not married to her husband until after the war, from which cause, and from the imbecility of her mind, being subject to fits, extreme old age, ignorance, want of age occasion &c she is unable to state anything of consequence as to the services of her husband John Wilson; that she was married to him by Colonel Joseph McDowell of Cathey's Creek near Pleasant Garden in Burke County North Carolina in the year she believes 1787; her maiden name was Vickory; that she and her husband had a record of their marriage and the ages or births of their children but it was burned in their house in North Carolina where they then lived; that she recollects that her 3rd son, William, with whom she now lives and is dependent upon for support was born the same time of a child of one of their neighbors Mr. Hampton's and they obtained from him the date of the birth of his which was July 18, 1792 and thus put down in a memorandum the birth of their son William; that their eldest child was a son named Thomas who was born about 2 years after their marriage; their next, Luke, about 2 years after him, and their next child William was born in the same month,

she thinks about one year after the birth of Luke, then came James and John; from the calculation of her children's ages she believes she was married about the year she stated above; that her husband died January 8, 1845. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 14: On June 6, 1846 in McDowell County North Carolina, Richard Bird, a clergyman, gave testimony that he knows John Wilson and Polly whose maiden name was Vickory lived together as man and wife in the neighborhood of Pleasant Garden; that he never heard the legality of their marriage doubted and has no doubt of it himself that this was before the year 1789 because in April of the last mentioned year his brother left home to travel the Roanoke Circuit as a Methodist preacher and that John Wilson and Polly were living together as a married couple at that time.

*Richard Bird* ]

[fn p. 14: Cassandra D. Allison of McDowell County North Carolina also gave testimony as to the marriage of John Wilson and Polly Vickory stating that the marriage was some time before 1791 but she does not remember the exact year but knows they were married and living together as man and wife when her daughter Winney was born in November 1791

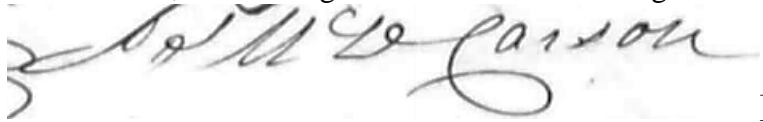
*Cassandra Allison* ]

[fn p. 15: Rebecca Logan a resident of McDowell County North Carolina gave testimony that she has lived all her life near Present Garden; that she was born in 1780; that she knew John Wilson when a little girl going to school to Thomas Henry Hannah; that Wilson a distillery for one Billy Kelton and while in the employ of Kelton married Polly Vickory; that they were married by Colonel Joseph McDowell for whom the County of McDowell was named; that she was not a participant in the dancing and other amusements that occurred at the time of the marriage of Wilson to Polly because of her extreme youth and that she was not more than 7 or 8 years of age at the time of their marriage

*Rebecca Logan* ]

[fn p. 16: Joseph Carson a resident of Rutherford County North Carolina gave testimony that he was born at Pleasant Garden in McDowell County on April 13, 1782; that he recollects John Wilson (a man of low stature heir of a light reddish color & sorrell eyebrows) who was a laborer for the affiant's father; that he also knew Polly Vickory; that he remembers coming home from school to find that part of the family had gone to the wedding of John Wilson to Polly Vickory at William Kelton's who lived nearby; that the school was run by Thomas Henry Hannah who died in the year 1792 with the consumption, not having taught school sometime prior to his death; that affiant's mother was living at the time of the marriage and she died in 1790 in the month of December; that John Wilson and Polly his wife lived together as husband and wife and lived on the affiant's father's farm as tenants for some years after their marriage; that John Hawkins, his

father's clerk, acted as a groomsman at the wedding.

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[facts in file: the widow died January 7, 1853.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 25, 1820 43 years service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1848.]