

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Wilson (Willson) W27589

Mary fn159VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/5/11

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Sullivan County: Sct.

On this nineteenth day of March in the year 1842, personally appeared before me Silas Osburn one of the associate judges of the Circuit Court, in and for the County of Sullivan and State of Indiana, (said court being a court of record, having a clerk and official seal and so declared by the laws of the State of Indiana) Mary Willson, a resident of said County aged ninety years, on the 4th day of July last 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 4, 1836:

That she is the widow of Thomas Willson who was a soldier in the Army of the revolutionary war, She further declares that the said Thomas Willson, resided on or near the Potomac River either on the Maryland or Virginia side, (but cannot state with certainty which) at the time he entered the service, That the said Thomas Willson, served she thinks, in the regular troops of the United States in the revolutionary war, under an enlistment, in the regular Army; she believes he enlisted for five years or during the war, but does not recollect certain as to which, but recollects distinctly that said Wilson always told her that he had enlisted and she is very certain in the regular service: That she cannot state with certainty the day, month or year, nor the place where he entered the service, nor can she state, the names of the officers under whom he served, nor the country through which he marched, nor the time and place of his being discharged: nor can she relate now the battles and engagements he was in, she has often heard him tell them over and she also heard one John Sellers who was in the revolutionary war with the said Thomas Willson, tell over the same story about their service together, & how they had been together in that war: That the said Thomas Willson, served under his said enlistment some 2 or 3 years until he got injured in his right leg by a bruise or wound occasioned by a log falling on it, while engaged in building some Fort or station, (not now recollected by name or place) which bruise or wound in his leg rendered him unable to serve, to perform duty in the line for some time, and that he was taken to some Hospital & under a Surgeon's attention & care, while his leg was sore, that the surgeon that extracted some of the bones from his leg, that it was greatly swollen & inflamed; and the injury so great that he was discharged from the line, before he served his time out, under his said enlistment. That the said Thomas Willson, was at the taking or burning of what was then called Frt. Duquasa [Fort Duquesne?¹] in the Western part of Pennsylvania she thinks or was marched there immediately after the taking or burning of the Fort

¹ Fort Duquesne was the site of a battle during the French and Indian war and occurred on September 14, 1758. It is possible that this veteran was part of the British troops in that engagement and that his widow confused this event with one that occurred during the Revolution.

as he always said he was the third day and that entered the Fort after it was burnt & that he took some of the burnt nails to the American troops as evidence of the burning.

She further declares that she was married to the said Thomas Willson on the ___ day of December in the year 1778 in the Western part of Pennsylvania by one Robert Huey, then a Presbyterian Preacher, in the Monongahela County about twelve miles from (then) Fort Duquesne now Pittsburgh: That the said Thomas Willson, her husband after their said marriage, about the year 1780 and after his leg got well of the bruise and wound above, volunteered in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war and served a tour of duty in the line, eight months, she thinks, at least, he was gone from home eight months, during the tour when he returned home, and was out in one or two other short tours in the war afterwards, but the length of time in each she does not now well recollect, but it was during their residence in the Western part of Pennsylvania as aforesaid.

That the said Thomas Willson had a discharge in writing from his officers and Surgeon, that he received when discharged under his said enlistment, on account of his disability from the wound & sore leg as aforesaid, which discharge was destroyed since his death, a number of years ago, by a worm or moth getting in the roll of papers where it was, & destroying the roll of papers, including the discharge.

She further declares that she does not know of any living witness at this time who was in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war with the said Thomas Willson by whom she can prove his actual service in the Revolutionary war as aforesaid, or the length of time he served therein. She further declares that the reason she did not make an earlier application for a Pension on account of the revolutionary services of her said husband, the said Thomas Willson who is now deceased, is, that she was ignorant that Congress had made any provision for widows in such cases until recently -- She further declares that she cannot recollect exactly the day of the month she was married to the said Thomas Willson, as aforesaid, but recollects it was just before Christmas day, that there was not any license got for their marriage, nor was there any law requiring a license for that purpose at the time in that country, nor was there any record kept of their said marriage by the said Huey the Priest [?] who married them, that she knows of, nor was there any organized County or any law at the time requiring a record of marriage to be kept in that country: nor was there ever any family record kept of their marriage either by her said husband or herself, or any other person, connection or member of the family ever known or heard of by this declarant. She further declares that her said husband Thomas Willson removed from Pennsylvania to Woodford County Kentucky about the year 1788 where they resided until the death of the said Thomas Willson her husband. That her husband the aforesaid Thomas Willson died on the 25th day of June in the year 1811; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period; and that she has since the death of her said husband as aforesaid, removed from Kentucky to Sullivan County Indiana where she now resides. She further declares that she had born in wedlock with the said Thomas Willson, her husband, 7 children, viz., Alexander who is now dead, who was born in November 1779: Margaret, who was born in April 1781, William, who was born in May 1783: who is now living, Sarah, who was born in May 1785 and is now living: Mary who was born in April 1789 and is now living: Thomas, who was born in November 1791: and Anna who was born in November 1793 and is now living.

She further declares that there never was kept any family record of her said marriage, or the births of her said children. She further declares that her said husband Thomas Willson never drew a pension, nor any compensation for his services in the Revolutionary war, nor was he ever placed on the Pension Roll or Pension list or agency in the United States or of any of the states or

Territories of the United States. All of which will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 9th day of March A.D. 1842
S/ Silas Osburn S/ Mary Willson, X her mark

[fn p. 17: On March 19, 1845 in Sullivan County Indiana, James Anderson, 82, gave testimony that he is the brother of Mary Wilson, the widow of Thomas Wilson; that he became acquainted with Thomas Wilson in the Western part of Pennsylvania about the year 1777; that Thomas and Mary were married at affiant's father's house by the Reverend Robert Huey, a Presbyterian preacher; he gave testimony as to his recollection of Wilson's statements regarding his services during the revolutionary war recalling he thinks Wilson originally enlisted in Maryland for the war.]

[fn p. 20: On December 20, 1842 in Clark County Illinois, Preston B Armstrong, 29, gave testimony that he is a grandson of Thomas and Mary Wilson; that his (affiant's) mother is upwards of 50 years of age and is the daughter of Thomas and Mary Wilson.

Preston B. Armstrong

]

[fn p. 27: On October 31st, 1842, Elizabeth Wilson of Woodford County Kentucky gave testimony that she is upwards of 80 years of age, that she is the widow of John Wilson who was the brother of Thomas Wilson whose widow Mary Wilson is applying for a pension; that she, affiant, was born and raised in the state of Maryland; that the marriage of Thomas Wilson and Mary took place in the County of Montgomery in the state of Maryland more than 60 years ago.]

[fn p. 29]

State of Indiana Vigo County: Before the Subscriber a justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid personally appeared William Wilson who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath depose and say that he is 63 years of age that he has a son of Thomas Wilson and Mary Wilson, the said Mary his mother who being a resident of Sullivan County in the State of Indiana and an applicant for a pension that he has often heard his said father speak of having descended the Ohio and Mississippi River in 1776 & 1777 to New Orleans for munitions of war, that he has also heard his father the said Thomas Wilson and husband of the said Mary Wilson say in his lifetime that he had been a Lieutenant or Ensign (of which office he said he held this deponent does not recollect) under general G. R. Clark [George Rogers Clark] in 1780 and that he had drawn land from the United States for that service that he has verbally understood from his father and the family that his father and mother lived in the state of Maryland in the forepart of the Revolution that his father on a tract of land that is near Woodford County Kentucky that in 1779 he came out to look at will make some arrangement about it and while absent from home joined the troop of General Clark that his father was an old man when he died and he understood from him that he had been a soldier in 1755 under Washington and Braddock previous to the war of the revolution that this deponent has no doubt that his father was a Lieutenant or Ensign under General Clark in the year aforesaid and that he had formed this

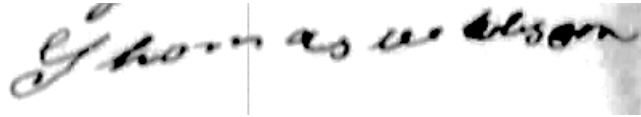
opinion from his father's statement in his lifetime.
Sworn to before made this 28th day of July 1845
S/ Sampson stark, JP

[fn p. 31]

Thomas Wilson of the County of Woodford and State of Kentucky under oath makes the following statement. That he is now in the 55th year of his age. That he is the son of Thomas Wilson now deceased who died in said County in the year 1812 and of Mary Wilson who now resides in the state of Indiana. That his father at his death had 3 several written discharges for Military services rendered by him to the United States or the State of Virginia. That one of these discharges was for two-year service one discharge for one-year service and the other for service in descending the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and returning the time it took he does not recollect now the name assigned to those discharges. He has often seen his father showed these discharges to his friends and speak of the services rendered by him as a common soldier. At the death of his father his papers fell into this affiant's hands and he recollects of seeing the discharges frequently for 12 or 14 years after his father's death. But supposing them to be of no value he took little care of them and they are now so lost or mislaid that they cannot be found. This affiant has now in his possession a memorial the Congress to which is attached the names of John Smith and Thomas Wilson the name Thomas Wilson he knows to be his father's handwriting said memorial as Congress to give them 1000 acres of land each as they allege had been promised them for the trip to New Orleans. There is also in possession of this affiant an affidavit signed by his father and by 2 Justices of the peace for Woodford County taken a few months previous to his father's death setting forth the facts of the trip to New Orleans and back to Wheeling with a cargo of Power in the year 1777 and this affiant supposes the purpose of the Memorial and affidavit were not prosecuted in consequence of his father's death.

15th of October 1842

S/ Thomas Wilson

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

[fn p. 41]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 4th day of July 1783, in the name of Thomas Wilson, as a Soldier of Infantry for £60.4.11, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond,
this 14th day of February 1843.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

[fn p. 115: On December 29, 1845 in Sullivan County Indiana, the widow filed another application in which she states she is 97 or 98 years of age; that she cannot give an exact accounting of her husband services; that he was a soldier under Washington and Braddock in the war of 1755; that he was in service of the United States during the Revolutionary War nearly all of said war; that she is confident her husband was a soldier under General Clark in 1780; that she

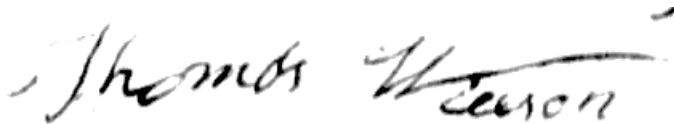
and her husband removed in 1783 or 1784 to the state of Kentucky where her husband died in 1811 or 1812; that she often understood and heard her husband to say distinctly that he was a recruiting officer and were engaged in the recruiting service; she particularly recollects having heard him speak of enlisting to Irishman who were servants to a Tory; that he joined General Clark at the falls of the Ohio; that her husband also performed 2 trips down the Mississippi River for munitions of war with Colonel Gibson and Lieutenant Lynn in 1776 and 1777; that shortly before he died her husband had papers drawn to obtain a grant of land which had been promised him; that he started for Washington but for some reason returned without going to the city; that "she is able to speak with certainty and positiveness when she says that her husband was under General Clark in 1780 in the Illinois expedition, has heard him tell of taking of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Post Vincentt [Vincennes?] from the French and Indians in that year she verily believes that her husband was an officer of some kind in that expedition."]

[fn p. 118]

The Affidavit of Thomas Wilson given before us two of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Woodford and State of Kentucky as to the identity of a certain John Smith's person and a Claim which the said Smith have against the United States for services rendered in the year 1776 and 1777 taken this 7th day of November 1811 –

This affiant states that the aforesaid John Smith volunteered himself in the Service of the United States of America under the command of Captain George Gibson and Lieutenant William Lynn [also spelled William Linn] in an expedition down the Rivers Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans under the authority of the State of Virginia to commence a trade with Spain, and this Affiant States that John Smith's person he can safely identify that there is no earthly doubt as to his serving in the above mentioned Company at the same time and under the same Orders and that he furthermore rendered active and faithful Service during our tour down and up the Rivers aforesaid to his Country under the sanguine expectation of Receiving for a consideration one thousand acres of Land above his common pay as this affiant, believes from the repeated promises of Captain Gibson and Lieutenant Lynn. This Affiant further states that he returned with said John Smith in the year 1777 to Wheeling on the Ohio River at which place we deposited a cargo of Powder purchased by Captain Gibson of the Spaniards for the benefit of the United States and this affiant firmly believes and declares that the said John Smith from the arduous service rendered was and still is entitled from Government in Justice to the exclusive reward of 1000 acres of Land as above Stated by this affiant for the faithful discharge of his duty as a Soldier in the year 1776 & 1777

S/ Thomas Wilson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Thomas Wilson".

The above Affidavit was duly Subscribed and sworn to before us this 7th day of November 1811
S/ Henry Watkins, JP
S/ Lewis Young, JP

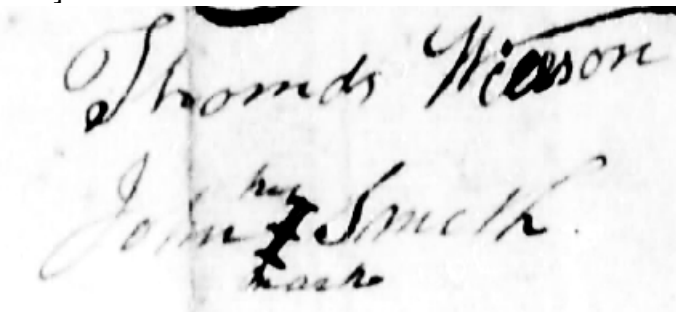
[fn p. 121]

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress of the United States of America Assembled

The petition of Thomas Wilson and John Smith Citizens of the State of Kentucky &

County of Woodford

Humbly complaining sheweth to your honor that from late publications, your petitioners are induced to hope that the honorable Congress have not lost sight of that Justice due to the unfortunate Veterans who have sacrificed their youthful lives & constitutions in the service of their Country & for which they have received no kind of remuneration or sort of adequate compensation, we your humble petition is therefore induced to lay before your Honorable body the following statement of facts which will be acc [paper torn and text missing] [indecipherable word or words] documents, to wit, that your petitioner Wilson in about the year 1762 served in the American War under the command of Colonel Henry Buckquate [Henry Bouquet] & in the 60th Regiment of the Royal Americans, Also under the command of Colonel Armstrong in the year 1763 against the Indians. Also under Colonel Clayton in the year 1764 in the service against the Indians – also under General George R Clark in the year 1780 in a similar service & moreover your petitioners as aforesaid, & your Petitioner John Smith beg leave to Honorably represent that on the dates of 1776 & 1777 they were enlisted to descend the Rivers Ohio & Mississippi to Orleans on the purpose of Government & by the authority of the State of Virginia & under the command of the late George Gibson & Colonel Lynn, that after a long & Perilous journey the great object of this Tour was effected & a large quantity of powder brought to Wheeling which in a good degree proved the Security & Salvation of that dangerous frontier for which services they were most solemnly promised a bounty of 1000 acres of Western land for each Individual but such has been the state that a course of the dance has produced to the entry of your petitioners that they have never been able to receive an acre of Bounty land for those various & arduous services which consumed the flour [flower] of their Lives, but they are now encouraged to Hope, that the Justice of their Cause well excite the Consideration of your Honorable body, & as the Means of Justice are now ample that the [several lines of text compromised by ink blots, torn paper etc.]



Thomas Wilson
John Smith