

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilson W4395 Elizabeth Wilson f61NC
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 3/3/24

[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 47]

State of North Carolina
Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the Revolutionary war, shows that John Wilson a private Soldier in Capt. Sharpe's Company of the 10th Regiment entered the service in the year 1782 for 12 months, and that nothing more is said of him on said Rolls.

Given under my hand this 18th day of June 1839
Wm Hill

[p 6]

State of North Carolina Duplin County }

On this the 31st day of July A.D. 1839 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Elizabeth Wilson a Resident of the County of Duplin aforesaid and State aforesaid aged sixty six years the 11th of this month 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 7th, 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows." That she is the widow of John Wilson who was a private in the War of the Revolution and served as follows viz. She believes he served first in a company of Duplin militia under Captain Isham Shuffield [Isham Sheffield] Entered in January 1780, was drafted for three months, was a private & marched from Duplin to Wilmington or rather to Jumping Run just below & was there stationed & served two months and was discharged in April 1780, that he resided in said County of Duplin when he entered the service.

Secondly, That he volunteered in January 1781 & entered again in a company of Duplin militia under Captain Aaron Williams and marched to the Big Bridge in New Hanover County and after having served Six weeks as a private, he was drafted for three months & entered the service in a company of militia under Captain Aaron Williams and was attached to a Regiment commanded by General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington], in February 1781 and was in a battle at the Big Bridge in March 1781¹ and marched thence to Rutherford's Mills & Limestone

¹ The engagement at Big Bridge, a/k/a Heron's Bridge took place on January 30, 1781.
https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_herons_bridge.html

to Kingston [Kinston] in Lenoir County & was there discharged in May 1781 having served his three months tour as a private.

That in a few days thereafter he entered the service again in a company of Duplin cavalry commanded by Captain Aaron Williams in the last of May 1781 & served three months as a volunteer and private, was stationed at Rockfish Bridge² (after having marched & traversed Duplin & New Hanover Counties) and were there attacked and defeated or put to route by the enemy in August 1781 & then formed again at Duplin Old Court House and were discharged in September 1781.

That he enlisted in the year 1782 for twelve months and entered service in Captain Sharpe's [Anthony Sharpe's or Sharp's] Company of the 10th Regiment of the North Carolina line as a private and served twelve months that she has no documentary evidence except the certificate of the Secretary of State of this State herewith sent.

She further declares that she was married to the said John Wilson on the twenty third day of December seventeen hundred and ninety one, that her husband the aforesaid John Wilson died on the twenty second day of June eighteen hundred & twenty nine; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January seventeen hundred and ninety four; viz. at the time above stated, and that she has not since married.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me and

Elizabeth Wilson, X her mark

I do hereby certify that said applicant is old infirm & in bad health, that she resides at the distance of twenty miles from the Court House of said County of Duplin and it would likely prove injurious to her health & might endanger her life to travel to attend Court

William W Rivenbark, JP

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State of North Carolina Duplin County }

On this the 31st day of July A.D. 1839 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared James Blanton³ a resident of said County of Duplin age seventy seven years last March who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he served in the War of the Revolution with John Wilson the husband of Elizabeth Wilson an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7th 1838, as follows viz.: – First in a company of Duplin Militia under Captain Isham Shuffield [sic] in July 1780, were drafted for three months & were privates – marched from Duplin to Jumping Run below Wilmington and there stationed and we served there two months didn't quite finish the three months, the soldiers having become dissatisfied because they were fed on horse flesh – and were discharged in April 1780. Secondly They turned out as volunteers in January 1781 in a company of Duplin Militia under Captain Aaron Williams and after having served six weeks as privates we were drafted for three months and entered service as privates under Captain Aaron Williams in February 1781 & were at a battle at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County in March 1781 & marched thence by Rutherford's Mills & Limestone to Kingston in Lenoir County and were there discharged in May 1781 & on our return met Cornwallis & his army going northwardly & came near being taken prisoners. Thirdly Soon after the last tour said John Wilson & this affiant entered service again in a company of Cavalry under Captain Aaron Williams in the last of May 1781 and served three

² Rockfish Creek, August 2, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_rockfish_creek.html

³ [James Blanton S6653](#)

months as volunteers and privates, were at the battle at Rockfish Bridge in August 1781 where our party were routed & put to flight and afterwards collected at Col. Kenan's near Duplin Old Court House and were there discharged in September 1781.

That the militia company to which he belonged being obliged to furnish three soldiers for the Southern Army for six or twelve months, said John Wilson and to others, (one of whom he recollects was David Davis) turned out or enlisted he can't state the date but was present – and he was absent from the neighborhood for either 6 or 12 months he can't safe which. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid before me and I do hereby certify that said James Blanton is well known to me & that his statement is entitled to full faith & credit

Wm R. Rivenbark, JP

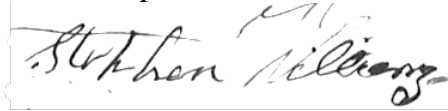
James Blanton, X his mark

[p 44]

State of North Carolina Duplin County} SS

On this 3rd day of August A.D. 1839 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared Stephen Williams Senior a resident of said County of Duplin aged seventy five the 22nd of last June who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he was present and an eye-witness of the marriage between John Wilson now deceased and his widow Elizabeth Wilson an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7th 1838 – that the time stated in said Elizabeth Wilson's declaration viz. the 23rd of December 1791 he believes to be the true time when the marriage took place, that the marriage ceremony was performed by David Williams Esquire, then an Acting Justice of the Peace; that he lives a neighbor to said Elizabeth Wilson, is well acquainted with her and that she has never married since the death of her husband the said John and is now a widow.

Stephen Williams



[p 54: On December 24, 1839 in Sampson County North Carolina Alfred Ward gave testimony that he is aged 50 years the 12th of next month; that he was well acquainted with John Wilson and his widow Elizabeth Wilson; that John Wilson owned land amounting to 284 acres.



[p 52]

State of North Carolina Sampson County}

On this the 28th day of February A.D. 1840 before me Patrick Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity of Sampson County aforesaid & ex officio Commissioner of Affidavits personally appeared James Blanton a resident of Duplin County in C aged seventy eight years the 15th of next month who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he was well acquainted with John Wilson deceased the husband of Elizabeth Wilson an applicant for a pension under the act of July 7, 1838 – and lived near him nearly all his life within a mile and a half. That said deceased was an industrious hard laboring man and made a competent support for himself and family, that he owned at his death a Mare worth about 75 or 80 Dollars – stock of cattle worth about \$80 & perhaps more –, Stocks of hogs & sheep worth about \$75, crop, and provision on hand and household and kitchen furniture worth about \$75 or thereabouts making

his property (besides his land) worth at least \$300; This affiant knows that he served in the war of the Revolution & refers to his affidavit sent with Mrs. Wilson's papers – but never heard Wilson the said deceased ever speak of applying and there was no report that he was entitled & he lived in a remote & un-frequented section of Duplin County

James Blanton, X his mark

[p 56]

State of North Carolina Sampson County} SS

On this the 17th day of March A.D. 1840 before me Patrick Murphy Clerk & Master of the Court of Equity for said County and ex officio Commissioner of Affidavits personally appeared Elizabeth Wilson a resident of Duplin County in this State of North Carolina aged sixty six years the 11th of next July and an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7, 1838 who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that the Record of her children's ages hereunto annexed has been in her possession ever since the death of her husband nearly eleven years ago and in their possession for several years before, that about a year ago this affiant took it with her to one of her neighbors Mrs. Herring's who has since died, to ascertain her children's ages with more precision than she then knew them as this affiant cannot read writing, and it being very dim, Mrs. Herring marked over some of the dates as well as she could find them out – that she believes the same is true and genuine as far as it can be ascertained and that it is in the handwriting of Thomas Blinson a schoolmaster who recorded it at the request of her husband and herself about twenty six years ago, that the Record of her two youngest children's ages hereunto annexed was recorded in the same book with the other, that it is in the handwriting of John Wilson a son of her husband by a former wife and that the same is true and genuine. She has no record of her marriage

Elizabeth Wilson, X her mark

[p 3]

Daniel Wilson was born
 9th of March 1793.
 Alexander Wilson was born
 23rd of December 1795.
 James Wilson was born
 18th of June 1798.
 William Wilson was born
 3rd of May 1800.
 Rebecca Wilson was born
 16th day of June 1802.
 Catherine was born
 day of May 1804.
 David Wilson was born
 8th day of March 1806.
 Thomas Wilson was born
 1st day of March 1810.
 Elizabeth Wilson was born
 the 25th day of June 1810.
 Mary Wilson was born
 4th day of October 1811.
 1839

Daniel Wilson was [born]
9th of March 1793

Alexander Wilson was [born]
23rd of December 1795

James Wilson was born
18th of June 1798

William Wilson was [born]
3rd of May 1800

Rebecca Wilson was born
16th day of June 1802

Catherine was born [illegible] day of
May 1804

David Wilson was [born]
8th day of March 1806

Thomas Wilson was [born]
1st day of March [illegible]

Elizabeth Wilson was [born]
the 25th day of June 1810

Mary Wilson was born
4th day of October 1811 [?]

1839

Margain Wilson was
 Born April the 19th 1815
 Sarah Jain Wilson was
 Born in the year of our
 Lord October 18th 1815

Margain Wilson was
born April the 19th 1815

Sarah Jain[?] Wilson was
born in the year of our
Lord October 18th, 181[? last digit
not legible]

[p 30]

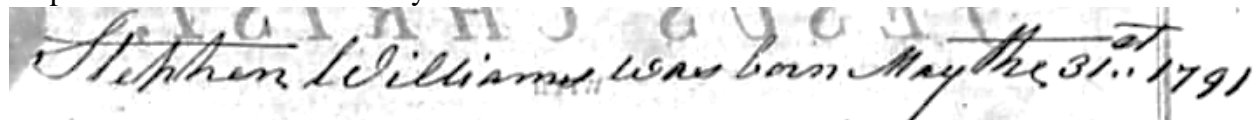
State of North Carolina Duplin County} SS

On this 1st day of July A.D. 1840 before the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Elizabeth Williams a resident of said County aged seventy two years the 24th of last March, who being first duly sworn, according to law, maketh oath that she is well acquainted with Elizabeth Wilson the widow of John Wilson deceased who is an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7, 1838 and was at Mr. Stephen Herring's (who married her granddaughter) when Mrs. Wilson came there to examine or have examined the record of her children's ages which she understands has been sent on to the pension Office in proof of the alleged date of her marriage, that it was she believes in March 1839, that Mrs. Herring looked at the family record of her children's ages and said it was very dim but that she thought she could see what it was and observed that she would make it plainer and she believes she done so, but this affiant does not remember to have seen Mrs. Herring do so, and is confident that she done it without any bad or improper design, and what she thought to be correctly and for the purpose of making it so that it might be seen better. She does not know precisely the date of Mrs. Wilson's marriage, but this affiant was married in May 1790 and moved to the neighborhood of Mrs. Wilson and they have resided near each other ever since about two miles apart, that this affiant's oldest child was born the 31st of May 1791 as appears from the family record hereunto attached which is in the handwriting of her husband David Williams deceased and is genuine and has been in her possession for many years; that she believes Mrs. Wilson aforesaid was married not long after her this affiant's oldest Child Stephen Williams was born, and she feels confident and safe in asserting that she was married prior to the 1st of January 1794 – and that she and her husband John Wilson lived together as man and wife until Mr. Wilson's death.

Elizabeth Williams, X her mark

[p 28]

Stephen Williams was born May the 31st 1791

A photograph of a handwritten document in cursive script. The text reads "Stephen Williams was born May the 31st 1791". The handwriting is dark and somewhat faded, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The text is written on a light-colored background.

[p 32: Hannah Knowles, 61, a resident of Duplin County gave testimony on July 1, 1840 in Duplin County that she witnessed the marriage of Elizabeth Wilson to John Wilson which took place just before Christmas she believes in the year 1791. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

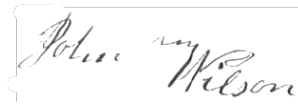
[p 20]

State of North Carolina Duplin County} SS

On this the 22nd day of May 1841 before me Cornelius McMillan a Justice of the Peace in & for said County personally appeared John Wilson a resident of said County aged fifty three the 28th of last April who being duly sworn maketh oath that he is the son of John Wilson deceased whose widow is now an applicant for a pension is Elizabeth Wilson that she is his stepmother that he has heard his Father & stepmother both say that he this affiant was about two years old when they were married, that this affiant's age is recorded to be 28th of April 1788 – and that this affiant's mother his Father's first wife died when this affiant, was three days old according to

common reputation

John Wilson



[p 60]

We Robert Tate a Clergyman resident in the neighborhood of Stephen Wells Senior now deceased and the others whose names are hereunto Subscribed resident in the same hereby certify that we were well acquainted with said Stephen Williams Senior a resident of Duplin County NC who died a few months ago, aged seventy odd years whose affidavit we understand and believe was sent on with Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson's application for a pension, in proof of her marriage, that said Stephen Williams was a highly respectable man a gentleman of veracity and integrity, and that not only his affidavit but his statements not under oath could be implicitly relied upon. Given under our hands, May 25, 1841

Robert Tate	<i>Robert Tate</i>
Stephen Herring	<i>Stephen Herring</i>
John W Carr	<i>John W Carr</i>
Boney Wells	<i>Boney Wells</i>
John W Boney	<i>John W Boney</i>
Wells Boney	<i>Wells Boney</i>
Hardy Herring	<i>Hardy Herring</i>
Cornelius McMillan, JP	<i>Cornelius McMillan JP</i>

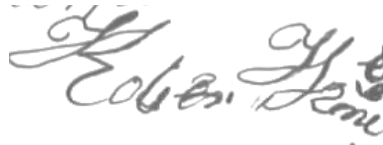
[p 13]

State of North Carolina Duplin County}

On this the 17th day of July 1841 before me William R Ward a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared Robert Knowles a resident of said County aged sixty four years the 30th of next October who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he was well acquainted with John Wilson the husband of Elizabeth Wilson and applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of July 7, 1838 – that said John was the Uncle of this affiant, his mother being the sister of said John, that soon after the death of said John's first wife, said John removed with his family and resided in the family of this affiant's father. That his mother might assist in taking care of the Children of said John, that said John continued to live with his father until his second marriage with Elizabeth the applicant aforesaid with whom he is also well acquainted, resides in about three miles of her that she has not intermarried since the death of her husband the said John but continues his widow, that said John Willson's first wife left three children is Nancy, Isaac & John an infant at the death of his mother, that said John Junior at the time of his father's second marriage was between three and four years of age, he is confident he wasn't exceeding four years old – and he is informed that his birth is recorded April 1788 and he believes that to be correct.

Sworn & Subscribed the day

Robert Knowles



and year aforesaid before me and I hereby certify that said Robert Knowles is well known to me is, a credible person and that his statements are entitled to full faith and credit.

Given under my hand the day & year aforesaid

W. R. Ward, JP

[p 17]

State of North Carolina Duplin County } SS

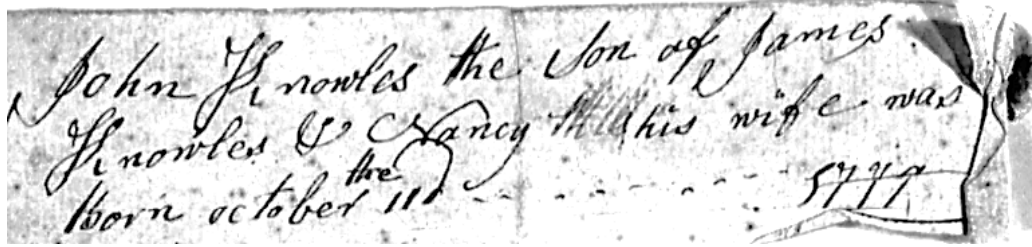
On this the 17th day of July A.D. 1841 before me William R Ward a Justice of the Peace in and for said County personally appeared John Knowles a resident of said County aged sixty two years the 11th of next October who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he was well acquainted with John Wilson deceased the husband of Elizabeth Wilson, an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of July 7th 1838, that the mother of this affiant was a sister of said John Wilson, that after the death of said John Wilson's first wife, he the said Wilson with his family removed and resided with the family of the father of this affiant that this affiant's mother the sister of said John Wilson might assist him in taking care of his small children, and there remained until his marriage with Elizabeth Wilson the aforesaid applicant, that John Wilson son of the said John by his first wife was an infant about three days old when his mother died, that said John Jr. was not, at the time of the marriage of his Father with the applicant Elizabeth aforesaid, this affiant is fully satisfied and feels perfectly safe in deposing, exceeding four years old and does not believe he was that, that he understands that said John Jr.'s birth is recorded April 1788 – and he is satisfied that it is correctly recorded – this affiant believes that he was about twelve years of age at the time of his Uncle John Wilson's marriage with said Elizabeth, that the script hereunto annexed containing a record of his age was taken from a large Bible of his Uncle Charles James's in the State of Georgia where his age was recorded as he had understood the day this affiant was born, that it was taken from said book about twenty five years ago when this affiant was in Georgia, and he rather believes nearest thirty years than twenty five, that it is in the handwriting of his Uncle the said Charles James and was correctly transcribed as he saw him do it and he believes true and genuine; that it has always been generally reputed and believed that his Uncle the said John Wilson performed considerable service in the War of the Revolution and he has frequently heard his Father, his said Uncle & others say so and that his said Uncle run a very narrow risk of his life at Rockfish while in the light horse service.

John Knowles



[p 26]

John Knowles the Son of James Knowles & Nancy his wife was born October 11th 1777



John Knowles the son of James
Knowles & Nancy his wife was
born October 11th 1775

[p 34]

State of North Carolina Sampson County } SS

On this the 4th day of December A.D. 1841 before me Patrick Murphy Clerk and Master of the Court of Equity of said County of Sampson personally appeared Elizabeth Wilson Widow of John Wilson deceased a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged sixty six years the 11th of last July and an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7th, 1838 who being first duly Sworn according to law maketh oath that she was born according to what her parents and others have informed her on the 11th of July 1775, that she was married to her late husband John Wilson while in her seventeenth year of age and on the 23rd day of December on Thursday in the year 1791. She most solemnly declares on oath that the record of her children's ages sent onto the Pension Office, some of the dates of which were drawn over with a pen, was not so done for the purpose of being used as proof in support of the date or time of her marriage, that she did not know at the time it was so done that the family record would be taken as evidence of the date of marriage; that the day on which the affidavit accompanying her family record sent on, bears date she came up to the residence of Mr. Murphy who was preparing her application and he informed her for the first time that the family record would be received as evidence of marriage and her son who came with her was immediately dispatched after the book containing said record and brought it the same day and the record was taken out and attached to her affidavit. That before she made out her application for a pension though after she had understood the widows of soldiers in the Revolutionary War were entitled, she being illiterate and unable to read the record of her children's ages, for the purpose of ascertaining the date of her marriage went over to her neighbors Mr. Herring's and took with her the book containing the record of their births and Mr. Herring not being at home his wife Mrs. Herring now deceased examined the record and to make it plainer marked some of the dates over with a pen. That when she married, her stepson (or husband's son by his first wife) John Wilson was between three and four years of age. That she is unable to procure any documentary evidence of her marriage or further proof by eyewitnesses than has been furnished though when she first applied and for some time afterwards she believes she might have obtained the affidavit of John Williams now deceased and also the amended affidavit of Stephen Williams also since deceased stating more positively that our marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 [word written over and rendered illegible] on the 23rd of December 1791 – both of whom she believes would have established this fact conclusively – but she was informed by Mr. Murphy who attended to her business that the proof of her marriage was satisfactory which he was led to believe from my letter from the Pension Office and which he has afterwards informed was a mistake. That she has repeatedly heard her

husband speak of his services in the Revolutionary War, a great deal about his service in the light horse and the narrow escape of his life at Rockfish and loss of his mare bridle & saddle, and gun and hat – being hotly pursued by the enemy. That she has not intermarried since the death of her husband but continues his widow

Elizabeth Wilson, X her mark

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$33.83 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service as a private in the Infantry & Cavalry of North Carolina.]