

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

Pension Application of John Wilson W6533

Anna B. Wilson

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 June 2023.

State of Virginia to wit:

On this 4th day of August 1838, personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the Peace, Anna B. Wilson a resident in the county of Mason, aged eighty years, who being 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 Lieutenant of the Virginia line in service from 1st of April 1778 to Nov. 1779. that he was a volunteer; resided when he first entered the service in the county of Loudon [sic: Loudoun], was with the Army in Georgia, where he was taken sick and returned home he afterwards regaining his health, volunteered again, joined the Army and served during the whole siege of York [Yorktown VA, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], was present at the final surrender of the British. She further declares that she was married to the said John Wilson on the 21st day of May in the year seventeen hundred and eighty five; that her husband, the aforesaid John Wilson, died on the 31st day of August 1823; 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.

[signed] Anna B Wilson

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

The Affidavit of Spicer Wilson of Montgomery County state of Kentucky aged about seventy seven years old taken at the request of Charles B Alexander to prove the Service and grade of his brother John Wilson in the revolutionary war, after being duly sworn states that John Wilson went in to service early after the war commenced from Virginia and believes he continued till the army was disbanded and served as Lieutenant upwards of five years and beleives from what He has heard from the connections that Charles B Alexander married John Wilsons Daughter Eliza
[12 February 1833]

[signed] Spicer Willson

The affidavit of John Wilson of grayson county State of Kentucky sixty four years of age in order to prove the grade and service of John Wilson an officer in the revolution war states after being duly sworn that he is the nephew of John Wilson and knew him from his infancy. That he lived with said Wilson in fairfax county Virginia in the year 1791 That he was a lieutenant in the continantal line and entered the service soon after the revolution commenced That he recollectes distinctly of seeing him return home from the Service after the surrender of Cornwallace [sic: Cornwallis at Yorktown] and herd him state that he was in the battle of york and from the best of his recollection he belives that he servd four or five years in the revolution war and further states that he dont recollect the regiment he seved in but beleive he was marched to the South when he first entered the service and that he never received compensation for the services rendered and that he further state that Charles B Alexander married John Wilson daughter Elizabeth given under my hand this 21^t day of March 1834

[signed] John Wilson

The affidavit of Mary Wilson of Grayson County state of Kentucky eighty four years of age taken at the request of Charles B. Alexander to prove the grade and service of John Wilson in the revolutionary war states after being duly sworn, That she knew Mr John Wilson for she married his brother Joseph Wilson in November 1779 and that he the said John Wilson was a Lieutenant in the Continental line and was from one of the middle countys she thinks from Centerville Loudoun County State of Virginia and went with the regular army to the South, Georgia or the Carolinas and was in the service in 1779 as she well knew and might have been in service long before and continued with the Continental Troops in service till the

army was disbanded, and she understood that he was in the battle at York when Cornwallis surrendered and she further states that Lieutenant Wilson told her he never received his bounty Land or pay for his services and also states that Charles B Alexander married his daughter Elizabeth Wilson and believes that He the said John Wilson served four or five years Given under my hand

21 March 1834

[signed] Mary Wilson

The affidavit of John Goatly [John Goatley (Goally) S35972] of Breckenridge County State of Kentucky Eighty two years of age, Taken at the request of Charles B Alexander to prove the grade and service of John Wilson Being Duly Sworn states that he knew Mr John Wilson well before the revolution, during the revolution and after the revolution, that he was either an Ensign or Lieutennant but thinks he was a Lieutennant and he knew that he belonged to the Continental line and Joined the Army at Centerville in Loudon County State of Virginia where he said John Wilson lived at that time or very near that place that he the affiant John Goatly was in the army at that time under Col William Washington and saw Lieutennant John Wilson frequently while in service early in the year 1777 and he understood and believed he continued in the Service in the continental line untill the army was disbanded – and he said Goatly further states that the said Lieutennant Wilson was in the Battle at York at the time Cornwallis surrendered and he further states that he believes he never received his Bounty Land nor pay for services rendered & further states he Had three Brothers To Wit Tapley Joseph & Spicer and that Charles B Alexander married Leutennant John Wilsons Daughter Elizabeth Wilson Given under my hand this 7th day of April 1834.

John hisXmark Goatly

ordered, that a warrant issue to Lieutenant Wilson of the second Regiment for Ferriage and other expenses paid as Express after a deserter: also for the use of Hillary Williams ten pounds for Wood.

A Copy from the Executive Journal of 7 Sep'r 1776 page 126. Wm H Richardson SC
2 June 1834

Arrangement of the Virginia Line from the General War Office 1st Jan'y 1781.

Names Dates of Commissions

Fourth Regiment.

John Wilson Lieut 1st April 1778.

The Document from which the above is extracted is in the Office of Mr. Smith Com[missione]r Chesterfield Arrangement 10th February 1781. [see <http://revwarapps.org/b160.pdf>]

Arrangement of the 4th Regiment.

Rank	Names	Dates of Commission	Former Regt.	Pres't Regt.	Remarks
Lieut	John Wilson	1st Apl 1778	4		prom'd in the 8th
D'o	Willis Wilson	29 Nov'r 79	4		

Extract from the Chesterfield Arrangement.

Jass. E. Heath Aud/ Aud Off. 2 June 1834

The affidavit of Ann B Wilson of Mason County State of Virginia aged seventy seven years old, Taken to prove the grade and Service of John Wilson in the revolutionary war after being duly sworn states that she has heard Mr John Wilson say that He was Commissioned by John Hancock who was President of the Continental Congress, She thinks as Ensign but was soon promoted to Lieutenant, and marched to the South where he remained some years as Lieutenant in the Continental line, and again returned to Virginia and was marched to the seige of York and was in the battle when Cornwallis surrendered and beleives he continued in the service to the end of the war. That he the said Lieutenant John Wilson had his house burnt down about twenty seven or eight years ago with his commission and all of his other papers He lived at that time in Fairfax County state of Virginia She further states that she heard Lieutenant Wilson say that

He never settled his account for pay with government or received his bounty Land from Virginia or pay for services rendered [signed] Anne B Wilson
[10 July 1834]

The Honble Governor of Virginia

The petitions of Charles B Alexander for himself and the heirs of John Wilson a Lieutenant in the Army of the Revolution for Bounty Land.

They beg leave to file the following evidence in support of their Fathers claim to that Bounty.

To Wit.

The Affidavits of John Goatly – Spicer Wilson – Anne B Wilson – Mary Wilson and John Wilson. We also file two certificates of the Auditors of Public Accounts and one from Wm. H Richardson Secretary to the Com[monweal]th. The latter shews that a Lieut Wilson was in service as early as Sept 1776 whereas the Certificates of the Auditor prove that John [John Wilson VAS1719] & Willis Wilson [R109] (who have received land) were not Commissioned until 1778 & 79 – A Lieut Thomas Wilson [W9007] (who has also rec'd Land) he was in the State Line & Illinois Department as the certificate of the Auditors shews.

These are all the Lt. Wilson's who have received land and appear to be different persons that the Lt. John Wilson under whom they claim.

All of which is respectfully submitted

[Registered 28 July 1834]

To his Excellency the Governor & Common Council of the Commonwealth of Virginia The Memorial of Charles B. Alexander would respectfully represent that your Memorialist is by marriage one of the heirs of the late John Wilson deceased, who was a Lieutnant in the Service of the United States in the War of the Revolution, in the Continental Line of Virginia. Your Memorialist resides in the County of Breckenridge in the state of Kentucky and is the husband of Elisabeth Ann, the daughter of the late Lieutnant John Wilson dec'd whose signature is hereto attached. And he would further represent that there are other heirs of s'd Lieut John Wilson dec'd to Wit –

James H. Wilson, son of John Wilson decd. now residing in Mason County state of Virginia – John Wilson, Spencer Wilson & Ann Wilson, infant Children of Spencer Wilson decd son of s'd Lieut. John Wilson decd now residing in [blank] County in the state of Ohio.

John Wilson, Harriet Wilson, Gustavia Wilson, Juliet Wilson, Rudope Wilson & Clarrington Wilson infant Children of Doct John Wilson decd who was the son of the s'd Lieut John Wilson decd now residing in the County of Loudon state of Vg'a. and William Beale, Maria[?] Beale, Richard Beale, James Beale & David Beale, infant Children of Hannah Beale decd wife of Richard Beale deceased, who was the daughter of the s'd Lieut't John Wilson decd now residing in the County of Mason and state of Virginia.

Your Memorialist would further represent that the afs'd Lieut. John Wilson decd served in the Continental line of Virginia in the Capacity of Lieutnant commissioned by John Hancock then President of the Continental Congress in the War of the Revolution from the [blank] day of [blank] in the year 1776 or 1777 – the precise period not being by your memorialist recollect'd but will fully appear by the accompanying affidavits.

Your Memorialist in right of his Wife, heir of s'd Lt. John Wilson decd in his own name and in the name of the heirs afs'd claim the Land bounty to which s'd Lieutnant John Wilson decd would be entitled to for his Services as aforesaid, as well as for the monthly pay to which he was entitled and which was not paid to him during the period of his said Service, nor at any time thereafter, and to all other immunities to which he was as an officer entitled – which facts will appear by the vouchers accompanying this memorial. Your memorialist cannot state in what Company or regiment the s'd Lieut Wilson served – he can only state, that it was in the Continental Line of Virginia as will appear by the accompanying vouchers – that he joined his company about the year afs'd in Centreville, Loudon County Virginia, and marched to the South where he continued in the service (and was at the Seige of York Town) until the

termination of the war, a period of six to seven years. Your Memorialist would further represent, that the s'd Lieut John Wilson died in the state of Virginia in the latter part of the year 1823, and that in his life time he never rec'd any compensation for his said services in bounty land or in monthly pay which is now claimed by his heirs afs'd. All of which facts are sustained by the vouchers accompay'g this memorial. Your Memorialist would further represent that all the heirs of the s'd Lt. John Wilson decd except himself and wife and the afs'd James H Wilson are infant Children under the age of 21 years, and are without guardians so far as your Memorialist has been informed and that s'd James H. Wilson lives more that 400 miles from your Memorialist by reason of which he has not been able to procure the signatures to this memorial But believing the want of them will not affect the just merits of the claims herein set forth he respectfully submits the statements of fact and relies on the Justice of the Executive and the merits of his claim. [signed] Charles B Alexander
[13 June 1835] [signed] Elizabeth Ann Alexander

NOTES:

The federal pension file includes a copy of the last will and testament of John Wilson dated 18 May 1822 and proved on 20 October 1823 in which he bequeathed to his wife his house and \$50 per year, "but should she happen to marry again she is hereby deprived of all support or benefit from my estate." Because his son John Wilson had "been of considerable expence to me in educating and preparing him for the practise of medicine," he left him nothing. To his son Gustavus Wilson he bequeathed "one negro man named Harry." To son James H. Wilson he bequeathed after his mother's death the house, land and stock, as well as "two negroes Davey and Sukey." To daughter Elizabeth Alexander "one young negroe woman named Charlotte with her two children Edward and Keziah," and to daughter Hannah Beale "two negroe girls named Dinah & Adeline." He further provided that "should my two negroe men Harry, and Davy prove to be good orderly and faithful Servants till they arrive at the age of forty five years that then at that time they are both to be liberated But on the contrary should they prove disorderly by trying to run away then they are to be sold slaves for life." The will further provided that, "Should my son Gustavus Wilson die before me and my wife then the above negroe Harry I have willed to him is to the sold or hired til he arrives at the age above mentioned and the money arising from such sale or hire to be applied to the support of my son Spencer Wilsons Three children; or any others of my grand children that may be most in Need of such assistance.

In Feb 1857 John M. Wilson assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefit due to him and other heirs of John Wilson.

Anna Wilson submitted with her application part of her family record transcribed below.

BIRTHS

Spencer Wilson Son of John & Anna his wife, was born on Saturday the 25th of Feb'y in the year of our Lord 1786.

John Wilson was born on Monday the 10th of June in the year of our Lord 1790

Gustavus Wilson was borne on Tuesday the 20th of Sept'r in the year of our Lord 1791.

Elizabeth Anne Wilson was born on Saturday the 28th of September in the year of our Lord 1793[?]

Hannah Wilson was born on Monday the 25th of Apl in the year of our Lord 1796

James Henry Wilson was born on Monday 10th of Feb'y in the year of our Lord 1799