

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilson W6540<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth Wilson<sup>2</sup>

f117NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/18/11: rev'd 3/6/24

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12]

State of Tennessee Carter County} Circuit Court September Term 1832

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powell Judge &c now holding the Circuit Court in and for said County, John Wilson, a resident of the County of Carter and State of Tennessee aged Seventy six years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That sometime in the month of June 1779 – as well as he recollects – he volunteered in the company commanded by Captain Ninian Hoskins, and was at that time a citizen of Washington County North Carolina (now Carter and Washington Counties in Tennessee). That after he volunteered as above stated, his company joined Colonel John Sevier at a point on Doe River about half a mile above the place called Elizabethton now stands. That from thence he marched under Col. Sevier as his superior officer – through the wilderness, to French Broad River, and after crossing it, they went to Boyd's Creek<sup>3</sup> five miles distant and were there attacked by the Cherokee Indians. Col. Sevier's force at that time amounted to about two hundred fifty men; but the number of Indians is not known by the affiant. The engagement continued about half an hour and the Indians were completely routed. The number of the Indians was not accurately ascertained, that supposed to be about eighty in killed and wounded. None of the whites were killed as well as he remembers, tho' a few were wounded. Affiant states that at this time he was acquainted with Captain Robert Bean in addition to the officers above named. After the engagement above described and while Col. Sevier's force yet remained on the battleground an express was received from Col. Arthur Campbell of Virginia instructing Col. Sevier not to proceed any further (as was his original intention) into the Indian Country, until Col. Campbell should come up with him. Col. Sevier accordingly went back about five miles and encamped five days in an island situated in the French Broad River, waiting for the arrival of Col. Campbell, where the troops, during that time were without food. On the fifth day Col. Campbell

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<sup>1</sup> BLWt79529-160-55

<sup>2</sup> Cover Note: "This Elizabeth was the former widow of John Lindsey who died in service in the War of 1812, and for whose Service she also, received a pension, Old War Wid. File 27765, also, Bounty land Warrant No. 56897-80-50 and Bounty land warrant No. 2473-80-55} All papers in These War of 1812 Claims are within this jacket "

<sup>3</sup> Battle of Boyd's Creek (Tennessee, then North Carolina) December 16, 1780

<http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boydscreek.html>

joined Col. Sevier with about five hundred and fifty men from Virginia under his command, and on the day following Colonels Campbell and Sevier began their march for the Indian Towns. The same day they arrived at the Big Island Town, an Indian village on the Tennessee River, which was burnt, and a great number of Indians killed and taken prisoners by the white people. They then penetrated the Indian country still further and destroyed in their progress all of the Indian towns in succession amounting to thirteen in number. Among others they destroyed the following towns to wit, Tellico, Chota, Cowee and others whose names are not now recollected. Chilhowee<sup>4</sup> was the last Indian towns they burned, and the most difficult to conquer, as the whites were engaged eight days in skirmishing with the Indians before that town, before a successful attempt was made at firing it. About one hundred fifty Indians, including women and children were taken prisoners during this excursion, and after the battle of Chilhowee was taken to Long Island on the Holston River and left by Colonels Campbell and Sevier until after the treaty of Long Island [July 1777] when they were exchanged. So soon as the prisoners were left at Long Island the troops were disbanded and affiant returned home. He was out on this excursion three months but never received a regular discharge. After remaining at home about four days he again volunteered under Captain James Roddy & came to the place where Elizabethton now stands, where he joined Col. Sevier who had about three hundred men under his command, and marched over the Yellow Mountains and through North Carolina into South Carolina, where he joined General Francis Marion at a point low down on the Santee River, in the swamps. His Lieutenant on this occasion was by the name of Ford [Joseph Ford of Washington County NC militia] and he knew Col. Charles Robinson [sic, Charles Robertson] and Captain Bean. He remained with General Marion until the termination of the revolutionary war, a period of about two years, and during this time was occupied in roving about the swamps of Santee under his command and in occasionally volunteering upon those excursions which were made by Marion's men from there place of concealment. He was present when one hundred one men surrendered to Major Walton [Jesse Walton of Surry County NC militia] at the two & twenty mile house which was a British Hospital. He was also present when the firing had commenced between Marion's men and the British near Charleston, and when a British Dragoon, who was a deserter came up and informed Marion that the British had nearly surrounded his Army. Marion perceiving the statement to be correct gave orders to his men to retreat, and affiant was among those who retreated back to the swamps of Santee and crossed that River the same evening. Col. Sevier did not remain all the time with Marion, but Col. Robinson, Captains Roddy [James Roddy a/k/a James Rodey] and Bean and Lieutenant Ford continued there as long as affiant did, and when the news came that the war had ended, affiant was marched home under Lieutenant Ford. He never received a regular discharge.

Affiant was born in 1755 or '56 in Amelia County Virginia and came to this country when he was quite small and has resided here ever since. The place of his residence was at the time of the Revolution a part of Washington County North Carolina, and since the establishment of Tennessee included in the County of Carter. He has no record of his age and no documentary evidence by which to establish the veracity of his statements. He knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service except his brothers Joseph<sup>5</sup> and William Wilson,<sup>6</sup> each of whom volunteered at the same time he did, and both of whom served with him during the greater part of the time mentioned in this statement, and their affidavit is hereunto annexed. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the

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<sup>4</sup> <http://gaz.irshelby.com/chilhowee.htm>

<sup>5</sup> [Joseph Wilson S3569](#)

<sup>6</sup> [William Wilson W2218](#)

present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state to his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court  
S/ Am M. Carter, Clerk

S/ Jhon Wilson



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State of Tennessee Carter County} Circuit Court September Term 1832

Joseph Wilson aged 74 years and William Wilson aged 72 years, each citizens of the County and State aforesaid, make oath that they have heard the foregoing affidavit of their brother John Wilson read, and know of their own knowledge that all the material facts therein stated are true. They volunteered in the same year, and place, and under the same officers, and performed the same services, he did, in the Indian War. They both volunteered at the same time and place stated by their brother, when they marched to South Carolina. William Wilson continued with John during the whole time he remained in Marion's Army, and knows of his own knowledge that John served as he states. Joseph Wilson volunteered at the same time John did, and went with him and William as stated in the foregoing affidavit to South Carolina, and joined Marion's Army, but was absent therefrom a part of the time serving under Col. Charles McDowell in South and North Carolina. He, however, believes that John Wilson served as he states during his absence, and knows that he served as he alleges while he continued with him.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court 17th of September 1832

Test: S/ A. M. Carter, Clerk

S/ Joseph Wilson, X his mark

S/ William Wilson, X his mark

[Green Moore and Abel Dugger gave the standard supporting affidavit, there being no clergyman resident in John Wilson's neighborhood.]

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Affidavit amendatory of John Wilson's Declaration.

State of Tennessee

Carter County} Personally came before me John Ward an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, John Wilson, who makes oath, that after having performed the tour of duty first specified in his original declaration, he Served as follows. –

In the latter part of the summer or early in the fall of 1779 or 80, as well as he recollects, he volunteered, as stated in said declaration under Captain James Roddy, at the place where Elizabethton now stands, in the Regiment of North Carolina militia Commanded by Col. Sevier, and marched across the Yellow Mountain and through North Carolina into South Carolina, where he joined Genl. Francis Marion, under whom he continued to serve until the expiration of three months, for which term of time he had volunteered. – Without having obtained a discharge, he immediately volunteered under Captain Roddy, and remained in the Service for the term of three months, the period for which he had volunteered. It was during this period, affiant believes, that the persons mentioned in his original declaration, Surrendered to Major Walton at the two and twenty mile house.

Having procured no discharge, he again volunteered under Captain Roddy and remained in the Service for the term of three months, the length of time for which he entered it. He was during this period, as well as he can remember, that the occurrence before Charleston and the

circumstances connected therewith as described in his original declaration transpired.

At the expiration of the three months last mentioned, this affiant, having received no discharge, again volunteered, under Captain Roddy, for the term of three months, during which period he continued in the Service. At the expiration of that time, he again volunteered under the same officer for three months; during which period he continued in the Service. Having received no discharge he again volunteered under the same officers &c and Served two three months tours in succession, in the same manner as before described. He thinks the last term ended sometime in the fall of 1781. At the end of each tour he immediately again volunteered under the same officers and Served for the term of three months on each occasion until he was verbally discharged by Lieutenant Ford, under whom this affiant marched home. During the whole time affiant served, as stated, in South Carolina, General Marion was his Superior officer, and with him, Colonel Robinson, Captains Roddy and Bean, and Lieutenant Ford, this deponent was acquainted. The Seven tours of three months each last mentioned in this affidavit, were performed by this affiant in immediate succession of each other, and during all that time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit, interfering with his duties as a Soldier. He is Confident of having Served three months as first stated in his original declaration, and also of having Served the seven tours above mentioned, of three months each, amounting in all to twenty four months actual Service performed by this affiant on behalf of the United States during the Revolutionary war.

John Wilson, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of March 1833

John Ward

[p 18: On September 18, 1855 in Washington County Virginia, Elizabeth Wilson Guardian of Sarah Wilson, a daughter of John Wilson filed for the bounty land entitlement of her ward. She signed the application with her mark.]

[Note: Documents in the file indicate the following facts: veteran died in Jonesborough Tennessee, September 3, 1837; veteran married November 18, 1819 in Washington County Virginia, Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsey, widow of John Lindsey, a veteran of the War of 1812 and who died in service October 7 1814 at Norfolk Virginia. The marriage of John Wilson and Elizabeth Lindsey is recorded in the clerk's office in Washington County Virginia; the widow was allowed her pension on application executed March 27, 1853 at which time she was 60 years old and living in Washington County Virginia. Veteran and his wife Elizabeth had 6 children, the only name designated in the file is Sarah M Wilson, their youngest child, who was born March 15, 1836. In 1866, the widow was still living in Washington County Virginia and gave her age as 67 years. In 1870 she was living at "Mock's Mills," in Washington County Virginia. There is a record [p 7] of the marriage of John Lindsey to Elizabeth Rambo on September 2nd 1813 in Washington County Virginia: they were married by John Jones Junior a Minister of the Gospel. Their relationship, if any, to the veteran and/or his wife is not stated. John Lindsey, a veteran of the War of 1812, married Elizabeth Rambo on September 2, 1813 in Washington County Virginia]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$96 per annum commencing July 27, 1868.]