

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wright W6596

Elizabeth

f98VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/23/11

[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 Virginia, Cumberland County SS

On this 26 day of November 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the justices sitting, William Wright, a resident of the County of Cumberland, in State of Virginia aforesaid aged eighty 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 enlisted as a private soldier in the Army of the United States for the term of two years in February 1776 with Captain John Morton and served in the 4th Virginia Regiment of the Virginia line, under the following named officers viz.: Colonel Isaac Read and Major Robert Lawson, he enlisted in the month of February, 1776 marched to Prince Edward Courthouse in the month of March 1776, went to Suffolk and then to Portsmouth in Virginia, while in the neighborhood of Portsmouth in Suffolk was in several skirmishes with Lord Dunmore's Troops, in September 1776 after Lord Dunmore left the waters of James River, he the said William Wright went by water with the Regiment to the head of Elk River in the State of Delaware, that while on the march to join General Washington's Army, a Sergeant belonging to the company in which he was, died, and he the said William Wright was appointed to fill the vacancy, in the month of September and that there is error in the declaration he made before the Court of Prince Edward, either in copying or otherwise, in that part that says "that while in Suffolk he received the appointment of Sergeant." That from the head of Elk River he went to Philadelphia, thence to New Ark [Newark] in New Jersey, where they met General Washington on his retreat after the surrender of Fort Mifflin, joined General Washington's Army at New Brunswick New Jersey, and in December 1776 was in the battle at Trenton, in January 1777 he was in the battle at Princeton, took up winter quarters at Chatham, and from that place he went out in a number of scouting parties and was engaged in several skirmishes with the Enemy, Lord Howe being at that time with his Army at New Brunswick about twelve miles from the American Army. In September 1777 he was in the battle at Brandywine, and in October 1777 he was in the battle at Germantown. In the winter of 1777 – 8 lay at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania until February 1778 when his term of two years expired and he was regularly discharged. It may be well here to say that Captain Morton under whom he had enlisted, had resigned his commission in the latter part of the year 1776, and that Lieutenant John Holcombe filled the vacancy occasioned by his resignation, and that Thomas Spencer became 1st Lieutenant and James Morton 2nd Lieutenant in said company, under whose command as company Officers he was when discharged. While in the Army there was several changes in his Commanding Officers, Major Lawson was promoted to Colonel and a Captain Bell received the appointment of Major, at the time he left the Army Brigadier General Charles Scott commanded the Brigade – this Applicant William Wright, acted as Sergeant from the time he was appointed as above stated in the month of September 1776 until

he was discharged from the service at Valley Forge in the month of February 1778.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency of any State.

Question by the Court. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in the County of Cumberland, State of Virginia in the year 1752. –

Quest. 2nd Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. The book in which my age was registered fell into the hands of an older brother who carried it to the State of Georgia.

Quest 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary Or and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in the County of Cumberland when I volunteered for the term of 2 years as stated in the foregoing declaration, I have lived in the same since the Revolutionary Or and am now a resident of the same County.

Quest 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute, and if a Substitute, for whom?

Answer. I volunteered for the term of 2 years, and was not a Substitute.

Quest 5th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. These interrogatories are answered in the foregoing declaration.

Quest 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a discharge and it was given by Colonel Grayson, and deposited by me, in the Auditor's Office, State of Virginia soon after the peace.

Quest 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, & their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Answer. Allen Wilson, Charles Womack, Daniel P. Wilson, Peter the Foster, William Phamp, John Morrow, John W. Wilson

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Wm Wright

[John T Watkins, a clergyman, and Edward L Scruggs gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p 12: On August 27, 1838 in Cumberland County Virginia, Elizabeth Wright, 62, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Wright, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him March 31, 1793; that her husband died April 26, 1838.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Wright". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[f p 5: family register: "William Wright was married to Elizabeth Wade widow of Charles Wade November 1st 1785

Sally Anderson Wright 1st issue was born August 18th 1786 in the Evening

Eliz^a Wright departed this life January 10th 1789

William Wright was married to Elizabeth Woodson Daughter of John Woodson March 31st 1793
John Woodson Wright first Issue of the above was born June 6 1794
I Elizabeth Wright was born 1775" [last digit unclear]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$106.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months service as a Sergeant and 8 months service as a private in the Virginia service. Veteran's widow was pensioned for the same amount commencing March 4th, 1843.]