

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Edward Willis¹ W9005

Hannah

fn52VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/28/11

[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 Kentucky Mercer County Sct.

On this 1st day of September A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the court of Mercer County now sitting, Edward Willis a resident citizen of the County of Mercer and State of Kentucky, aged seventy-two 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 on the 2nd day of July 1780, he volunteered under Captain John Allison for a tour of two months, he was then living at Wilsons Station, and marched to the Falls of Ohio [River] and joined General Clarke's [George Rogers Clark's] Regiment, and from there we marched to the mouth of Licking where Cincinnati now stands, where we built a block house for the purpose of storing up provisions, the first house ever built there, we were then attached to Colonel Harrod's Regiment or Battalion he is not certain which, he knows that Logan commanded the right wing and Harrod the left, and Levin the center, & we marched to the Pickaway Towns where we attacked the garrison about 2 o'clock and took it about sunset, we then destroyed all the Corn that had been planted by the Indians and returned home, on our way we passed old Chillacothé [Chillicothe] and destroyed the corn, the Indians having burnt the town themselves, he was discharged by Captain Allison upon return, having served a faithful Tour [tour] of two months and ten or twelve days. Again in the year 1781 in the month of April, he was drafted at Wilsons Station under Captain King caid [Kincaid?] as a light horse man or mounted horseman for a tour of one month. We joined Colonel Logan, and Captain Allison with the foot company at Bryant's Station, we were then ordered to reconnoiter the Country as follows, twice a week, from Bryant's Station to the Blue Licks from thence to the Forks of Licking from thence to the forks of Elkhorn around about where Lexington now stands and was discharged at Bryant's Station, in this tour he served faithfully one month and seven days, every day on horseback, again in July or August of the same year he was drafted in the company of Captain Kirkham for a tour of one month and marched about two miles below Frankfurt as it is now called, to a place called Leastown where we were stationed for the purpose of guarding the Blockhouse, and the hands that were making canoes to transport for provisions, etc., during the time we were engaged here we lost two of the hands killed by the Indians, he was honorably discharged and returned to Wilsons Station. Again in the spring of the year 1782, he was drafted under Lieutenant James Harlan from Wilsons Station as guard at Harborson's Station for a tour of one month there were fifteen others

¹ BLWt31739-160-55

drafted at the same time for the same purpose. We served this Tour and was discharged, upon his return to Wilsons Station, his Brother John Willis was drafted to serve a month's tour at the same place and he being younger than himself, and at the request of his Father and Mother he took his place and served one month for him under Ensign Ferguson, was discharged and returned home, Ensign Ferguson fell afterwards at the Blue Licks. Again in the fall of the same year he was drafted in the company of Captain Kenton for a Tour of one month, and marched and joined General Clark near where Cincinnati now stands and marched from thence against the Indians and took and burnt nine or ten Towns and took about thirty prisoners. He also served another Tour under Captain James Harlan who was then promoted, one month and joined Colonel Logan and marched for the Blue Licks where we arrived after the Battle, We buried the dead, after the Indians had left, There were one or two Companies of British Rangers that fought with the Indians against us in this battle. He will now close his Declaration by repeating the number of Tours he served as well as he can certainly recollect which was 8 months and 17 days in actual and the hardest kind of service he received regular discharges but they have long since been lost, he has no documentary evidence to prove his service but thinks he can procure testimony – he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any state.
Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Ed Willis




The Depositions of James Ray, John Kirkland and Matthew Yocom taken in behalf of Edward Willis being duly sworn according to law depose and saith – John Kirkland states that he served two tours with said Willis in the year 1782 one at Harberson's Station and a Campaign, and [sic, under?] Colonel Clark both Tours one month each he knows Willis was repeatedly drafted and in the service but he has no recollection of serving with him but the two Towers he names but believes he served faithfully as he stated in his Declaration,

General James Ray states that he has seen and read Edward Willis' Declaration and he believes the statements therein to be strictly true – he has been acquainted with him upwards of fifty years, and he believes him to be the age he represents himself to be in his declaration.

Matthew Yocom concurs fully with General Ray in his statements in relation to Mr. Willis's Service. They all know that Edward Willis is reputed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a faithful soldier of the Revolution.

Subscribed and sworn to this first day of September A.D. 1834



[fn p. 17: marriage bond dated March 17, 1789 issued to Edward Willis and Joseph Hail to secure the marriage of Edward Willis to Hannah Hough in the state of Virginia to which is

appended the following:

"This is to certify that I have no objections against Edward Willis marrying my daughter Hannah Hough as witness my hand this 17th of March 1789

S/ William Hough"

the above document being certified as a true copy by the clerk of Mercer County Kentucky July 5th, 1843.]

[fn p. 9: On July 4, 1843 in Mercer County Kentucky, Hannah Willis, aged upwards of 72 years, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Edward Willis a pensioner for his service in the revolution at the rate of \$25 per annum; that she has no documentary evidence supporting her claim; that she was married to Edward Willis on March 19, 1789 and that her husband died January 17, 1842. She signed her application with her mark.]

[fn p. 6: On May 15, 1855 in Mercer County Kentucky, Hannah Willis, widow of Edward Willis filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner who is herself already on the pension list; that she married her husband in 177_ in Danville, Mercer County Kentucky; that they were married by the Reverend Rice and that her name prior to her marriage was Hannah Huff [sic]; and that her husband died __, 18__. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 1/2 months service as a private in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing March 4th, 1848.]