

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Willson (Wilson) W9008<sup>1</sup> Amelia or Milly Willson f208NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/16/11: rev'd 1/2/17

[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' 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.]

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New Pension Laws

Form of Widow's Declaration No. 1

State of Kentucky County of Livingston: SS

Amelia Willson of said County and State makes oath and says that she is the widow of Captain James Willson deceased, who was a Captain in the Revolutionary War that the said Captain James Willson died at his residence in Livingston County Kentucky on or about the 17<sup>th</sup> October A.D. 1811

She further states that she was married to the said Captain James Willson <sup>who went over to</sup> Pittsylvania County Virginia and not getting a license there he carried her into Caswell County North Carolina where they were married and had a dinner in Caswell County North Carolina on the \_\_\_ day of November in the year 1793 by one William Moore, of the Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian Minister and that her name before her said marriage was Amelia Burgess and that there are five children of the said Captain James Willson now living, whose names are as follows Agness Pringle (Willson) 55 years of age; James Willson, 53 do; John Green Willson, 51 do; Amelia Parmley (Willson), 48 do; William B Willson 46 do; <sup>John M Willson the oldest was born in the year 1794 he died in 1797, if living, would be 60;</sup> only surviving children of said Captain James Wilson deceased, and that her husband never received anything of the United States or any State Government during his lifetime, nor have any of his heirs received anything of any Government since his death.

She furthermore by these presents constitutes and appoints irrevocably F. E. Hassler, of Washington DC, her true and lawful attorney to prosecute and demand from the United States Government any pension or money or land that she may have right to – hereby confirming her said attorney's lawful acts in the premises.

Signed in our presence

S/ Jordan J Bass

S/ William F Champion

Subscribed, acknowledged and sworn to before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 1854 and I further certify I am not interested in this claim.

S/ Robert L Boyd, JP

S/ Amelia Willson



<sup>1</sup> BLWt31742-160-55

The Affidavit of Amelia Willson

I, Amelia Willson, formerly Amelia Burgess of the County of Livingston and State of Kentucky, do solemnly, sincerely and truly affirm and declare, that I first became acquainted with Captain James Willson about the year 1792. He resided in Caswell County, North Carolina and I resided, before my marriage with said Willson, with my father in Pittsylvania County Virginia. Some time after becoming acquainted with Captain Willson, we were engaged to be married, and in the fall of the year 1793, he went over from Caswell County North Carolina into Pittsylvania County, Virginia, where I lived with my father, and my parents being willing that I should marry him and all things being ready for the wedding but the license, or some kind of authority from the County, the marriage was suspended until license could be obtained, but as license could not be obtained when Captain Willson applied for it in consequence of the absence or death of the clerk, but which I do not recollect, he requested me to meet him in his own County, which was Caswell County, North Carolina, and as soon as I could make arrangements, in a day or two after, I met him in Caswell County agreeable to appointment, and we were married by one William Moore, a Presbyterian clergyman, according to the laws of the State of North Carolina. I was married to Captain James Willson, to the best of my recollection, in the fall of the year 1793. I was married at the house of William Prowell, a citizen of Caswell County. Captain James Willson was about 40 years of age and I was about 18 years of age when we were married in the fall of the year 1793. I do not know whether any record was ever made of our marriage, by the minister marrying us, in the Presbyterian Church, nor do I know that any record was ever made in the County of Caswell, North Carolina, and if any record of the kind is in evidence, I do not know how or where or in what manner I could procure it. I have not the least knowledge whatever that there is any such record in existence, nor do I know that there ever was. My husband, Captain James Wilson, had a family Bible in which I am of the belief that our marriage was there recorded and also the births of my children; but this Bible was taken away from me by one of my son-in-law's at a time when I knew the it not and very much against my will. I have often diligently and faithfully made efforts to recover again this Bible on account of its containing the marriage of myself and husband and the births of my children, but I have has often failed to get it. It has been a great many years since it was taken away, and, at this time, it is nowhere to be found. It was taken away from me about 35 years ago. I lived with my husband from the time we were married in the year 1793 until his death upon the 7th day of October 1811, and since that time I have remained single. I was married near 11 months before my first child was born whose name was John Matthew and who died when near 2 years of age. My second child was named Margaret, who first married Samuel Craig and afterwards John Adcock; she has been dead near 24 years. My third, Agness Pringle, was born on the 23rd of September 1799. My fourth, James Wilson, was born, as well as I recollect in 1802. John Green Wilson, my fifth, was born in about 1804. Amelia Parmley, my sixth, was born about 1806. William B Wilson, my seventh, was born in September 1808. Having lost my Bible record, I cannot precisely state all the births of my children. What I have said here is from my best recollection. I am now nearly 80 years of age. I have often regretted the loss of my Bible record, and have sought it earnestly, but have never been able to find it, for I never could prevail upon my son-in-law Craig to give it up to me while he was living, and since his death, I have never been able to find it. If I had this Bible record, I could then show satisfactorily the date of my marriage, and also the dates of the births of all my children. All I have here stated, from my very best knowledge and belief, I know to be true.

Given under my hand, this the 18th day of April, 1854.

S/ Amelia Willson

*Amelia Willson.*

[p 28: certified copy of the marriage bond issued in Caswell County, NC, on December 10, 1792, to James Willson and William Willson to secure the marriage of James Willson to Mildred Burgess. Certified by Thomas W. Graves, clerk of Caswell County Court May 18, 1854.]

[p 79: Oath of Allegiance signed by James Willson]

I do acknowledge the UNITED STATES of AMERICA to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do swear that I will, to the utmost of my power, support, maintain and defend the said United States against the King George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his or their abettors, assistants and adherents, and will serve the said United States in the office of Captain which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the best of my skill and understanding.

*James Willson of Captain in the 10th N. Carolina Battalion*

*James Willson*

*12th day of May 1778*

*Lachn. McIntosh*

signed 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1778, by Lachn. McIntosh, B. G.

[p 146: copy of the last will and testament of James Wilson of Livingston County, KY. The document is dated October 15, 1811.]

[p 162: certificate dated December 27, 1854 from the North Carolina Comptroller giving the payments made to James Wilson for military service in the revolution; including payments to Lieutenant James Wilson in February 1777; payments to Captain James Wilson who resigned May 20th 1778. The certificate contains the following: "The name of Captain James Wilson appears on a Roster of the Officers &c in Colonel Sheppard's Battalion from the 19th of April 1777 until the 1st of July 1777 (I think this was the 10th Regiment)." The certificate also list payments made to a Captain James Wilson for militia services.]

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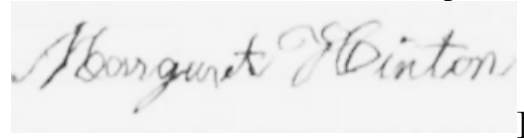
State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State.

I William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the Musterrolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that James Wilson a Captain in said line of the 10th Regiment was commissioned on the 19th day of April 1777, and that he resigned on the 20th of May 1778.

Given under my hand this 12th day of June 1855.

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 5: Affidavit dated April 17, 1854 of Margaret Hinton of Livingston County Kentucky in which she states she was born, raised and married the first time in Caswell County North Carolina; that she was born in the same neighborhood in which Captain James Willson was Captain in the Revolutionary War; that she knew him well before and after his marriage to Amelia Burgess; that affiant had an older sister named Agness accompanied Captain James Willson into Pittsylvania County Virginia for the purpose of witnessing his marriage to Amelia Burgess; that the veteran and Amelia were not married in Pittsylvania County but crossed back over into Caswell County North Carolina where they were married by one William Moore, a Presbyterian minister, in about the year 1793; that James Willson was about 40 years of age when he married Amelia Burgess then about 18 years of age; that the veteran and his wife moved from North Carolina to Kentucky where he died in 1811 at his house in Livingston County; that the first child of the veteran and his wife was John Matthew who died when 2 years old or there about; that 2<sup>nd</sup> child was named Margaret, followed by Agness Pringle, James, John Green, Amelia Parmley, William B. Willson; that the affiant's brothers John Dobbins and Hugh Dobbins were executors of the estate of Captain James Willson.



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[The veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$222 per annum subsequently increased to \$439 per annum for the service of her husband as a Lieutenant & Captain in the North Carolina Continental line.]

[Note: This file is a large one containing a number of old family receipts and documents not relating to the veteran's service. There are also a number of affidavits given by people who knew Capt. Willson and who relate what he told them of his actions at the Battle of Guilford Court House and Eutaw Springs. Among those affidavits is another one (p 154 et seq.) given by Margaret Hinton who refers to the veteran as her uncle.]