

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Wilkins W9893

Sarah

fn32¹NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/13/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of North Carolina County of Stokes

On this the 12th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting in and for the County of Stokes in the State of North Carolina John Wilkins, a resident of said County of Stokes, aged about ninety-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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated (viz.)

From great age & infirmity and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time he served or the names of all the officers under whom he served, but that it was in the month of March (date not recollected) that he was first called into service as a volunteer in the company commanded by Captain Charles McAnally -- Lieutenant William Merridy [sic, probably William Meredith], in Surry County North Carolina, under Major Winston [Joseph Winston] and Colonel Armstrong, we marched to old Richmond, in Surry County NC where we stayed for some time, then we marched in several directions, and was at one time at Bethabara, or Moravian old town, in the said County, I think I was at the least one year in this tour of service under the above named officers. I next volunteered as a militia man in the said County of Surry under Captain William Hickman and I think his son Edward Hickman was Lieutenant, and this company I served three months at the least. I again volunteered under Captain William Merrideth [sic, William Meredith] under whom I served at various times in all more than three months -- Joseph Gibson was our Lieutenant. I again volunteered under Captain John Morgan under whom I march to Guilford County NC. This was some time before the battle of Guilford NC under this Captain I served about two months -- I was never in company with any regular soldier that I know of. Captain William Shepperd commanded a company with us during part of my services but I was not in his company -- we were stationed at one time at Salem NC -- I was often employed guarding prisoners -- I know that I served in all about two years, but cannot state precisely the length of my services more than I have, that is to say

¹ At the time this file was viewed on Footnote.com, the page numbers assigned by Footnote.com to the digital images of each of the pages in the file were nonsensical. Footnote.com indicates that it is working on trying to resolve this issue with its software.

The	first	tour as a	private	militia man	12	months at	least
	2 nd	do	do	do	3	do do	do
	3 rd	do	do	do	3	do do	do
	4 th	do	do	do	<u>2</u>	<u>weeks do</u>	<u>do</u>
making in all					18 months & weeks		

And for the said service of 18 months and 2 weeks he claims a pension.

Answers to the 7 Interrogatories propounded by the War Department

Ans. 1st I was born in Northumberland County in the State of Virginia, as I have been informed by the word of my grandmother in the year 1741.

Ans. 2nd I have no record of my age that I know of.

Ans. 3rd I lived in Surry when called into the service have lived in the same neighborhood ever since, and now live at the same place -- it now being Stokes County where I live as the County of Surry was divided & Stokes taken off.

Ans. 4th I turned out as a volunteer every time as I never would stand a draft.

Ans. This I do not remember the names of any other officers with whom I served but those already mentioned.

Ans. 6 I never received any written discharge.

Ans. 7th I have no documentary evidence of my services nor do I know of any person by whom I can prove the same. I am well known to William Ward Esquire & James Daring Esqr., Colonel John Webb, Colonel Math. R. Moore, A. G. Scales & others who can and will testify to my veracity and their belief of my services.

He the said John Wilkins hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 Territory or District.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Hill, CCC

S/ John Wilkins, X his mark

[Abs. Scales, Matt. R. Moore and Col. John Webb gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Stokes County: On this 24th day of September 1833 personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Wilkins a resident of said County who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following explanatory amendment to a declaration made by him at last March Court of said County in order to obtain a Pension for services rendered by him in the Revolutionary war as a militia private Soldier he being a very old man & afflicted with a Paralick [sic?] Complaint & consequent loss of memory he states that he cannot recollect the different periods of entering into the Service of the United States and names of all the officers he then knew, as well as all the different sections of the Country through which he was marched by his Officers a part of whom he has named in the foregoing declaration of March last, But that he is certain that he actually did perform at least the full length of Service expressed in his declaration aforesaid. But further states that the said declaration was drawn by an Attorney at Law a Mr. Murchison & read in haste to him and it appearing therein that he said applicant declares for one year's service at one siege under Captain Mcanally when in fact and in truth he thinks he did not express himself nor did he understand that the declaration read that way: But that the true intent and meaning of his declaration of his services is that, he first entered the service in the year 1777 as stated in his declaration aforesaid & served as a minute private Soldier first under Captain Mcanally & afterwards under Captains, Meredith, Hickman, Bostick, Morgan & sometimes lieutenants all of

whose names it is impossible for him to recollect at present, but that from only in the Spring of the year in 1777 he was fully war more than half his time out into actual service by his officers Colonel Martin Armstrong, Major Winston or his Captains, & at sometimes was out perhaps only ten days, two weeks, four weeks or a month at a time & sometimes more, in scouring and ranging the Country around about for the purpose of subduing, chastising & keeping the disaffected or Tory part of the Inhabitants, that were strong along the Yadkin & Dan River's & there tributary branches up into the Blue Ridge of mountains to and fro in every direction & often times half [paper folded and text obscured and illegible] this capacity this applicant acted served for & in the year 1777, 1778 & 9 at least one year & under different officers in the cause of liberty as he expresses himself commanded by officers aforesaid in behalf of the United States and afterwards he served at least 6 months as stated in the aforesaid declaration &c.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year first above mentioned at his own place of residence in the County of Stokes aforesaid

Before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ John Wilkins, X his mark

On the same day above mentioned Sarah Wilkins Wife of the aforesaid John Wilkins aged eighty-four years on her oath declare that she intermarried with said John Wilkins the first day of March 1772 in the County of Northumberland Virginia & in the year 1773 they removed to Surry County North Carolina where they have resided ever since, though from the division of the County is now Stokes County, that her husband aforesaid during the Revolutionary War it appears to her that he was absent from his house & home nearly half his time in the service of the United States whenever called on by his officers, which often happened & sometimes was roused of in the dead hours of night & left his bed with this deponent alone with her little infants & when out in pursuit of some vilious [sic, villainous] set of Tories that was about to embody in some quarter of the County. Sworn & supp before September 1833 before me

S/ C. Banner, JP

S/ Sarah Wilkins, X her mark

[fn p. 196]

State of North Carolina Stokes County: SS

On this 2nd day of December 1833, personally appeared before me Charles Banner a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Wilkins at his own place of Residence in the County aforesaid, who being duly sworn, deposed and saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot positively swear as to the precise length of his Service, But according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following manner (to wit) that in the spring of the year he thinks in 1777 -- there was a call for the militia in Surry County North Carolina & he with others went with their horses & guns to a certain Mr. Myers' near old Richmond or Surry old Courthouse where Captain Mcanally & Lieutenant Meredith had raised a Company part drafted & part volunteers he believes & from said Myers' they marched to Richmond aforesaid, where they [word torn out and obliterated] with Colonel Martin Armstrong & Major Joseph Winston he then entered as a volunteer & marched as a horseman in said Company & under another Company commanded he believes by a Dutch Captain named Smith crossing the Yadkin River at a Strange place he does not know the name of the Ford & through a Strange part of the Country in pursuit of a company of Tories or British as he understood, our Companies parted he thinks & his Captain & company marched down the River on the South Side & crossed another Smaller River he thinks the South Yadkin, then crossed the big River below & met the other Company & then through Strange

Settlements he believes in Rowan County took a party of Tories prisoners and guarded them to Salem and the old Moravian Town & put them in an old church & he remained as one of the guard at that place for several days & was dismissed by his Captain & Colonel Armstrong was present; in this Tour believes he was at least one month & found his own horse -- and in a short time after he returned home there being another call for men, he joined a volunteer in a Captain Hickman's Company of horsemen & found his own horse ^{& Gun} he cannot tell the date. But marched & met with a Captain Halbert & a small company near old Richmond aforesaid and remained there some time, when a Captain William Shepperd & his Company joined our company & Colonel Williams [Joseph Williams] commanded as Colonel, some time a Colonel Lanear [sic, Robert Lanier or William Lenoir?] was with our troops & marched across the Yadkin River & through a strange part of Country many miles he cannot remember any notable place except a mountain called the Fox knobs & Mulberry Fields on the Yadkin River & then across the River & other rivers on the North side the Yadkin and down to the old Richmond & thence to the Town fork near Major Winston's he thinks at which place he was dismissed for a service of at least three months. Another Tour of service he entered & served as a volunteer under Captain William Meredith & a Joseph Gibson was his Lieutenant met & rendezvoused at Richmond aforesaid where he saw Colonel Williams & Colonel Armstrong & a number of other officers he cannot name at present & was marched down the Yadkin River after crossing near Richmond & crossed again over the River at the Shallow Ford, when news came that the Tories had embodied up the River when we marched with all speed up to Richmond where we met the Tories where a skirmish ensued, they being too strong for our party, we were compelled to retreat with confusion and disorder only one man of ours was wounded & he & several others were taken prisoners whose names he does not remember. Colonel Williams was our head commander & he thinks there was a Captain Shepperd & Captain ? [name written over and partially missing -- could be "Bostick"] that he then knew you (who are now dead) who was in the engagement and after this defeat he met his Company again & served out his Tour of 3 months in guarding the prisoners that was taken at the Battle of King's Mountain² from near the Shallow Ford to the old Moravian Town in a large meadow called the Bull pen at which place he was discharged & returned home, & the next & last service that he served as a volunteer under a Captain John Morgan there being a call for a Company to march to Guilford County in order to joined troops commanded by Major Joseph Winston who had sent for reinforcements but when his Captain Morgan & company reached Guilford Court house Winston & his men had left that place & had marched and Hannah had a skirmish with a party of British & Tories at a place called Whitesells Mills [sic, Weitzel's Mill³] & own hearing these news our Company returned home and was dismissed after having served at least two weeks as a private soldier. The many short services that he knows he served as a minute man or Ranger after the Tories in scouting parties appearing not to come under the meaning of the act of Congress of June 1832 he has not enumerated nor does he remember the different routes that he was engaged, But the above services (first

one	month as a	private	volunteer	horseman
three	do	do	do	do
three	do	do	do	do
2	weeks as a	private	do in a foot	company

making in all 7 months & 2 weeks which he knows he did actually serve as aforesaid for which he now claims a pension but remained of his Services of more than one year he believes he

² October 7, 1780

³ March 6, 1781

performed at sundry periods & under various officers during the Revolutionary War as a minute man or Ranger in the County of Surry North Carolina which he cannot remember half and further he states that he cannot find or procure any witness by whom he may prove any of his Services aforesaid, and is all those that served with him is either dead or removed out of the County: therefore has no other way to prove his services but his own oath, and believes that the foregoing statement after duly & calmly considering every occurrence that happened, as well as he is in perfect memory will serve him that the foregoing amendatory statement to the former declaration is just & true. Sworn and [subscribed] the date first above written before me
S/ C. Banner, JP
S/ John Wilkins, X his mark

[fn p. 260: On November 24, 1839 in Stokes County North Carolina, Sarah Wilkins, 88, on the 2nd day of May 1839 according to her father's family record which accompanies this application; filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act; she states that she is the widow of John Wilkins, a pensioner at the rate of \$24.84 per annum his right to a certificate dated February 28, 1834 and numbered 23533; that she married him in March 1770 in Northumberland Parish Commonwealth of Virginia; that her husband died May 14, 1838 in Stokes County North Carolina at his place of residence; and that she remains his widow. "She further declares that she had the following named children born of her body whilst she and her said husband John Wilkins lived in Union together as man and Wife (viz.) the first was born in April 1771 and died at 8 days old, the 2nd was Nancy Wilkins was born the 31st of August 1774, 3rd John Wilkins was born the 20th day of November 1777 -- 4th William Wilkins was born the 11th of May 1779 -- 5th Delicha was born March 23rd 1781 -- 6 Elizabeth was born December the 21st 1782 -- 7th George was born the 28th of February 1786 -- 8th Jeremiah Wilkins born the 3rd November 1789 and Thomas Wilkins her last child was born the 5th of June 1792 a family record kept & wrote by her said husband John Wilkins himself on a leaf in a testament and cut out is herewith attached to this paper will plainly appear, together with this applicant Father William Webb's Family record."]

[fn p. 304: in addition to the children of the veteran and his widow named above, the Bible record of John Wilkins contains the following entries:
"David a Negro boy Son of Lock's [?] 1st day of Feb 1821
Mingo Negro boy Son of Looks [?] 10th of december 1823"

[fn p. 323: family record]

Samuel Webb the Sun [sic] of Wm & Winniford Webb was Borne Febuary ye 23rd Day 1744
John Webb was borne October the 7th Day 1747
William Webb was Borne Janr the 22nd Day 1749
Sarah Webb was borne May [illegible]
Frank Webb was Borne June the 20th Day 1753
According to the Records of Wincomoco [?] Farion [?] in Northumberland County

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 7 months & 14 days service in the North Carolina militia as a private.]