

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Robert Wilson W2302

Sarah

fn158SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of South Carolina, York District

Personally came Robert Wilson before me the subscribing Justice of the quorum, and being legally sworn, and does declare upon oath, that he was a soldier in the Continental line of the Army of the revolution, and served as such (in the third Regiment of said Army) until he was captured in Charleston, on the 12th day of May, in the year 1780 (at which period, he had served his Country, in the capacity of a Soldier, the space of three years and five months) after which capture his never was called upon by said Army; that he broke prison on Haddrell's point, where he was confined by his captors; and that he joined and served in the militia of the State of South Carolina, until the end of the war. This deponent further the players, that he has never received from the United States, either bounty, pay for services, nor pension as yet.

Sworn to and subscribed the 18th day of August A.D. 1828, before me

S/ William Jamieson, Q. U.

S/ Robert Wilson

State of South Carolina, York District: Personally appeared John Bird,¹ before me the subscribing justice of the quorum, and being legally sworn, saith, upon said oath, that he was (and is yet) acquainted with the within named Robert Wilson, when a Soldier in the Continental line of Infantry, in the third Regiment of the Army of the revolution. That he saw him fight at the battle at Savannah, in the State of Georgia, & at the battle at Stono, and at Purysburg, in the State of South Carolina, and he with this deponent, was made prisoner, with the rest of General Lincoln's Command, when Charleston was surrendered to the British, on the 12th day of May A.D. 1780; and that he knew the said Robert Wilson to be a true and faithful soldier and the calls of his country.

Sworn to, and subscribed the 18th day of August, 1828, before me.

S/ Jno Bird

S/ William Jamieson, Q U

New Evidence

South Carolina, Chester District: Personally came Captain James Jamieson² before me, and made oath, that he was acquainted with Mr. Robert Wilson, who has recently made application for the benefit of an Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution. That he knew him in the revolutionary war, and that although this deponent never belonged to the Continental establishment himself, yet he has no doubt from many circumstances, that Robert Wilson was captured at Charleston, South Carolina, and made his escape from the British at Haddrell's point, where he was confined on parole, not to go beyond a certain limit: that this was in the month of June, a sickly season of the year, when his life would have been lost by remaining in so unhealthy a place: that said Wilson escaped by breaking his parole, and returning home to Chester District where he was taken prisoner by a gang of Tories from whom he again made his escape, and fled to general Sumter, whose Army said Wilson joined at Haggler's branch, where said Wilson and this deponent served together under Sumter, until this deponent was disabled from further service, by wounds received at the battle of "Hanging Rock." This deponent further states, that although he was unable afterwards to remain steadily at his post in the Army, yet that he frequently saw said Robert Wilson, during his service under Sumter, and has no doubt but that he continued a faithful soldier under him until the close of the war. This deponent further says, that the events of which he speaks, occurred in the year 1780 and '81, not very long before the close of the war: and he is of opinion, that the remaining Soldiers who were captured at Charleston, with said Wilson, still continued in confinement with the British, until they were exchanged for at the mouth of

¹ [John Bird S39196](#)

² FPA S21839

James River, in Virginia; and that after the exchange, they were not called into service, before the close of the war.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me this 10th day of November, 1829.

S/ William Jamieson, Q. U.

S/ James Jamieson

South Carolina, York District: Personally came Captain John Bird before me, the subscribing Justice of quorum, and being duly sworn, as the law direct, saith, that he was personally acquainted with Robert Wilson, who has recently made application for the benefit of "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war." That he knew him in the revolutionary war, then a soldier in the Continental line of Infantry, third Regiment, State of South Carolina troops commanded by Col. William Thompson, of the said third Regiment. That he fought with him as a Soldier, at the battle of Stono, in the State of Georgia, -- at the Battles of Stono and Purysburg, and in many other skirmishes in the State of South Carolina: and also, that he and this deponent were taken prisoners with the Army in Charleston, South Carolina, then under the command of General Lincoln, on the 12th day of may, A.D. 1780, and further, that the said Robert Wilson fought and acquitted himself faithfully as a Soldier in all those places.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the 20th day of January, 1830, before me.

S/ Jno. Bird

S/ William Jamieson, Q. U.

State of South Carolina, York District

On this 16th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Judges of the Court of Sessions and Common Pleas for the District aforesaid now sitting in session Robert Wilson aged 73 years Resident of York District South Carolina, 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 the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1775 as a volunteer under Captain Woods and served one month against the Tories on King's Creek in the State of South Carolina.

That he again volunteered in the year 1776 under Captain Brown & Colonel John Winn and served two months in defense of Charleston South Carolina.

He again volunteered in June 1776 under Captain Robins & Colonel John Wynn [sic, Winn] on an expedition against the British & Tories at St. Mary's Bluff in East Florida, Had a skirmish with the Enemy at Nassau Swamp, That in this Expedition he served four months.

That he served a two months tour in defense of Charleston under Captain Brown, about the time of the invasion by Sir Peter Parker. But cannot now perfectly Recollect the year,

That he again volunteered for a six months tour to defend the frontier Settlements from the Cherokee Indians, -- In this tour Built Fort Independence on Keowee River, Served six months under Captain Lusk, General Tutt commander in chief.

That he enlisted as a regular Soldier on the 5th day of February 1778, and the 3rd South Carolina Regiment, & was to serve during the war. That his officers names were Captain John Caraway Smith, Col. Thompson, Lieutenant Col. Mason & Colonel Wise. That, during his Service as a Continental Soldier he was in the Battle of Stono, the Battle at Savannah, and a few Days before the Battle of Savannah in an engagement with about 300 Negroes commanded by the British Colonel Maitland. That he continued in this Service until the capture of Charleston in May 1780 when he was surrendered a prisoner of war with General Lincoln's Army -- was under a limited parole, on Haddrell's Point near Charleston, a few days before his parole was out, he made his escape, and came home He therefore never had any Regular discharge from the Service -- a few days after his Return was taken prisoner by a party of Tories, made his escape, and immediately joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] upon Clem's Branch in the State of North Carolina, and served until the British left Charleston, That during his Service under General Sumter he was in the Battle at Rocky Mountain, & Hanging Rock.

That he made application for a pension under the act of Congress of 1828 – and that the proof of many of these services are set forth in said application to these certificates which [are] in possession of the department he refers. That he was born in Chester District in the State of South Carolina, on the 4th of October 1758. That he has seen the above Record of his age in his father's handwriting, but has not got it in possession at this time. That when he entered the Service of the United States he resided in Chester District South Carolina. That at present he lives in York District South Carolina.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim 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 to and subscribed the day and date above in open Court.

S/ A. McWhorter, Clk

S/ Robert Wilson

[John Blair and William Jamieson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of South Carolina, York District: The personal examination of Robert Wilson made in open Court before the Honorable William D. Martin Judge of the Court of Sessions & Common Pleas at York C. H. Oct. term 1832

1st When and in what year were you born?

Answer – in Chester County in South Carolina the 4th day of October 1758

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

Answer -- none

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – In Chester District – the principal part of my time in York District where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer – I volunteered & served as you will see in my statement at large.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer-- My officers were Captain M. Lusk & General Williamson & General Sumter & others referred to in my statement at large, to which I referred you for the general circumstances of my service.

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 -- none

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 and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

answer – I can refer you to all my neighbors, but will only named James H. Alexander and Henry Rea.

Sworn to and Open Court 16th of October 1832.

S/ A. McWhorter, Clke

S/ Robert Wilson

State of South Carolina, York District

On this 15th day of June 1846, personally appeared before me A. S. Wallace, one of the acting Magistrates in & for said District Robert Wilson a resident of the District & State aforesaid, a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following supplemental declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of 7th June 1832, That he the declarant was born on the 4th day of October 1758, and raised in what is now called York District State of South Carolina. That he entered the Army of the Revolution in the latter part of the year 1775 as a private Soldier under Joseph Woods and served as a Ranger to keep down the disaffected for three months, ranged from Sandy to Kings Creeks. Next Tour was to Charleston under Captain Joseph Brown & Colonel Winn, which was in the early part of the year 1776, and they were

out from one to two months --.

Third tour was to Florida under Captain Thomas Robins, Colonel Gooden & General Williamson that they left home about the first of June and was out four months, was out in the above Campaign at the time of the declaring of Independence which news reached their Army by an express while on march to Florida – Fourth Tour in the fall of 1776 after his return home from the Florida Campaign he volunteered for six months under Captain Robert Lusk & General Tutt who marched on to the frontiers of the State, and was at the building of the Seneca Fort at or on the frontiers, but thinks did not stay quite six months.

Fifth tour was in the Regular Army, that in February the 5th he thinks he enlisted for three years or during the war under Captain John Caraway Smith, Colonel Thompson, Major Wise of the 3rd Regiment of Infantry under the Command of General Lincoln and served in said Army, from February 1778, till the surrender of Lincoln's Army to the British at Charleston in May, 1780, when & where he was taken prisoner & paroled – Sixth Tour he on his return home from Charleston went on and joined General Sumter who had fled to North Carolina and on Hagler's Branch where there was gathered a remnant of the Whigs under General Sumter, and that on joining Sumter as aforesaid on or about the middle of July, 1780, there was an Election held for officers, and he the said Robert Wilson was Elected first Lieutenant under Captain James Reed Colonel Bratton and General Sumter, and after organizing they marched on to Rocky Mount and they had an engagement, and from Rocky Mount they marched on Hanging Rock where they had a second Engagement and defeated Col. Bryant a Tory Commander, from this last Engagement they marched on to the Waxhaw Meeting house where they remained for some time and provision[s] getting scarce we marched on to Steel Creek where we remained for a short time & from thence to Land's Ford on the Catawba River and from this latter place we started for Enoree [?], and while on their way they received intelligence that Captain Gore & Johns of the Tory party were in the neighborhood of Fish dam Ford preparing to attack General Sumter. That deponent under Captain McCool who had taken the command of deponent's company in the place of Captain Reed who had been slain by the enemy with Captain Frost was dispatched with their Companies to guard those Companies of Tories in which service they remained till some time in November during which service deponent lost a Horse appraised at 140 pounds Currents – His next Tour was to New Bern for Military Stores by orders from Colonel Bratton that deponent took the command of the guard that was sent to guard the wagons employed on this occasion and was gone from about the middle of December 1780, and returned in March was out on this occasion three months and 10 days as Lieutenant of the guard. -- His next Tour was in the Summer following, he under Colonel Bratton served a tour at Marshall's Mills, they left home in August and was marched on to said Mills where they were stationed to guard the Mill which was employed in grinding grain for the Army. That he deponent served three months and served as Lieutenant and had the Command of a Company, which was the end of his regular terms of service, but from that time till the end of the war he was often in camp but not to engage in the regular Army which he was prevented from by bad health. This declarant further states that during the Revolution he served as a Lieutenant from the time he joined the General some other at Hagler's Branch North Carolina till the end of the War making in all about 11 or 12 months which service he claimed when applying for his Indents as well as £140 kept current city for his lost horse. That for his services and the Militia before the fall of Charleston he was paid in tickets on Chestnuts and Kershaw which soon became worthless.

He also declared that the foregoing contains a true and correct account of his services and the Revolution according to his present recollection.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year first above written before.

S/ A. S. Wallace, Magst.

S. Robert Wilson

South Carolina, York District

1st October 1847

Captain Robert Wilson of York District South Carolina a Revolutionary Soldier & Pensioner

under the Act of 1832 makes the following statement which to the best of his Recollection embraces the whole of his Revolutionary Services and in narrating them he has tried to place them in the order in which they took place --.

My first Trip was as a soldier in the Snowy Campaign – under Colonel or General Richardson & Colonel Thompson in the year 1775 – My immediate officer was Captain Joseph Brown – we were out from home something more than three months. The object of the Expedition was to suppress General Cunningham and his Tories embodied on Reedy River Cunningham escaped we brought his party to terms, en-prisoned the leaders and sent the subordinates hung. We remained encamped during the long Snow that gave name to that Campaign at a place called Hickory level on Raban's Creek, which is in Laurens District of this State. Whenever the snow passed off so as to permit us to take the field we attended to the objects of our expedition as herein stated and returned home.

My next Tour to the best of my recollection was in the expedition to Florida undertaken by a force from this State and Georgia. The South Carolinians were under the command of General Williamson, the Georgians under General Twiggs – I was in Captain Thomas Robins' Company. We were gone about four months – we started I think in June – my company and Captain Long's company marched from Benjamin Love's house on Turkey Creek in Chester District, marched through the Dutch fork with the object of drawing the Tories from Sansmer's [?] Mill (they having taken possession of the same). Before we reached the Mill the Tories abandoned it. We then marched on and joined General Williamson's command at the Piney woods House, now in Edgefield District – we Joined General Twiggs at or near Ebenezer in Georgia, and then proceeded to Florida – We passed the Altamaha [River] about the last of July 1776 I distinctly recollect that on reaching the far Bank of that River, a horseman made his appearance on the bank and manifested a wish to reach us, supposing him to be an express he was sent for and on reaching the Army he delivered to General Williamson dispatches containing the Declaration of Independence. General Williamson called upon Captain Lacey to open the dispatches, who done so and on discovering the contents Captain Lacy raised up both hands and exclaimed THANK GOD for this – He then read the Declaration to the officers who were about him – General Williamson wished it read to the Army to effect which the Army was formed in a Hollow Square, and to give Captain Lacey a better chance to be heard by the whole Army General Twiggs brought up a gentle horse and held the same while Captain Lacey stood up on the saddle and read the Declaration of Independence to the whole Army at the conclusion of which there was much firing of arms and rejoicing.

The expedition then went on and crossed the St. Mary's [River] at or near St. Mary's Bluff where the enemy had been embodied but they abandoned their fort before we reached it, and were reported to be at Nassau Swamp some 30 miles further in Florida, to which place we marched but the enemy gave way without serious opposition – and returning we fell in with some hostile Indians and had a scrimmage with them, drove them into a Swamp taking a number of new saddles, bridles & rifle guns which appeared as if they never had been used – We supposed these things to have been presents to the Indians from their good friends the British and Tories.

My next Tour I think was a march to Charleston on the a report that the Enemy's fleet was off the Bar. I think Colonel John Winn commanded, I was under the command of Captain Joseph Feamster – the Alarm proved to be a false one and I understood was occasioned by the appearance of some small vessels said to be Captain Kids [Kidd's] [indecipherable word looks like “peraheal”] fleet – On reaching Charleston we understood the Indians were threatening the frontiers, we returned immediately home, I think on this trip we were engaged about one month – On reaching home we understood that Hights³ family who resided on the upper part of the Enoree [River] had been massacred & that a force were assembling at Hights to chastise the Indians. I immediately (with some of my neighbors) repaired

3 Wilson is probably referring to Jacob Hite and his family. The killing of Hite and other members of his family along with the kidnapping of his wife and two daughters by a small band of Cherokees occasioned an attempt by the white settlers to revenge the killing and obtain the release of the females.

to Hights and attached myself to Captain Thomas Robbins' Company when we marched into the Indian villages on the waters of Keewee River [sic, Keowee River?] when we destroyed their towns, villages and property but we failed to recover some female prisoners who had been carried off when they massacred the family of Hight & others. In this expedition I was about three months engaged my return from the expedition I think in 1777.

My next Tour of duty was under Captain Robert Lusk who raised a Company from my then neighborhood which was on Bullock's Creek Camden District. We rendezvoused at Tolbert's ferry near Pinckney on Broad River and marched then to Seneca old Town, where we built a fort and called it Fort Independence while at Fort Independence we were under a field officer by the name of the Tutt [Benjamin Tutt]. We had turned out for six months, But there a Major Bowie joined us with an additional force and our further service was dispensed with and we were discharged. I think I was on this expedition from two to three months.

After this and in the first part of the year 1778 – I again went into service and started on an expedition which I believe was intended for Georgia our field officer as well as I can now recollect was Colonel John Winn and I believe my Captain was Thomas Robbins while on this march and on the fifth day of February 1778 at Black Swamp near Purysburg in this State I Enlisted in the Continental Service for three years or During the War. I was then arranged in Captain John Caraway Smith's Company of the Third or Colonel Thompson's Regiment – Col. Smith's company was one of the light Infantry Companies, and the Light Infantry of the Third Regiment was generally under the Command of Major Alston and Continued to do duty and the Light Infantry and was in the following Battles that is to say at Stono & at the attempt to Storm the Enemy works at Savannah. After this we were stationed some time at Sheldon Hall Governor Bull's residence, and finally marched to defend Charleston, where after a Siege of some six weeks General Lincoln our Commanding Officer capitulated and we became prisoners this was on the 12th of May 1780 – While I was a Prisoner, I was sent with two others viz. Benjamin Culpeper and James Hays to wait upon some of our officers who had the smallpox at Haddrell's Point, as we three had previously had the disease. It was understood that we were to be with the officers for one month and then to return to Charleston as prisoners, Dreading this we all three made our escape from Haddrell's Point and I reached home safe, as so did the others. Benjamin Culpepper was afterwards a member of the Legislature of South Carolina.

On reaching home I remained but a few days and learning that Sumter, Hill [William Hill] & Bratton [William Bratton] three distinguished Whigs were mustering a small force near the North Carolina line on a small stream called Hagler's Branch. In this trip Joseph Robinson, went with me. I found with Sumter, Hill & Bratton one hundred & five Whigs. We selected Colonel Sumter as our commander and organized ourselves into three companies.

- The first Company was under
 - James Jamieson as Captain
 - Wm Robinson 1st Lieut.
 - Wm Hillhouse, Ensign
- 2 Compy James Reed Captain
 - Robt. Wilson (myself) 1st Lieut.
 - Hezekiah Love, Ensign
- 3 Compy Jno McLure Captain [sic, John McClure]
 - Hugh McLure [McClure] 1st Lieut.
 - Hugh Knox, Ensign

After this we were joined by a number of Whigs so that in a short time we were numbered over 600 in several new companies –when we marched to Rocky Mount hoping to surprise it, in this we failed and was repulsed in the attack which we made upon the place. In this we lost a number of good officers & man-- Some of whom were killed but more wounded – This was the 29th of July 1780 – From this we retreated to near Land's Ford on the Catawba [River] when after consideration, we determined on an

attack on the Enemy at Hanging Rock. In this we were successful Defeating Colonel Bryan & his Tories and also a reinforcement sent to their aid of British Troops, nearly all of whom we killed or captured. From this we returned to West side of Catawba River, and General Sumter's command was defeated at Fishing Creek which dispersed us. This was about the 18th of August 1780 – I then continued to do partisan service with Captain McCool. On my recent Expedition with General Sumter was about one month. We joined General Sumter just before the Battle of Fish Dam Ford where we repulsed the Enemy and then marched to Blackstock's where we were again engaged and repulsed the Enemy. General Sumter was there wounded. It was while I was doing duty as Lieutenant under Captain McCool and just before joining General Sumter the second time to fight at Fish Dam Fort & Blackstocks we had a rencounter [?] with Captain Manning Gore a Tory in which I lost a valuable horse, shot under me in the Battle. In this engagement we defeated the Tories – I was with General Sumter about one month in the trip which included the two Battles of Fish Dam Ford & Blackstocks – After our fight at Blackstock's, I returned home and continued to do duty as a partisan & patrol [?] under Captain McCool still acting as his Lieutenant.

In December of 1780, I was directed by Colonel Bratton ~~to raise 18 men~~ to take charge of a Guard and go and guard some wagons who were collected to go to New Bern in North Carolina, for Military Stores, Salt &c. I found the wagons collecting at Hills Iron works on Ellison Creek [sic, Allison Creek] in York District. There were 32 wagons and a guard of 32 men – I did as directed take command of the Guard – Colonel Richard Hampton had charge of the whole we proceeded to a place called Country Line Creek where we were on Christmas day. We then went to New Bern, loaded our wagons and returned to near the Adkin [sic, Yadkin] River, where learning that Lord Cornwallis was just before us, we turned up the country & retreated to the edge of Virginia on the Dan and Mayo Rivers where we remained until Lord Cornwallis marched lower down in the State of N. C. we then returned to South Carolina with the arms and military Stores, with which the South Carolina troops raised under Colonels Hampton, Hill, Myddleton and others forming what was called the South Carolina State Troops were armed & equipped. And this Expedition I was out three months & 10 days and I commanded the Guard under the direction of Colonel Hampton all the time. On returning home I again resumed duty as patrol and partisan under Captain McCool.

In August 1781 – Colonel Bratton directed me to raise 18 man and I raised 20 men and marched with Colonel Bratton to Marshall's Mills near the Congaree River in what is now called Richmond District. The object of our force was to guard the Mills that it might grind for General Greene's Army, which was quartered on Edisto. On this expedition I was three months and 13 days – While we guarded the Mills Captain Thomas Taylor with his Company guarded & conveyed the meal to General Greene's Army. All this expedition I commanded the small company which I had raised as aforesaid, and Alexander Henry formerly of York District was my Lieutenant. The names of some of the men who were under me at Marshall's Mills were James Darwin [could be Denwin], George Dickey, James Dowdle, John Craig, Henry Long, James & John Robinson, Samuel & John Hand, & Solomon Gold, others not now recollected – In this expedition I was taken with the Rheumatism Pain and it was my last expedition. I [indecipherable word, looks like “tooke”] from home during the war but I frequently went out as a patrol under my old Captain McCool to keep the Tories in order until we were blessed with Peace and independence.

I will be 89 years of age, the 4th day of this month – In my services up to the fall of Charleston, I was a private, After that I acted almost continuously as an officer, as a Lieutenant under Captain Reed until he was killed, then I had command of his Company until we were dispersed at Sumter's Defeat, then as Lieutenant under Captain McCool as before stated. Then as commanding officer of the Guard to new Bern & back and then as commanding the company at Marshall's Mills. I was not regularly commissioned by the State as an officer, Authority and those days were generally a written order from some leading officer of our patriotic He rose of the day such as Sumter, Hill or Bratton--

The foregoing statement I make from the best of my recollection and I believe the whole to be

substantially correct as such. I signed the same in the presence of
S/ James A. Black, MC S/ Robert Wilson

South Carolina, York District

Personally came before me Robert Wilson Revolutionary Pensioner of York District aged 91 years past being first duly sworn according to law says that he made out his account as a private and Lieutenant after the reduction of Charleston S. C. and constituted Captain John McCool his attorney to procure his indents shortly after the close of the war when McCool returned informed Deponent that he had lost his saddle wallets crossing Buckhead (the water being swimming) that he never received any indents or other remuneration for his services above mentioned and never made out any other account to the best of deponent's recollection for the following reason in consequence of the indebtedness of the government in consequence of the war and afterwards neglected to make the return of his services above stated.

Sworn to & subscribed February 12th, 1850 S/ Robert Wilson
S/ John P. Wood, Magst.

[facts in file: Veteran married Sarah Gilmore, April 2, 1828, in York District, SC; he died August 14, 1850, 'leaving no children' ; Sarah Wilson filed on May 3, 1853 at age 71 in York District.]