

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Wright S9532

Transcribed by Will Graves

f32NC

rev'd 7/3/17

[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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State of North Carolina, Duplin County } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions November Term  
1832

On this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November personally appeared in open Court, before William H. Frederick, James Lawson and Stephen Grayham the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting James Wright a resident of Duplin County and State of North Carolina aged 77 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 was born in New Hanover County September 25<sup>th</sup> in the year 1755 moved to Duplin County in the year 1764 [could be 1769] and now resides in Duplin County. That he has his age on a piece of paper copied from his Father's family Bible, which he now has in court ready to produce – that he has lived since the year 1764 in Duplin County – and was living in Duplin when called into service. That he volunteered in the year 1775 – 1776 under Captain William Dickson, Thomas Hooks Lieutenant Michael Kenan Ensign. The field officers were James Kenan Colonel, Thomas Rutledge Lieutenant Colonel – Abraham Motton [Abraham Moulton] Major and Gilbert McCalop [sic, Gilbert McCaleb] Adjutant. The Regiment of Duplin this declarant being one took up the line of march under the above named officers as he believes in the winter of 1776 – at Duplin Court house – marched to South River – from thence to Bladen – from thence to a place called the dismal swamps from thence to Elizabeth – crossed Clarendon River (now called Cape Fear ) at Waddell's ferry-- from thence to Rockfish in Cumberland County – and there joined the regular Army under General Moore – there remained four or five weeks – from thence marched about two miles and took up camp – when this declarant was placed as Sentry over about 30 Tories – he marched to Elizabeth – from Elizabeth to Turnbull to Wilmington – where he and the company to which he belonged joined the Bladen Militia under Col. Richardson & Colonel Owen whom they endeavored and succeeded in cutting off the Tories from the British at Brunswick – he then marched took up camp immediately opposite the widow Moore's Creek – where the Tories commanded by Colonel McDaniel and Captain McLeod were defeated by General Caswell [Richard Caswell] – the Tories supposed to be 1500 in number from thence marched to Dolison's ferry in New Hanover County – from thence back to Duplin Court house – where he was discharged – having served three months. In the fall of the year 1777 this declarant again volunteered under the above named officers at Duplin Court house was by them marched to Wilmington – thence to Jumping Run about 2 miles there joined the Hanover militia and other militia encamped guarded between there and the sound – and remained until the British left – when he was marched back – and again discharged – having served about three months --. That he remained at home two or three months during which time he was several times out on scouting parties after the Tories.

That in the Spring of the year 1778 as this declarant believes he again volunteered in the light horse company under Captain John Fort and Lieutenant Josiah Nolly [Josiah Nolley] -- when a cornet's commission was given to him -- Nolly then resigned when this declarant was appointed Lieutenant -- drew a publick sword -- found his own horse and gun -- then remained in Duplin County for a considerable time in pursuit of Tories and taking deserters he thinks about two years -- that in the Spring of 1780 marched to the big bridge at Hanover County -- where they entrenched -- and were joined by General Livingston [sic, John Alexander Lillington?], they are remained a considerable time & reconnoitering the British lines to the little bridge -- and this declarant in command guarded and conducted into camp about 20 forage casts -- from the big bridge to Rutherford's Mills -- then he was sent to Harrison's Creek -- to keep Sentry between the two armies -- where the British lines were reconnoitered -- and was then joined by Colonel Malmedy [Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne], Captain D. Globack [Baron DeGlobeck] and Major Henderson with a troop of Horse -- when they were ordered to march down and storm a picket of British lying at Smiths Creek in about 2 miles above Wilmington -- a part of Major Craig['s] Army before reaching there the enemy had left -- they there remained guarding until Cornwallis marched into Wilmington when they returned to Rutherford's Mills -- where he was discharged in the spring of 1781 -- having served in this tour about six months. That in the summer of 1781 in June as this declarant believes -- he with 62 men volunteered under Colonel Kenan Captain Dickson -- Adjutant Daniel Williams and Major Moulton (this declarant being a Lieutenant) and attacked a company of Tories -- commanded by the Mobley -- and McAlop -- who in the commencement of the war was an adjutant and faithful soldier and completely defeated them -- after this engagement the 62 men, this declarant being one of the officers, were continually engaged in little skirmishes with three parties of Tories commanded by Captain Scarborough -- Samuel Albertson -- and Rice and Harmond Bass-- that by this declarant and a small party of men the Besses were attacked and defeated -- About this time Major Craig with the British Army marched to Rockfish -- where this Declarant and Major Gillespie with 13 others were sent to reconnoiter -- fired upon by the picket guard -- they then retreated into camp -- reported, and in a few hours were attacked in front and rear by the British and defeated as he believes in August 1781 -- this Declarant and his men joined then Colonel Bloodworth [sic, Thomas Blutworth] at Black River -- in the summer of 1781 where by agreement they marched into Duplin County and this declarant went in to Dobbs County over Neuse [River] collected a few men -- returned with an search of the Tories -- prevented from then embodying -- engaged in several small skirmishes until General Rutherford came down from the upper country with an Army of men and assisted in driving Major Craig and his Army from Wilmington in the latter part of the fall 1781 -- after this he was continually engaged watching and guarding the Tories until a cessation of hostilities -- when his sword was returned to the commanding officer.

This declarant states that he never received nor asked for a written discharge -- that he received a commission as cornet signed by Col. Kenan but is unable to state what became of it not having seen the same since the war.

That he is known in his neighborhood to Colonel James Hill Sheriff of the County -- and Stephen Miller Solicitor, who can testify to his character for truth -- and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

That there is no Clergyman living in his neighborhood.

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in New Hanover County September 25, 1755

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

Ans: I have, on a piece of paper copied from my Father's family Bible.

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

Ans: Duplin County, since the Revolutionary War I have lived in Duplin County & now live there.

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

Ans: I always volunteered

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans: General Moore, Captain John Walker & ~~General Ashe~~ I recollect Continental troops under General Moore at Rockfish bridge. The militia regiments I recollect were Col. Kenan's, Colonel Richardson's & Colonel Bludworth's. The general circumstances of my service are stated in my declaration

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I'd never received any written discharge

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a commission; and if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it.

Ans: I received a commission as Cornet signed by Colonel James Kenan, what has become of it I don't know.

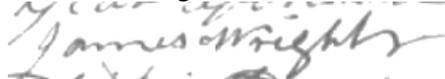
7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: Colonel James Hill Sheriff of Duplin and General Stephen Miller solicitor

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.

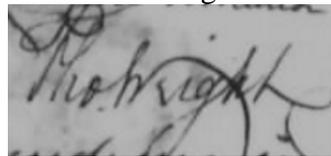
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Wright



I Thomas Wright do hereby certify that the applicant was a soldier in the revolution having seen him engaged in the revolution in active service. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid..

S/ Thomas Wright<sup>1</sup>



[James K. Hill and Stephen Miller gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Duplin State of North Carolina James Wright who being duly sworn deposed and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively 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 grades. For six months in 1776 and 1777 I served as a private. For six months in 1780 and 1781 I served as a Lieutenant in the horse for which service I claim a pension.

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<sup>1</sup> [Thomas Wright S7976](#)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1833.  
S/ Jas. Lawson, JP

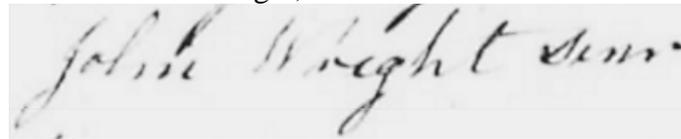
S/ James Wright

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State of North Carolina, Sampson County

This day John Wright<sup>2</sup> Senior of said County personally appeared before me John Wright Jr. a justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law, that James Wright of Duplin County was a Lieutenant in the Cavalry in the War of the revolution, and that he served under Captain John Fort & said Lieutenant James Wright six months at the big Bridge in New Hanover County.

S/ John Wright, Senr.

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Wright Senr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Sworn & Subscribed before made this 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1835.  
S/ Jno Wright, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a Lieutenant for 12 months in the North Carolina militia.]