Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Wright R11889 Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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.]

The State of Ohio, Highland County

On this 16th day of July A.D. 1834 personally came before me one of the Associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County James Wright Senior a resident in said County aged 70 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 & served as herein stated.

- 1^{st} This applicant states that he was born in Augusta County in the State of Virginia in the year 1758. 2^{nd} That he has no record of his age.
- 3rd That he was living when called into service in Augusta County Virginia. About the year 1784 he moved to Fayette County Kentucky where he remained some time & removed thence to Bourbon County Kentucky & from thence to Highland County Ohio where he now lives.
- 4th That he was always a drafted soldier.
- 5th That in October A.D. 1779 he was drafted at said County of Augusta for the Virginia Militia under Captain Long and soon afterwards marched to Charlottesville from thence to Richmond & thence to a place near Williamsburg where he joined a party of the American Army then in Virginia. That after joining the Army he was transferred to a company commanded by Captain Patterson. That while near Williamsburg the company to which he belonged was detached from the Army & marched to Sandy Point to watch the British shipping that they remained at & near Sandy Point for a few days & were then marched back to Williamsburg & again joined the Army. That he was in service at this time not less than nine months marching from place to place in Virginia & after serving for the said term of nine months he was verbally discharged by his Captain at Williamsburg & returned home.

That in October 1780 he was again drafted at Augusta under Captain Patrick Buckhannon – for a three months tour of service – marched soon afterward to North Carolina where he joined that part of the American Army under the Command of General Morgan at a place called Hillsboro. That the part of the Army to which he was attached were constantly marching from place to place during the tour of his service -- & in January 1781 he was engaged at the battle of the Cowpens. The whole detachment of Americans here was commanded by the General Morgan -- & during the engagement he was under the immediate command of Colonel Howard. That the Americans were the victors – having taken about 500 prisoners -- & several hundred stand of arms & killed a great many of the enemy. After the battle – he was marched back to Virginia & verbally dismissed by his Captain at Augusta County. That in this tour he was drafted for three months but served before he was discharged no not less than five months.

That in the month of June he was drafted in the Virginia Militia A.D. 1781 -- & served under Captain Armstead. During this tour he served as a horseman or a spy. The Company commanded by Captain Armstead were all mounted & were almost constantly engaged night & day – during this service under that officer and watching the British Army in Virginia in the neighborhood of

Williamsburg & Richmond & conveying intelligence to the officers of the American Army. He served in this tour 20 days -- & was verbally discharged by his said Captain.

That he knew General Washington & Lafayette, Colonel Washington -- & other officers whose names he cannot now recollect.

6th That he never received a written discharge for any of his tours of service.

7th That there is no Clergyman in his immediate neighborhood but that John Matthews, John Woollas, & Foster Leventon & others will testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. That he has no documentary evidence nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services. That he is unable from old age & bodily infirmity to appear before the Court of record for said County to make his declaration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity but the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Subscribed & sworn to before me this 16th day of July 1834.

S/ John Matthews, Ass. Judge H. C. Ohio

S/ James Wright, Senior

[John Matthews, John W. Woollas and John F. Leventon gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The State of Ohio, Highland County

Personally came before me one of the Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in said County, James Wright Sr. who being duly sworn says, that in the first tour of service within mentioned he served three months, & subsequently without leaving the service, volunteered at Williamsburg for three months -- & after the expiration of said term – he again volunteered at Williamsburg for three months more under the same officers, that by reason of his age & bodily infirmity he did not recollect when his original declaration was made but that he served for nine months under a draft but upon reflection he brought the circumstances to his memory. He further says that as he was during the whole nine months in service he considered it as one tour -- & so named it for said services he never received a written discharge. That in that tour of his service when he served under Morgan at the Cowpens he was in service two months longer than the period for which he was drafted – he remained after his term expired because it [sic, he?] could not safely have returned home on account of the British & Tories that filled the country & because his services were very much needed by the Country at the time & he was strongly [indecipherable word] by his officers to remain. That several persons within his knowledge whose term of service had expired were forcibly detained by the officers such was the danger of the Southern Country at that time – and this was another incentive for him to stay.

S/ James Wright, Senior

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 31st day of October A.D. 1834 S/ John Matthews, Ass. Judge H. C. Ohio