Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Wilkerson S32602 [1] f65NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 7/12/10: rev'd 5/31/17 & 11/8/24

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Indiana Monroe County: On this the 4th day of March in the year of our Lord 1835 personally appeared before me the undersigned Stephen P. Seall one of the Associate Judges of the Circuit Court of said County of Monroe in said State said Court being a Court of record composed of a President and to associate Judges William Wilkerson aged about ninety years of age resident in the said County of Monroe and State of Indiana 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 and served as hereinafter stated to wit.

He was born in King George County Virginia. He never could read or write. His father had a record of his age, which at his death may have been disposed of amongst the other children or lost before that time at any rate he has no knowledge of it now. From the information received from his father and as well as he has been able to keep it in his memory his best impression was & is that he is now about ninety-four years old. He may be a few years younger or some old for.

He states that by reason of his great old age and especially sickness (having been attacked about the first of August last and not recovered) and the consequent loss or failure of memory he cannot swear positively as to the dates of the several tours herein after mentioned nor can he enumerated many circumstances all of which he could before his sickness have stated with some degree of accuracy but he recollects clearly and swears positively that he served not less than (but) the periods mentioned (hereinafter) below and in the following grades.

He recollects Braddock's Defeat[2] he was at the time a small boy. He recollects well the regular Battle which was fought I think on or near Little Alamance River in Randolph, Guilford, Orange or adjoining County in North Carolina his father having removed to Granville County in said State of North Carolina when he appli.. [paper torn and text missing] about the time of the Regulation Battle,[3] he was at that time twenty years of age at the least & probably older. He was but a short time after this battle married to his first wife. He recollects some of the circumstances as they were related at the time of the Battle and about that time he thinks that Colonel Branson General Passons [?, could be Sassons] (not perhaps been a General), Merrill Husbands, Butler &c were somewhat distinguished either in the Battle or the bringing of it about. He thinks Colonel Hams was there. The Regulators commenced the Battle by firing upon some of the men

[1] N. A. Acc. No. 874 050190 Not Half Pay

[2] July 9, 1755. http://www.britishbattles.com/braddock.htm

[3] The battle of Alamance occurred on May 16th 1771.

of Colonel Harris, while some camps were making to inquire into the intentions or purposes of the regulators. Old Doctor or Colonel Pyles [sic, John Pyle] who was in the Tory Band or perhaps their leader at the time they were surprised or rather mistook Colonel Lee & Whig Troops for British at the Race Paths in Guilford or Randolph or thereabout, this applicant has the impression was there from report at the time. Also Governor Tryon.

He resided in said County of Granville North Carolina until entering the service for the first tour, following

(1st) He entered the service of the United States as a volunteer private soldier in the militia of the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain John Henderson in the Regiment commanded by Colonel R. Harris. Sometime during this tour the troops in which he served were as strong & sometimes much less than a full Regiment. They were marched in small bands to, and rendezvoused at Randolph Court House. Then marched to Caswell Court House, then about Tar River & thence about Hillsboro in Orange County North Carolina. We crossed that River Little River Eno [indecipherable word, looks like "Napperud"] & Little River of Pedee. He cannot recollect when he was discharged. They had marched in various parts whenever they might he needed to guard against the depredations of the Tories. He was it gives his best impression dismissed near to Hillsboro. He volunteered in said tour to serve three months which time he served at least, to the satisfaction of his Officers. He cannot state certainly the time when he entered the service in this first tour but thinks as his best recollection that he was about 34 or 5 years of age he is not positive. It was (the time of entering this first tour) about the year of the Battle of Black Water where the Whigs defeated the Scotch & killed there Colonel McCloud [sic, McLeod].[4] It was in the month of May & his best impression is that year, the said year of that Battle. His memory like that of most others is naturally or habitually deficient as to dates & he is not able to state what year.

(2nd) He entered said service again for a second tour as a private in the militia of North Carolina in the company of mounted men commanded by Captain Joseph Gill. Said company was not joined to any other company detachment or command and was principally in operating against Tories Scouring the Country about Dan, Stanford, and Little Rivers. The latter a tributary of Pedee. During this tour he was crippled badly by falling with his shoulder or collarbone against his saddle in consequence of attempting to leap his horse over a cow. He entered in this tour to serve three months. He served at least three months, & was dismissed at home or in the neighborhood. He cannot state the date of his second tour. It was the same year he thinks of his first tour and within a few days or weeks at most after the end of his tour first above mentioned. His best impression is that both said tours were in the year 1776 or 7. The first commencing early in the month of May and the second in August of one of said years.

(3rd) He entered the service again for a third tour as a volunteer private soldier in the militia of North Carolina in the company of Infantry commanded by Captain Micajah Bullock to serve for three months. Said company was not joined to any other or higher command. They marched first to Colonel Pyle's, which was in Guilford County is his impression, thence to Guilford Court House and after scouting various directions marched home & then were dismissed. He served faithfully in this tour are fully three months. This third tour of service to the best of his recollection was in the year 1779 and in the summer season of that year. It might and seems to be an impression it commenced in the spring of said year and ended in the summer of the said year towards the middle of it.

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[4] The veteran appears to be referring to the battle known as the battle of Moore's Creek bridge which occurred on February 26 1776. http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moorescreek.htm

(4th) He again for a fourth tour entered the service in the Militia of the State of North Carolina as a volunteer private soldier in a company of Infantry under Captain John for to serve three months. They said company and this Applicant met at Oxford in Granville County North Carolina he then residing in said County & marched for Neuse River at a point near the fork of that River & Little River, then they were marched to a place where the Tories were said to be embodied: They had disappeared before we arrived there. We were then marched in several directions to different places in quest of the Tories to points where our Officers expected to find them. He served in this tour three months and upwards. Although the officers and length of service in this his fourth tour he retains clearly in his memory, he is uncertain as to the year and time of year. This tour may have been it is his impression in the same year with his said third tour. After the end of said fourth tour a short time. There being a call for men they were called into the service in a manner resembling a draft though not so understood and called at the time. The neighborhood & country being notified met & put [indecipherable word] tickets into a hat balloted or drew lots for the tour. This applicant having drawn a ticket to serve hired a man by the name of Weaver as a substitute and gave him $60 to serve three months being the term they were called on to serve. His said substitute served out the three months to the acceptance of his Officers as he was informed and believes.

Afterwards being called out in the same manner for a tour of nine months he hired John Tuggle as a substitute to serve said nine months, which he performed to the acceptance of his Officers as he was informed.

After which being again called out in the same manner he served in the service until after the Battle of Guilford. He was called out for three months but there being nothing further to do after said Battle he was dismissed before the expiration of the three months. He served at least two months. He cannot state what year the Battle of Guilford[5] took place in. He had served two months or near it at the time of said Battle and continuing in the Army a short time after made this tour said two months. At the present moment he is unable to recall the name of a Captain of the Company in which he served said last two months.

However deficient in recollection of the names of some of his officers and many circumstances he is clear and swears positively that he served not less than the periods stated to wit. (Recapitulation)

(1st) for three months in his said first tour under Captain John Henderson.
(2nd) for three months in his said 2nd tour under Captain Joseph Gill.
(3rd) for three months in his said 3rd term under Captain Micajah Bullock.
(4th) For three months in his said 4th tour under Captain Jones Fuller, and
(5th) For two months under a Captain whose name he cannot now recollect. He swears that during said times or periods of service he was constantly in camp and field in regularly organized corps, and not in any other or civil pursuit. That his said services were laborious and during much of the time especially went out of his own County he had to undergo the greatest fatigue and hardship owing much to the constant vigilance necessary to guard against t various bands Tories under Colonel Fannon [sic, Colonel David Fanning] and others, and against the foraging and other parties from the British Army.

In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department he makes the following Answers

As to the 1st Interrogatory -- He cannot say what year he was born in but believes he is about ninety-four years old as before stated in the body of his Declaration.

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[5] March 15, 1781

As to the 2nd He has already stated that he neither has any record of his age nor does he know where it is.
As to the 3rd Interrogatory -- He was living in Granville County North Carolina when entering the service in all his said tours. At the end of the war I was still living in said County. I resided there about ten or fifteen years after the war ended. Then moved to the great fishery at the Narrows of the Yadkin [River] in Rowan County in said State & lived there near twenty years, then I removed to Kentucky into Knox County, where I lived eighteen or twenty years. & then I removed to Monroe County Indiana where I now live and have for four years and upwards. Upon reflection he thinks he did not live quite so long at said Fishery as stated above.
As to the 4th. He volunteered in his said four first tours, hired substitutes in the next two & drew lots in the last as before stated.
5th. Colonel Taylor of the Militia perhaps he might not have been in service. I saw him every court & was well acquainted with him. Colonel (Judge) Williams cannot say whether a regular or Militia officer. Colonel White militia officer, might or not have been in service. Colonel Burton. Colonel Henderson.
6th. He never received nor applied for a discharge.
7th. Christopher Cox, William Johnston, Joseph Johnston, Revolutionary Soldiers and pensioners, Joseph Parks, Old Mr. Hensly, Jacob Romans, Samuel Smith, Donald Johnston Revolutionary Pensioner, Moses Wilson, & others all persons to whom he is none in his present neighborhood who can testify as to my character for veracity and belief of my revolutionary services as well as those whose certificates are hereto annexed, and as will others in the several neighborhoods in which I have heretofore live. He states that he is unable to appear in Court and has been for a considerable time as before stated.

He states that during his said tours as well as the War of the Revolution Granville County of aforesaid was almost quite universally a Whig County, that consequently his situation at home was more fortunate than those of the Whigs of Orange, Randolph, Chatham, & other Counties in that section of the State, and when he was marched on said expeditions which were mainly against the Tories of other parts before his arrival in the Tory neighborhoods they had been quelled by those Whigs residing nearer to them. This probably is the reason why he nor his troops were in no battle. Although one of the objects of applicant & troops in the organization was to resist the British when they should come, he was not any time in any engagement with them or operation directly again to any of their troops. In one of said tours in which he hired a substitute he (said substitute) was in an engagement against the British as he was informed. This applicant's services and marching were performed mainly in his said tours about Flat River Ennoree, Pedee, Tar River, Haw River, Big Alamance [Creek], Little Alamance [Creek] & other streams heretofore mentioned.

He entered the service and served as a private in all of said tours. He will he has no doubt upon giving himself longer time, and reflecting recollect the names of his Captain in said two months service in which as stated herein the object of his expedition was to reinforce the "head General" in the South; and in a great battle which was then expected would be fall somewhere in that part of the country. They were destined at the same time that they were ready to counteract the motions of the small bands to go to whatever point might be necessary. Whilst they were halted during said two months for some days, some superior Officer was kept informed of their position, so that they could at any time be formed and received orders for the above purpose.

He has been twice married & had twenty-one children fifteen sons and six daughters. Not being entitled to a pension under the old laws he never applied. He has followed the range (or

stock raising) in the back settlements ever since a few years after the close of the Revolution with the exception of the time he lived at the great fishery on the Yadkin. His father gave him land & he had two good farms in said County of Granville N.C. but having spent more than a thousand good dollars in the War, lost crops & had other losses, he moved into the range in Granville out some distance from the neighborhood of his father [where] he had resided, then to the Fishery & again & since into the range. Living in the Range in Knox and in the extreme part of this County among the Hills of Salt Creek he never knew that he could probably get a pension under the present Act until about a year ago. He then went to Louisville to see a Brother who he was informed resided there, by whom he expected to prove his services, not then knowing but that positive proof was necessary in his case. When he got to Louisville he was told that a very old man of the name had some time previously died there -- he never got off his horse but turned & came home. He knows of no person now by whom he can prove a personal knowledge of his services. The person (J Q Lowe?] now making out his Declaration as his son informed him promised to visit his house last summer for this purpose but did not & this applicant being taken sick soon after his return from Louisville he thinks in consequence of his fatiguing journey has not been able to attend to the business until lately. He never received any pay for any of his services. He has no documentary evidence that he knows of and knows of no person whose evidence of a personal knowledge of his services he can procure. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ William Wilkerson, X his mark

Henry Wilkerson and Solomon Wilkerson residing in the same neighborhood and being well acquainted with William Wilkerson who has sworn to the above Declaration and being his sons certify that we are, the first 27 years of age, the latter 29, that we believe him to be 90 years of age or upwards, that ever since their first recollections they frequently heard him this state that he had been a soldier in the revolution and served about as described in his said Declaration, that in all the neighborhoods in which he has resided since their being able to remember he was reputed and believed to have been and is in the one in which he now resides a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

S/ Henry Wilkerson, X his mark
S/ Solomon Wilkerson

[James Anderson and James Brummet, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavits.]

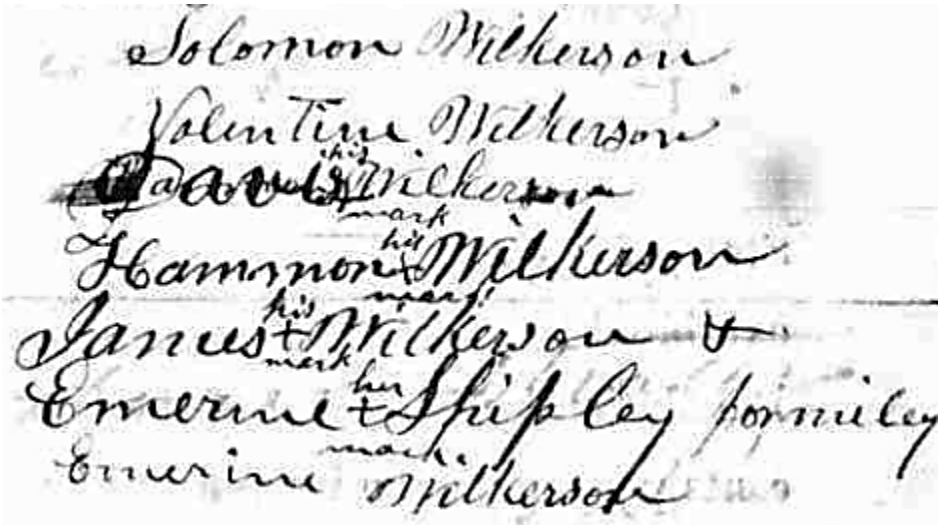
[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 6 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

[From Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com] 9-page file
https://www.fold3.com/image/616525579/wilkerson-william-page-1-us-virginia-half-pay-pension-application-files-1778-1875

[p 3: Summary]

050190

Wilkerson, William
Revolutionary War soldier and pensioner.

Died in Brown County Indiana July 12, 1842. He lived in that County for the 12 years previous to his death, and before that in Laurel County, Kentucky.
On March 31st, 1856, when a power of attorney was issued it was stated that there was then no widow, but the following
Children
Solomon Wilkerson
Valentine Wilkerson
Davis Wilkerson
Hammon Wilkerson
James Wilkerson
Emerine Shipley, formerly Emerine Wilkerson.

[p 5: Power of attorney dated March 31st, 1856 signed by the children named above as shown below: