

Pension Application for John Wilson

S.14864

State of New York

Washington County SS

In this 28th day of August in the year eighteen hundred & thirty two personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of said County (being a court of record now sitting at Salem in s'd County John Wilson a resident of Hebron in s'd county aged seventy six 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 seventh June 1832.

That he was born in Ireland in 1784 and removed to the United States in 1761—

That he resided in the Town of New Roth (now Salem) at the commencement of & during the revolutionary war and are moved to his present place of residence in the Town of Hebron in s'd county of Charlotte (now Washington) after the close of s'd war and has resided there ever since.

That he is now seventy six years old but has no record of his age. And that he entered the service of the United States as a malitiaman [militia man] in the company of Captain Charles Hutchinson in the regiment commanded by Colonel John Williams & Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Webster (These persons were the acting officers in s'd regiment but whether they had received regular appointments at this time this deponent does not know of s'd county of Charlotte now Washington) in the fore part of the year 1778 soon after the commencement of the war & continued to serve in Captain Hutchinsons company until the summer of 1777 being called out on every alarm & marching to different parts of the County to Watch & quell movements among the Indians and Tories.

This deponent was at one time he thinks in July 1777 with his company to Ticonderoga & continued there several days when the British army under Gen. Burgoyne made it[s] appearance & Gen. Scuyler [Schuyler] who commanded that fort blew up the magazine & retreated south with the army some by water down the lake & some (among whom was this deponent) by land east of the Lake through Hubberton, Castleton, Wells of Pawlet in the State of Vermont to (now) Salem afores'd. The magazine was blown up & this actual commenced on Sunday morning.

Soon after this in the fore part of August 1777 this deponent was stationed at the (now) village of Salem before mentioned where there was a picket fort & was on guard on the night of an alarm when the fort was evacuated & recollects that one John Livingston of Hebron aforesaid was there at that time as this deponent & said Livingston were the last that left the fort—this picket fort was burnt a few days after this—and afterwards this deponent with the company marched to Bennington in the State of Vermont & around there on the seventeenth of August the day after the battle at that place.—

This deponents father was taken prisoner by the Brittish [British] the day previous to that battle and escaped during the engagement—

And this deponent further says that he was at Saratoga on the Hudson river early in October of the same year (1777) in the company of Captain Thos Armstrong in the regiment before mentioned and remained there until after the surrender of the British army under Gen. Burgoyne on the seventeenth of the same month—during that Battle this deponent was engaged part of the time fighting with small arms & part of the time in carrying the malitiamen who were mostly stationed at the east bank of the river across on to the Island & the Western shore, and recollects distinctly that once while standing across the river with but companion a McWear on the Batteau while near the middle of the stream his companion was wounded by a musket ball that lodged under his shoulder blade where it remained till his death several years after—

And this deponent further says that in the Spring of 1778 he enlisted for nine months in a company commanded by (Capt) John Barnes & was for the whole time engaged with a company of 30 or 40 men as Indian spies about the Lakes (George & Champlain) and in the s'd county of Charlotte (now Washington) said Barnes was always called Captain but this deponent does not know as he ever held a commission—

And this deponent t further says that he was afterwards during the next season (1779) and frequently until the close of the war called out on scouting parties and alarms under Captain Stockwell in the regiment before mentioned which he thinks was at that time commanded by Colonel Alex'r Webster. (Colonel John Williams having been around for malconduct). Was once on a guard at Skenesboro about six miles northward from Fort Ann for several weeks—and was frequently called out sometimes for a few days & sometimes for several weeks at a time which it would now be impossible for him to designate until the close of the war. And that he is confident that he served under these several engagements more than two years during the revolutionary war.

And this deponent further says that one John Livingston of Hebron aforesaid was acquainted with him during the times above mentioned & knowing to many circumstances of his service and are now living—and that he knows of no documentary evidence of his service (having never to his recollection received any written discharge) which he can procure—And he hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any & every pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state—further he says not.

(Signed) John Wilson

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year first aforesaid in open court. J. S. Leigh
Clk

Letter in folder dated November 2, 1939, written in response to an inquiry.

Reference is made to your request for information relative to John Wilson of Hebron, Washington County, New York, who served in the Revolutionary War.

The data which follow were taken from papers on file in the pension claim, S.14864, based on the military service of John Wilson.

John Wilson was born in 1754 in Ireland and he came to America in 1761,. The names of his parents are not shown.

At the beginning of the Revolution, he was living in New Perth (afterwards called Salem)(, New York. He enlisted in the forepart of 1775 and served at various times until the close of the Revolution, amounting to two years and one month in all, as private and Indian spy with the New York troops under Captains Charles Hutchinson, Thomas Armstrong, John Barnes and Stockwell, and Colonels John Williams and alexander Webster and Lieutenant James Moore. He was at the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

John Wilson was allowed pension on his application executed August 28, 1832, at which time he was a resident of Hebron, Washington County, New York, having moved there during the Revolution and Hebron was then in Charlotte County.

John Wilson stated that his father was taken prisoner by the British the day before the battle of Bennington and escaped during the engagement.

In 1851, Benjamin and Samuel Wilson stated at Hebron, New York, that they were sons of John Wilson who was then deceased (date not given). One James B. Wilson was living in 1851, relationship not given. There are no further data relative to soldier's family.