

Pension Application for Samuel Willson or Wilson

W.22656 (Widow: Helen)

B.L.Wt.6419-160-55

State of New York

Otsego County SS

On this 28th day of November 1832 personally appeared before me James O. Moss First Judge of Otsego County Samuel Willson of Middlefield in said County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth depose & say.

That sometime in June last he this deponent made his declaration in support of his claim to a pension under the Act of June 7, 1832 before James O. Moses First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of said county and at the same time produced before the said James O. Moses certain witnesses in support of his said declaration.

And this deponent has been informed by his attorney & believes true that said declaration & papers were sent by mail to Washington shortly after directed to the Hon. Secretary of War & that no returns have been received by him in relation to said papers.

This deponent now says that his services in the war of the Revolution were as follows.

In the year 1775 he lived in Cherry Valley in Otsego County & in the month of July about the first of that month of that year 1775 he voluntarily enlisted as a private soldier into a company of the Continental Army under Christopher P. Yates Captain, in Col. Van Schaick's regiment & marched first to New York & then immediately returned as far back as Albany & from thence he went to St. Johns in Canada & remained there & elsewhere in Canada under said Capt. Yates, six months & was verbally discharged and immediately in the month of January 1776 again enlisted into Capt Benedicts company of the same regiment & served in said company at Fort Chamblee in Canada until sometime in the month of May being four months & was discharged & returned back again as far as Albany.

The next service of this deponent was as follows. In the month of March 1777 about the first of the month he was staying at Albany and voluntarily enlisted into Capt John Martins company under Quarter Master General John Wandell, and went to Fort Stanwicks [Stanwix] for the purpose of supplying that Fort with provision ammunition &c.

The company then returned back to Schenectady, they were then ordered back to German Flatts where or near where their Capt. John Martin was taken prisoner in a battle with the Indians. The company then returned to Schenectady & was discharged sometime about the last of September 1777. This last named service under Capt Martin was the full term of seven months. This deponent were considered this service to have been performed under civil contract because he was by the terms of his enlistment to take up arms & fight whenever it should become necessary. After this service was finished this deponent this deponent returned home to Cherry Valley and in the month of May 1778 he was ordered out in a company of the Militia of Cherry Valley under Capt Thomas Whitaker in Coil Samuel Campbell's regiment & served

there until the last of April or first of May 1779 being about one year. He was engaged in this service at the time Cherry Valley was destroyed in Nov. 1778 & remained in it till the spring following & was verbally discharged. This deponent afterwards removed from Cherry Valley to Florida in the now County of Montgomery and in the month of May 1780 he volunteered as a minute man into a company of militia under Capt McMasters in Col Vader's Regiment & served in said McMasters company in said County of Montgomery on the Mohawk river until the close of the war about two years or more—but this deponent is willing that this last mentioned service should be considered as of only two years duration.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.
(Signed) Samuel Willson

Sworn & subscribed this 28th day of November 1832 before me. James O. Moses, First Judge of Otsego Co.

Letter in folder dated May 2, 1935, written in response to an inquiry.

The data which follow were obtained from the papers on file in Revolutionary War pension claim, W.22656, based upon the military service of Samuel Willson in that war.

Samuel Willson was born November 18, 1754, in Glasgow (later Blandford) Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The names of his parents are not shown.

While residing at Cherry Valley, Otsego County, New York, Samuel Wilson volunteered in July, 1775, served in Captain Christopher F. Yates' Company, Colonel Van Schaick's New York Regiment, marched to St. John's, Canada, and served six months; he enlisted in January, 1776, served in Captain Benedict's company, in same regiment, was at Fort Chambly in Canada and was discharged May 1, 1776, having served four months; he returned to Albany, New York, and about March 1, 1777, volunteered, served in Captain John Martin's Company, under Quartermaster General John Wendall and carried provisions and ammunition between Schenectady and Fort Stanwix; then went to German Flats and was in an engagement with the Indians where Captain Martin was captured; he was discharged in the latter part of September, 1777; in May, 1778, he volunteered at Cherry Valley, New York, served in Captain Thomas Whitaker's Company, Colonel Samuel Campbell's New York Regiment, and was at Cherry Valley when that place was destroyed by the Indians; he was discharged from this service in May, 1779; he afterward moved from Cherry Valley to Florida in what was later Montgomery County, and in May, 1780, volunteered as a minute man in Captain McMaster's Company, Colonel Veeder's New York Regiment and served in Montgomery County on the Mohawk River for about two years. [Hand written note: Yates & Elisha Benedict none in 2nd NY in 1776, could not identify a Qr Master Gen. John Wandell.] [Another note: Identified Col. Campbell but not Capt Thos Whitaker.]

In 1785, he moved to Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, where he was residing when he was allowed pension on his application executed November 28, 1832. He signed Willson.

Samuel Willson died August 25, 1836, in Middlefield, New York.

The soldier married in 1780 or August 4, 1781, in Florida, New York Hellen or Helen Robb, of said Florida. The date of her birth and the names of her parents are not shown.

Soldier's widow, Helen, was allowed pension on her application executed April 11, 1844, at which time she was aged eighty years and resided in Middlefield, New York. She signed by mark, Wilson, and was pensioned Wilson.

No reference was made to children.

In 1833, the name Andrew Willson appears: in 1844 George B. Wilson was clerk of the court for Otsego County, New York; no relationship of either to the soldier and his wife was shown.