

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATION OF ABARILLA, WIDOW OF WILLIAM WOOLBANKS-WILBANKS

Transcribed by Robert M. Wilbanks IV, Scottsdale, Arizona

Pension file # R 11508

William Wilbanks
his wife Abarilla

South Carolina : Before me personally appeared Nicholas Gossett an old
Union District : and truthful citizen of said District, and made Oath in
due form of law, that he lived and was raised in
Franklin County formerly Bute County North Carolina, with his Father + family,
that his Sister Abarilla Gossett, was published in Church to be married to
William Wilbanks and was married to him by a Scotch Minister of the high
Church by the name of Wm. Couples who lived about four miles from his
Father, that he did not see them married, but is just as confident of it as if
he had seen it, as he was at home + seen them start to get married +
return saying they were married, and all believed it, and no one ever doubted
but that they were lawfully married. the said Wm Wilbanks moved the next
Fall to this District near where this deponent now lives, and as he understands
died there, and his Sister viz Abarilla Wilbanks afterward moved to Pickens
District in this State where he understands she is still living. she is about six
years older than this deponent + he thinks he is near 90 years of age. he
does not recollect the precise date of the marriage of said Wm Wilbanks to
his sister, but think it was in 1774 or 1775. and is positively certain it was
before the Revolutionary War commenced in the part of the country where he
resided. He also understands from the old citizens about here, that the said
William Wilbanks did serve in the Revolutionary War after he came to South
Carolina for two years or upwards, as a good Whig, and he fully beleves it to
be so, as he has heard it talked of by many and never heard it doubted by
anyone.

Sworn to 18th December 1844 before		his
		Nicholas X Gossett
Matthios Myers ???		mark
union district		

South Carolina : Before me personally appeared Joseph Gossett senr. an
 Union District : old and truthful citizen of said District, and made Oath in
 due form of Law, that when he was a Boy of about 10
 or 12 years old, his Father + Mother lived in Bute County N.C. which is
 since divided + makes Franklin + Warren Counties, that his oldest Sister
 Abarilla at the age of about 18 or 20 years, he thinks about the year 1774
 or 1775 was published in church as was then the custom, to be married to
 William Wilbanks, and on a certain morning shortly afterwards, went off to the
 House of one Couples about 4 miles distant, who was a minister of the High
 Church to be married to the said William Wilbanks, which he has no doubt
 was accordingly done, as that was what was said and understood by all when
 they returned and they afterwards always lived together as man + wife + had
 children, he did not see them married, but has just a good reasons to believe
 they were as if he had seen it done + never heard it doubted by any one
 but that they were legally married. The said William Wilbanks lived in that
 County only until the next Fall, and then he and his Wife moved to Union
 District S.C. in the neighborhood where this deponent now lives, and he
 supposes from rumours throughout the country + from what he has heard from
 the old citizens of the country, the said William Wilbanks entered the service
 and served in the Revolutionary War. he is not positive as to the year in
 which his Sister Abarilla Gossett was married to the said William Wilbanks but
 is sure it was before the War commenced in the part of the country in which
 he resided. The above facts stated are as near as he can recollect two, and
 he understands his sister the said Abarilla Wilbanks is yet living in Pickens
 District in this state + is making an effort to ge a Pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me |
 this 18th December 1844 | Joseph Goswick
 Matthios Myers ??? |
 union district

Declaration.

In Order to obtain the benefit of the third section of the act of Congress of
 the 4th July 1836.

State of South Carolina :
 District of Pickens : ss.

On this seventh day of January 1845. personally
 appeared before William D. Steele Esq. Judge of the Court of Ordinary for the
 District and State aforesaid, Mrs. Abarilla Wilbanks (who is unable by bodily
 infirmity to attend in open Court) a resident of the same District and State,

aged as near as she can ascertain about ninety eight years. who being just duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 4th 1836: That she is the widow of William Wilbanks, who was a private in the war of the Revolution, and who entered the service under Captain Moses White, about, as she thinks, in the year 1778 or 1779. she thinks in the month of October or November as it was cool weather, and not long after crops were ripe. he was at home sometimes, but not often, he served also under Capt. William Young in Col. Thomas Brandon's Regiment, that they then lived in Union District S.C. that he marched much through North and South Carolina was in Skirmishes at Musgroves Ford on Enoree and BlackStocks Ford on Tiger. that he marched to the ten mile House near Charleston, that he was absent a lon time, she thinks five years, but certainly not less than four years off + on, as she made three crops without him; herself and her little Boys; and had much trouble with the Tories during the absence of her husband, and laboured hard to make a support _ the Tories threw down her fences often + she had to put them up herself with her little Boys who were very young + small to do such labour. they also killed her Hogs + Cattle and destroyed every thing about the place very often passing and committing all kinds of depredations all of which she had to suffer with her little children unprotected. at one time during the war herself and mother=in=law went to where the army was encamped (she thinks at Culverson) and beged to let her husband go home to save his small grain, which was granted by an Officer who seemed to have command, but she cannot now recollect his name, he however treated her very well + granted her request, was called to his division but would not go until he had waited on her, seeing she appeared to be in distress. _ Her husband went home + attended to his harvest + then very soon returned to the service. He served in the war with his Brother Gillam Wilbanks, Isaac Barnett, Jacob Barnett, James Putnam, John Sparks + Charles White all of whom are now dead; Jacob Barnett was killed in the Battle of Kings Mountain.

She lived with her Father in Bute County N.C. and was published in Church to be married to William Wilbanks, and was to him married as she thinks before the year 1774, tho' she cannot recollect positively what time it was, tho' she is positively certain it was before the war commenced in that part of the country; shortly after their marriage they moved to Union District in this State, where her husband entered the service.- She had three children at the time of his entering, viz. Marshall, Hosea and Joseph; the oldest of which is now dead. her husband was taken sick at McCords Ferry during the war and returned home until he recovered and then returned into the Service. afterwards when he left the service he had a cough supposed to be caused

from exposure in the Service, which never left him during his life and which was supposed to have shortened his life.

She has no documentary evidence of the service of her husband, or of her marriage or of the births of her oldest children, if she ever had they are all Lost, as the importance of keeping such things was not then thought of.

She further declared that her maiden name was Abarilla Gossett and that she was married to her said husband William Wilbanks on the 27th day of August but cannot recollect the year tho' she is certain it took place so above stated before the war; that her husband, the aforesaid William Wilbanks, died on the 22d December 1796. in Union District in this State, and that she has remained a widow ever since that time, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof herewith sent; that she moved from Union District about 26 or 27 years ago, and has lived here in this District ever since, that she is old and feeble + dependent on her friends for support. Was married by one Couples a minister of the high church.

her
Abarilla X Wilbanks
mark

Sworn to, and subscribed, on the day and year above written.

William D. Steele
Judge of the Court of
Ordinary of Pickens District
SC

State of Georgia :

Cherokee County : Before me personally appeared Hosea Wilbanks who is an old, respectable and truthful citizen of the County and State aforesaid, and after being duly sworn according to law, makes oath that he is according to the best information he can get, Seventy seven years old. that he is the son of William and Abarilla Wilbanks, who formerly lived in Union District South Carolina; and his mother Abarilla Wilbanks, whose maiden name was Abarilla Gossett, now lives in Pickens District S.C. and is yet the widow of his Father, the said William Wilbanks, never having married since the death of his father the said William Wilbanks, which took place on the twenty second day of December 1797, that he was a small boy during the Revolutionary War, tho' he was probably ten or twelve years of age, that he very well recollects very many scenes which took place during the said war, and that his Father the said William Wilbanks served in the Revolutionary War: that of course he did not see him in the service, as he was very small of his

age and too young to be in it himself, but seen him start for that purpose, and knows he was absent for several years + said by all to be in the War, he is certain that his Father aforesaid must have served at least three years, in actual service, as he was absent in the war off and on five or six years; occasionally at home during the time, but remaining at home but a very short space of time at once; during the absence of his Father aforesaid, himself, his brother Marshall (who was older than himself) and his mother, worked hard in the Farm to make a support, his mother ploughing + his brother + himself hoeing,- He cannot recollect all about the separate trips and Towns which his Father served, nor all the Officers under which he served, recollects however that he served under a Capt. Moses White, Capt. William Young, Capt. Fair or Farr, Lieutenant James Adington - and thinks he was all, or most of the time in the Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Brandon. Capt. Farr or Fair was afterwards Colonel.-

He recollects very well to, to have been much troubled with the Tories, had, to keep their Corn hid out in small quantities in different places, and frequently had things taken, once he wa himself slaped pretty severely with a sword by a Tory who ordered him to bring water for him + ordered his mother to take him + his company some bread.

His Father had a ??? large likely black Horse + two mares with yearling colts; all of which were pressed into the service, but the colts; which were their only dependence for making their Crops, going to mill +e- the Horse + one of the mares he never got again; the other mare he got again in a year or two, + he recollects she had a cut on her neck supposed to have been made with a Sword which was for some time a running soar; his Father never got any thing for the Horse + mare which he lost, to his knowledge.- His Father was in the Skirmish at Blackstocks Ford on Tyger River, at the siege at Ninety Six, + assisted in ditching + building the Block House at that place. he thinks he was also in the Battle of Eutaw Springs + Kings Mountain. He has been informed by his Father, previous to his death, of many other things which might be of service in this matter of the application of his mother for a Pension, but cannot with such short notice recollect more than what is above stated, which from recollection + information are to the best of his knowledge true.

Sworn to and subscribed		
before me, 15th January 1845.		
		Hosea Wilbanks
Geo. W?????????????? JP		

South Carolina : Before me personally appeared Mrs. Sally Hunnicutt (wife
Pickens District : of Jesse Hunnicutt and Daughter of Mrs. Abarilla
Wilbanks) who is to me well known as a truthful and
respectable citizen of the District and State aforesaid, and made oath in due
form of law that her mother Abarilla Wilbanks has lived with her for a number
of years; that she cannot recollect the death of her Father William Wilbanks,
but has always understood that the was buried on the 25th of December
1797, and that he died three days previous, that her mother, the said Abarilla
Wilbanks, has never since married, but yet remains the widow of the said
William Wilbanks; she states further, that she has always understood that her
Father the said William Wilbanks was a Soldier in the war of the Revolution,
and has often heard her mother talk over the scenes of the war, and tell
many things about it. which neither of them can recollect. as her mother
has become quite old and frail.

Sworn to before me this 21st January 1845.	I	her
Miles M. Norton	I	Sally X Hunnicutt
Not. Pub. + Ex. Off. M.P.D.	I	mark

I William L. Keith Clerk of the Court of Pickens District S.C. certify that
Miles M. Norton is a magistrate as above, and that the foregoing signatures,
purporting to be their are genuine.

In witness, whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed by seal of office, this 21st day of January
1845.

W.L. Keith
Clerk of the Court of
Pickens District
So. Ca.

