

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas Goswick R4149

f32NC

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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of South Carolina, Union District

On this the 30th of June 1841 personally appeared before me D. Wallace Commissioner & Register of the Court of Equity of the said District & the keeper of the seal & the Records of the said Court, Nicholas Goswick (not in open Court, the said Nicholas, being unable by reason of his great age & consequent bodily infirmities to appear in open Court) the said Nicholas Goswick being a resident of the said District of The union in the State of South Carolina and aged about 82 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, and served as herein stated.

To wit – That he entered the service of the United States, as a volunteer in a company of Infantry commanded by Captain Brittain Harriss [Britton Harris]. That the detachment of Troops of which the Company of Harriss formed a part, was commanded at the time this deponent entered the service by a Fielder Officer by the name of Sumner [Jethro Sumner], who was either a Major, or a Colonel.

That he does not recollect the exact year, day or month that he entered the Service, but that he does know that it was the year that the Battle of Briar Creek [March 3, 1779] was fought, for this deponent was in that Battle & Took part in the Engagement.

This deponent believes this Battle was fought in the year 1778 or 1779 and is the only Battle in which he took part during his Tour of duty.

This deponent further states that he was Born in the State of Maryland about 5 miles from the City of Baltimore. That when this deponent was a small Boy, his Father removed to Bute County North Carolina, or what was then called Bute, that County having been since divided into two counties which have since been called by other names. That at that place this deponent lived until the war of the Revolution came on.

That in the year the Battle of Briar Creek was fought this deponent turned out a volunteer under Captain B. Harriss as stated. That the Drum was Beat for volunteers at Bute Court House where deponent first turned out. That the volunteers rendezvoused at a place on Tar River where Louisburg now stands. Deponent took his own the rifle Gun with him into the Service. From the Rendezvous on Tar River, the deponent went to Kingston [sic, Kinston], on Neuse River, from that place they marched to Elizabeth town on the Cape Fear River where they found a considerable body of Troops Colonel, or Major Sumner, had taken the Command of the volunteers at Kinston & when they arrived at Elizabeth Town the Troops at that place were under the command of General Nash [sic, John Ashe].

The Line was formed, and the Troops at the last named place were Reviewed by Governor Caswell of North Carolina.

From Elizabeth Town the Troops went to Wilmington & thence over into South Carolina, and

some time after the Battle of Briar Creek was fought, & the Americans defeated-- don't think General Nash was in that Battle.

From the Battlefield deponent with some of the Troops that kept in a Body went back to Wilmington North Carolina & from that place deponent went to Charleston in South Carolina. Some three or four companies of Troops went at the same time and Captain B. Harriss still commanded the Company of which this deponent formed a part – don't think Colonel or Major Sumner went to Charleston deponent had volunteered for a tour of nine months, but having went to Charleston to guard that place, deponent stayed three months over the time he volunteered for an order that other Troops might be sent on to protect the City so that his whole Tour of duty was 12 months. That during this 12 months ending in the year after the Battle of Briar Creek was fought, this deponent was engaged in no civil employment but was either in camp or upon the march.

That at the time he left the Service he received a written discharge, that he took the same with him back to North Carolina & supposing the same would be of no use to him it has been lost. --

That after the Battle of Briar Creek deponent as before stated went to Charleston & stayed there with the Army for the Defense of the City until the 12 months as stated Expired. That he then went back to Bute County in North Carolina. That the year after he got home deponent again volunteered to go against the Indians on the Frontier of North Carolina & Virginia. That upon this Expedition he was gone five months, deponent's company was Commanded by Captain James Richards. There were several Companies of Soldiers. They were Embodied by Lawful authority & the detachment was commanded by Colonel Brad-- They however Fought no Battle with the Indians.

Deponent does not know the precise character of the Troops which were United into an Army under General Nash at Elizabeth Town, but thinks it was composed of some Regulars some drafted Militia & some volunteers – don't recollect the names of any of the Regular officers.

Deponent has never Received any pay for the services he rendered – has no documentary Evidence to sustain him in making this declaration, But states that Joseph Goswick is now alive & knows something in Regard to the Services rendered by this deponent. After the War of the Revolution closed, deponent continued to reside in North Carolina until about 17 years ago when he removed to the place he now lives in the District aforesaid.

That he lives in great obscurity & while he was able to work he did not think of applying for a Pension, but having got unable to work from age and Bodily infirmity his friends have persuaded him to apply --

That he knows of no one now alive but Joseph Goswick that knows any thing about the Services he performed.

Having made the foregoing declaration he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid. S/ Nicholas Goswick, X his mark

In the presence of
S/ D. Wallace

The Following interrogatories were by me the said D. Wallace Commissioner & Register of the Court of Equity as aforesaid, propounded to the said Nicholas Goswick, and which with the answers thereto, or as follows:

To wit

1st When and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born in the State of Maryland near the City of Baltimore in the year 1759 --

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have myself no record of my age, but my Brother Joseph Goswick has a Record of the ages of my Father's family including mine. I think the Record was entered in the Blank leaf of a Prayer Book.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Bute County North Carolina, and I lived in the same place ever since until about 17 years ago, and since that time have lived where I now live in the District of Union South Carolina.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: The drum was Beat at Bute Court House for Volunteers, and this according to the usage of that period, and deponent volunteered and went into the service as a volunteer & served in that character of 12 months and afterwards five months against the Indians.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I don't know that I can distinguish the different kinds of Troops which composed the Army in which the officers I knew served.

The Troops I served with, I believe were part Continental, part drafted Militia & part volunteers.

General Nash, Colonel or Major Sumner Captain Brittain Harriss were in the Army at the time I served, and part of the Time I believe a General Officer by the name of Ashe.

I went from Bute Court House to Tar River from that place to Kinston from there to Elizabeth Town. Then I think to Wilmington all in North Carolina.

From Wilmington we passed over into South Carolina & some time after the Battle of Briar Creek was fought I am not certain but think we crossed the Savannah River to fight the Battle & believe the Battle was fought in the Georgia side of the River. In the Battle I was engaged and this is the only or the most Remarkable Circumstance connected with our march or with my Tour of duty. After the Battle I went to Charleston South Carolina and was kept there to help Guard that place until the 12 months expired which I served, & which added to the five months I served against the Indians makes in all 17 months service. I went into the Service the year of the Battle of Briar Creek and of course went out of the Service the year after, having served 12 months, & which was three months longer than I first volunteered for – I served all the time as a private of Infantry.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I did receive a written discharge at the Lines in Charleston South Carolina but who signed that discharge I cannot Remember. It has long since been lost.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: I think the following of my Neighbors will all Testify as to my Veracity and some of them as to the Tradition in regard to my Revolutionary Services. John Norman Esquire, John Gibbs, Esquire, Richard Starnes, the Reverend Thomas Ray, My Brother Joseph Goswick, Mister R. Gore, & Mister Thomas Bollis who are all men of Responsibility. That living as I have long done in great privacy and retirement, I do not supposed that the tradition of my Revolutionary Services is very General in the community where I now live, and this difficulty will be made more of parent from the fact that I live at a great distance from the place where I lived about 40 years after the War closed.

And the said Declarant having been duly sworn & the foregoing Interrogatories having been propounded [indecipherable word] & he answers there until you read over to him says the same or True & hereunto being so sworn and subscribed his name.

In presence of

S/ Nicholas Goswick, X his mark

S/ D. Wallace, etc.

[Thomas Ray, a clergyman, and Thomas Hollis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of South Carolina, Union District

Personally came Joseph Goswick of the said State & District before me D. Wallace

Commissioner & Register of the Court of Equity for the said District & the Keeper of the Seal & the Records thereof, & being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God to depose & says, That he is the Brother of Nicholas Goswick whose declaration has this day been read in his hearing, the said declaration made as he understands it for the purpose of obtaining a pension from the United States.

That this deponent & the said Nicholas were living in Bute County in North Carolina with their Father at the time the War of the Revolution Broke out.

That this deponent knows of his own knowledge that his Brother Nicholas Goswick did go into the Army of the Revolution in the same year of the Battle of Briar Creek. This deponent further states that he knows of his own knowledge that the Father of this deponent & of Nicholas Goswick went to Kinston while Nicholas was in the Army to carry the said Nicholas some clothes & shoes to wear, and this Deponent sent to his Brother Nicholas by his Father some plugs or Twists of Tobacco for his use while in the Army. That the Father of this deponent came back from Kinston in North Carolina & said that he had seen his Brother Nicholas & had given him the clothes, shoes & Tobacco. This deponent further states that his father Bought for his Brother Nicholas the Gun he took with him into the Service, & bought it for that purpose of a man by the name of Samuel Fowler.

Deponent has for more than half a century heard his Brother Nicholas say he was in the Battle of Briar Creek don't Recollect how long his Brother Nicholas was in the Service – don't Recollect precisely but thinks about from 9 to 12 months.

Deponent was at home when his Brother Nicholas came back from his Tour of Duty – saw him Return to his Father's House with his knapsack on his Back and That no one who ever knew the circumstances ever doubted that his Brother had performed the duty.

Deponent's Father & the Father of Nicholas was much in favor of sending his son Nicholas to fight for his country & fitted him out for the purpose.

Deponent produces & shows the Blank Leaf of the Prayer Book alluded to in the Declaration of Nicholas Goswick which is herewith shown & marked A deponent says that this has always been regarded as a correct Record of the ages of the Family of his Father & that he has known the Record more than 50 years, & that it was delivered to this deponent by his Father & it has not been out of his possession since his father gave it to him which is more than 20 years ago has no doubt the age of his Brother Nicholas is correctly set forth on this paper.

This deponent states that the declarant Nicholas Goswick has stated correctly in his declaration as to the place he was born and also as to his age. This deponent was well acquainted with Captain Brittain Harriss & knows his brother went into the Service under him, deponent also knew Colonel or Major Sumner well from reputation – knows that Sumner lived about 10 or 12 miles from deponent's Father -- & knows that his Father & Sumner were upon very friendly Terms.

Deponent on hearing the declaration of his Brother Nicholas read says he has heard all the material facts therein stated repeated more than 50 years ago & has no doubt that they are substantially correct.

Sworn to & subscribed Before me this the 30th June 1841.

S/ Joseph Goswick, X his mark

S/ D. Wallace

[pp 15-16: Bible record

Nickless Goswick son of Joseph Goswick and Sarah his wife was Born the 25 day of September in the year of our Lord god anno Domo 1759

Sappherd Goswick Daughter of Joseph ...was born the 14th day of December ...1761

Jospeh Goswick son of Joseph... was born 9th Day of Jany ...1765

Chirriller Goswick Daughter of Joseph... born 7th Day of [illegible] ... 1752

Ann Goswick Daughter of Joseph... born 23rd Day of May ... 17[illegible]4

Vilitter Goswick Daughter of Joseph... born the 14th day of May ... 1757]

Nickless Goswick son of
Joseph Goswick and Sarah
his wife was Born the 25th day
of September in the year of
hour Lord god anno Dom: 1741

Sapphira Goswick Daughter
of Joseph Goswick and
Sarah his wife was Born
the 14th day of December
in the year of hour Lord
God anno Dom: 1761

Joseph Goswick the son of
Joseph Goswick and Sarah his
wife was born the Day of June
in the year of our Lord god
anno Dom: 1765

Abigail Goswick Daughter
of Joseph Goswick
and Sarah his wife was
born the Day of September
in the year of our Lord god anno
Dom: 1762

Ann Goswick Daughter of
Joseph Goswick and Sarah his
wife was Born the 23rd day of
May in the Year of our Lord god
anno Dom: 1774

Abigail Goswick Daughter of
Joseph Goswick and Sarah his
wife was Born the 14th day of May
in the year of hour Lord god
anno Dom: 1757