

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Norris R7700

f28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/13/17

[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 Tennessee McMinn County: County Ct. September Session 1835

On this 9th day of September 1835 personally appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for McMinn County aforesaid John Norris a resident of the County of McMinn aforesaid aged about eighty five years who being first duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 – That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the County of Wilkes in the State of North Carolina he thinks about the first of August 1779. His officers were Lieutenant Joel Lewis Captain William [illegible last name obscured by ink blot] and Colonel Elijah Isaacks [Elijah Isaacs] marched to a place called Reases in Burke County North Carolina just before the arrival at that place they were met by the Tories against whom they had a skirmish from there returned into Wilkes County from there marched to the place called the Fox Knobs from thence marched to Lynches Creek where they joined General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] from there marched to a place called the fork of the Rivers called Rocky River and Pee Dee [River] where he was in a battle against the British and Tories General Davidson was ~~killed~~ wounded there from there we marched and joined General Gates [Horatio Gates] and marched to a place called Rugeley's Mill from there marched towards Camden and was met by the British and fought the battle called Gates' defeat or battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780] in the rout he was taken prisoner and continued a prisoner for some time when he made his escape and went home after having been in service twelve months he got no discharge his officers having been dispersed or marched off before he escaped from his confinement. He immediately on his return home for it was dangerous times for a Whig to be found at home he ~~went~~ turned out volunteer he thinks about the first of September 1780 at Wilkes Court house in the State of North Carolina under Captain William Lennore [sic, William Lenoir] Major Lewis and Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] marched towards Kings Mountain joined Colonels Campbell [William Campbell], Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and Sevier [John Sevier] and fought the battle called the battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] he thinks Colonel Campbell on that day had the principal command Major Lewis was wounded in that battle and he was sent as a nurse with said Lewis to help take care of him to a Colonel Walker's after he had stayed with him some little time he was dismissed by said Lewis his Major but got no discharge after having been out in service six weeks. The first tour he believes that he was out in actual service much longer but from old age and the consequent loss of memory he will not be positive but he knows that he was out in service twelve months in his second tour at the Kings Mountain he knows that he was out six weeks.

He was acquainted with Generals Gates, Davidson and Greene [sic, Nathanael Greene] of

the regular line.

He has seen a record of his age in an old Bible of his Grand father's and by that record he was born on the 20th day of October 1750 in Lunenburg County in the State of Virginia from there moved to Charlotte then to Halifax counties in Virginia then moved to Wilkes County in the state of North Carolina where he had his home during the revolutionary war from there moved to Granville district in South Carolina from there moved to McMinn County and State of Tennessee where he now resides & has resided for 10 years. He has no documentary evidence – nor does he know of any person by whom he can prove his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He is acquainted in his neighborhood with Aquila Leatherwood a clergyman and David Cantrell Esq. who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. 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 to and subscribed in open court the day and year above mentioned.

S/ John Norris, X his mark

[Aquila Leatherwood and David Cantrell [signature, however, looks more like “David Cahill”] certify as to Norris' veracity and his reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.]

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Amendment of a declaration made in Order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 by John Norris

For Amendment to said declaration he the said John Norris says after being duly sworn according to law that he volunteered under Captain William Naul Lieutenant Joel Lewis and Colonel Elijah Isaacs for eighteen months as he thinks as a Minuteman he thinks but is not Confident which in the year 1779 or 1780 in Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina the first tour that he was out they marched to Reese's place in Burke County had a skirmish with the Tories just before they got there and then returned home after having been out he thinks much longer but to be certain he will say one month he again marched under the same Officers to [word written over and illegible] River and then returned after having been out he thinks much longer but to be certain will say one month. He again marched under the same officers to Broad River and then returned home after being out that tour he thinks longer but knows that it was not less than two months. After that he marched under the same Officers to the Fox Knobs and thence to Lynches Creek Joined General Davidson then marched to the forks of the Rocky and Pedee rivers and was in a Battle against the British at that place after that Joined General Gates and was at the Battle of Camden and for further particulars of this tower [tour] he refers to his original declaration, made his escape from imprisonment (having been taken a prisoner at the Battle of Camden) and returned home after having been out he thinks much longer but to be certain will say six months. He then volunteered under Colonel Cleveland and Captain William Lenoir and Major Lewis in Wilkes County North Carolina and was in the Kings Mountain fight and for further particulars of this tour he refers to his Original declaration. He states that he is very old and frail and the consequent loss of memory disqualifies him from recollecting many things that transpired and particularly he cannot Recollect dates. He thinks he served much longer having been out the most of the time for the eighteen months for which he volunteered as above stated but from loss of memory from age and infirmity as above stated, he may be mistaken but knows that it could not be less than the length of time stated above.

That he has no further testimony by whom he could prove any of his services. For all other particulars he refers to his Original declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of December 1835
S/ Samuel McConnell, JP

S/ John Norris, X his mark