

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Norris R7702

Nancy Norris

f54NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/29/17

[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.]

[p 4]

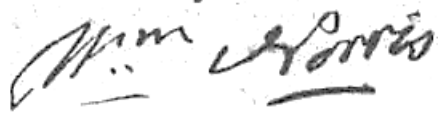
State of Georgia, Harris County

On this the Twenty Second day of January 1833 personally appeared in Open Court, before the Justices of the Inferior Court of said County and State now sitting, William Norris, a resident of the County and state aforesaid, aged Seventy-Five 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 the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That he entered the Service under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] commander of the Detachment, thinks that General Sumner [Jethro Sumner] was Brigade General, Colonels Malboody [sic, probably referring to Francois Lellorquis Marquis de Malmady (also Malmedy, Malmèdy)] and Armstrong of whom he received his discharge Captain Goodman [William Goodman], 1st Lieutenant not recollected, 2nd Lieutenant Joel Lewis, that he entered as a Volunteer in the State Troops of North Carolina for the term of nine months and Served it, that he resided in Rowan County – and in the State of North Carolina when he entered Service. That he entered Service in the month of May, as well as he can recollect, and in the year 1777 and left in 1778, that he was engaged in the battle at the mouth of Briar Creek [March 3, 1779] in Georgia, the Battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] in South Carolina; and the battle near Camden South Carolina [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780] where General Gates [Horatio Gates] was defeated, that he marched through the States of North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia. That he volunteered in the Militia horse Service of North Carolina & served one tour of 14 days commencing the 27th September 1790 [sic] under Captain Samuel Reed [Samuel Reid] in guarding Catawba River; that he volunteered & served another tour of six weeks under the same Captain according to General Davidson's [William Lee Davidson's] orders commencing in March 24, 1791 [sic] and has Captain Reed's Certificate to that fact. And that he served a tour of duty commencing in the year 1782 under Captain [illegible name] of North Carolina, and has his certificate to that effect, but they Certificate does not specify the length of the tour and his memory does not serve him. That he served a tour of duty of three months as Lieutenant in Captain Knighin's [Jesse Knighton's] Company, Colonel Robert Smith's Legion, General Rutherford's [Griffith Rutherford's] Brigade and has Major Joseph Graham's Certificate to that effect dated November 18, 1881, all the Services except the first nine months rendered in the State of North Carolina exclusively and in the militia of said State & Horse Service. Several small terms of service rendered of which he has no proof and no distinct & specific recollection. He knows of no one whose testimony he can get to prove his Service.

I hereby relinquish all claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the 22 January 1833
S/ Samuel A. Billings, JIC

S/ Wm Norris



S/ Daniel Hightower, JIC

S/ Buckner Beasley, JIC

(Questions propounded by the Court with their answers)

1st Where and in what year were you born?

A: In the County of Johnson [sic, Johnston County], North Carolina & on the 31st day of March 1757.

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

A: His age is recorded in his family Bible, as his place of abode.

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

A: Lived in Rowan County North Carolina when called into service, lived there until 1784 – then moved to Georgia, where he has since resided & now lives in Harris County Georgia

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

A: Never was called or drafted – always volunteered.

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.

A: General Lincoln, Colonel Lytell [sic, Lytle], Col. Malboody (a french Gentleman), Colonel Armstrong (John), Major John Nelson Served in the 4th North Carolina Regiment – Armstrong was Colonel of the Continental Regiment & gave him his discharge. The general circumstances of his service are stated as much of them as can be inserted here

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

A: He received a discharge from Colonel Armstrong for the 9 months Service which got into the hands of Joel Lewis 2nd Lieut. & does not know what became of it. He received a commission (Brevet) as such in the horse Service of Colonel Ross Smith and was lost in this State with other papers accidentally. The other discharges I have now as stated in his declaration & were presented in open Court

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.

A: Lloyd Cooper, Henry Whitaker, Joseph Whitaker, James Ramsey, Wiley White, Elisha Hightower & others can state as to his veracity, good Behavior &c but no one as to his Service except by General Report.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court January 22, 1833.

S/ Samuel A. Billings, JIC

S/ Wm Norris

S/ Daniel Hightower, JIC

S/ B. Beasley, JIC

[John W. Cooper, a clergyman, and Samuel Clay gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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Georgia Madison County

Personally appeared before me John Sanders a Justice of the Peace for said County James Sanders who being duly sworn answers to the following questions first did you know William Norris in the revolutionary war – he answers I did, Second, did you know him as a soldier in that war – he answers I did, as I was frequently with him (thirdly) did you know that he served a nine months tour in the same war as a Volunteer in the regular service. He answers I did. He William Norris entered as a Volunteer ~~the Captain's name I do not recollect~~ & served nine months in the Revolutionary War to the best of my recollection.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 8 November 1834

S/ John Sanders, JP

S/ James Sanders¹



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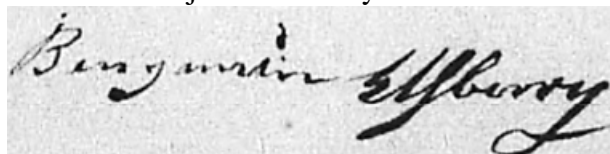
Georgia, Clarke County

Came personally before me, a Justice of the Inferior Court in said County, Benjamin Elsberry who being duly sworn deposes and saith that he is well acquainted with William Norris though he now lives 140 miles from deponent, in the County of Harris in said State. That he knew said Norris during the revolutionary war and well knows that in the latter part of the Spring of the year 1777 he volunteered to serve a nine months tour of service & deponent went with him to the place of Rendezvous, which was Salisbury, Rowan County N. C., that he believes said Norris served out the full time, & his reasons for this belief are these, said Norris was a near neighbor of Deponent, that deponent went with him to the place of Rendezvous as above stated, that he started away with the detachment & was gone nine months, & never returned in the interim, that his friends frequently heard from him as well as Deponent while in the service, from different places where he marched to, & that at the end of the nine months he returned to his home & friends. That afterwards in the fall of the year 1781 he knows of the said Norris serving on another tour of three months as Lieutenant in Captain Knightin's Company in Colonel Robert Smith's Legend, General Rutherford's Brigade & Joseph Graham, Major. This he knows because he served under him in said tour as a Private & orderly Sergeant of the Company which was mounted Infantry.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 10th of November 1834.

S/ Elizen L. Newton, JIC

S/ Benjamin Elsberry

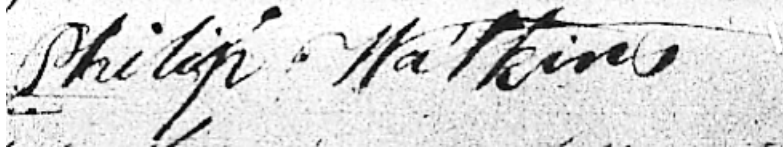


[p 11: On February 23, 1846 in Harris County Georgia Nancy Norris, aged 73, filed for a widow's pension stating that she is the widow of William Norris, a pensioner of the United States who died April 5, 1844 in Harris County Georgia; she states that she married Norris in the latter part of 1789, month and day not recollected; that she has no record of her marriage but is guided by the age of her oldest child; that the ages of her children are recorded in a Bible now in the

1 [James Sanders R9179](#)

possession of her son John M. Norris in Alabama. See signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: On March 23, 1846 in the Oglethorpe County Georgia, Philip Watkins gave testimony that he was well acquainted with the veteran and his wife, formerly Nancy Watkins; that they were married in 1789; that the affiant was 15 years of age at the time the couple were married at the affiant's father's home.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Watkins". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged and slightly textured.

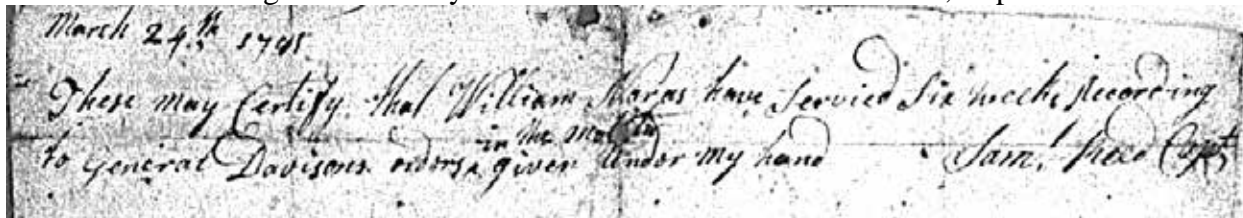
[On February 26, 1846, John M. Norris gave an affidavit in Russell County Alabama stating that he was the son of William Norris deceased and his widow Nancy Norris; that he, John M. Norris is 38 years old; that when he left his parents' home he took with him the family Bible which contained the records of the births of the children of William and Nancy Norris and that said Bible has been lost or destroyed.]

[p 18: Olive Martin of Oglethorpe County gave an affidavit that Nancy Watkins, now Nancy Norris, is her sister and she knows that she married William Norris in Oglethorpe County in 1789 at her father's house and that William and Nancy lived together as man and wife. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 23]

"March 24th 17[last two digits indecipherable]

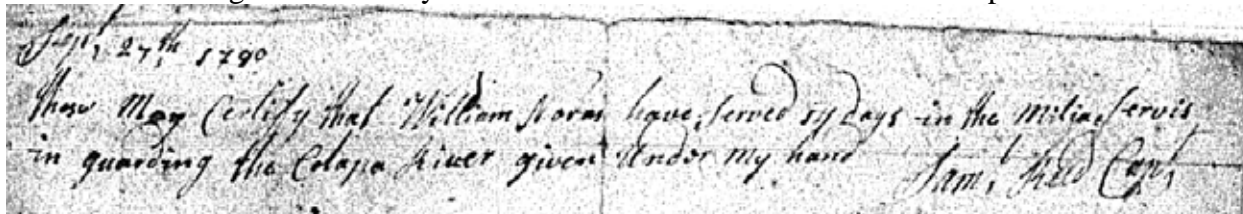
These may Certify that William Noras has Servied Six weeks According to General Davison's orders in the Malitia given under my hand S/ Saml. Reed, Capt."

A handwritten certificate on aged paper. The text reads: "March 24th 1791 These may Certify that William Noras have Servied Six weeks according to general Davison's orders in the Malitia given under my hand Saml Reed Capt". The handwriting is cursive and somewhat faded.

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"Sept. 27th 1780

These May Certify that William Noras have Served 14 days in the Miliay [sic] Servis in guarding the Cataba River given Under my hand S/ Saml. Reed Capt."

A handwritten certificate on aged paper. The text reads: "Sept. 27th 1780 These May Certify that William Noras have served 14 days in the militia servis in guarding the Cataba River given under my hand Saml Reed Capt". The handwriting is cursive and somewhat faded.

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"August 10th 1782

This is to Certify that William Norris has Served A tower of Duty in the horse Service Given Under my hand.

S/ John Graham, Capt."

August 10 1782.
This is to certify that William Norris
Lieutenant in Capt. Knighten's Company Col. Robert
Smith's Legion General Rutherford's Brigade, hath served a
Tour of Duty as a true and faithful
Officer, and is hereby discharged from the same given
under my hand November 18th 1781
Camp Col. Shaw's plantation.
Jos. Graham Major

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“This is to certify that William Norris Lieutenant in Capt. Knighten's Company Col. Robert Smith's Legion General Rutherford's Brigade, hath served a Tour of Duty as a true and faithful Officer, and is hereby discharged from the same given under my hand November 18th 1781 Camp Col. Shaw's plantation.

S/ Jos. Graham, Major
of Legion”

This is to certify that William Norris
Lieutenant in Capt. Knighten's Company
Col. Robert Smith's Legion General
Rutherford's Brigade, hath served, as
a Tour of Duty as a true and faithful
Officer, and is hereby discharged from the
same given under my hand November 18th 1781
Camp Col. Shaw's plantation.
Jos. Graham Major
of Legion

[p 30: On June 15, 1846 in Park County Georgia, archer Norris and Moses Watkins gave testimony that William Norris and Nancy Watkins were married in Oglethorpe County about the year 1789 to the best of their recollection. Their relationships, if any, to the veteran and/or his

widow is not stated.

Arthur Norris
Moses Perkins

[p 32 is the NC Comptroller's record of payments made to a "William Norris" for military services in the Revolution.

Raleigh N C
Compt Office
I William G. Hollis Comptroller of Public
Accounts in and for the State of North
Carolina do hereby certify that the name
of William Norris appears of record
in this office as having had issued in
his favor the following Special Certificates
for Military Service to wit One for One
Pound seven Shillings (£1.7) see Book A. 120
to 15 page 33 another for One Pound eight
Shillings (£1.8) see Book to 26 page 25 issued
in favor of W. Norris. and another for
William Norris for Twenty five Pounds
Five Shillings (£25.5) see Book to 20 page 131
given under my hand and Seal this
29 day November A.D. 1826

Wm G. Hollis Compt

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private and Lieutenant for 12 months in the North Carolina militia.]