

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Patrick Norris S15198

f50SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/21/09: rev'd 6/28/17

[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 Alabama County of Greene

On this 22nd day of September 1832 personally appeared before the Judge of the Circuit Court of the County & State aforesaid now sitting Patrick Norris of the age of about 70 years a resident of the County of Greene & State of Alabama 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 the 7th day of June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That at the age of about 14 years, this applicant, served under Capt. Patrick Calhoun in Abbeville District South Carolina (in Nobles Fort) against the Cherokee Indians in 1776 for the space of 2 months.

That in 1780 after Charlestown fell [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], he volunteered under Col. Andrew Pickens Major Alex. Noble, and Capt. Robert Anderson in the month of November or December, he then marched and joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] who was encamped between Pacolet and Broad Rivers, he was in the Battle of the Cow Pens [Cowpens, January 17, 1781] with General Morgan, where Col. Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] was defeated. He then went with Major Nobles (officer of the guard) who conducted the forge wagon with a considerable number of arms that were taken from Tarleton at his defeat to Gilbertstown in North Carolina, they then proceeded across the Catawba River and joined General Morgan & General Pickens where General Greene [Nathanael Greene] met them & held a council of war. Detachments were stationed at Sherrill's Ford, at Baties Ford [sic, Beatties' Ford] and at Cowan's Ford, on the Catawba River, to intercept Lord Cornwallis, the applicant was at Beatties' [Ford] under General Pickens. General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] commanded at Cowan's Ford, where Cornwallis crossed the River. General Davidson was killed in the action [February 1, 1781]. The applicant retreated with General Pickens on the road leading to Salisbury NC 6 miles, at Mrs. Tarrant's house, he was overtaken by Col. Tarleton's Dragoons & light Infantry, an engagement ensued, in which some of both sides were killed, and some of the men taken prisoners. He then marched across the Yadkin [River], and above Moravian Town. The company was there dismissed for a few weeks & ordered to meet General Pickens at Beatties' Ford, about the 25th of March, which order the applicant obeyed; he then marched back to Spartanburg; in South Carolina under the officers before mentioned, and Col. McCall [James McCall]. He was then marched under Col. Clarke [Elijah Clarke] of Georgia & Col. McCall into the State of Georgia, on the Ogeechee [River] where we had many skirmishes with Tories & Indians; many of the former were killed; the Indians were killed & Dispersed. He

then marched back to Abbeville under Col. McCall who died of smallpox a few days after our return. He was constantly out, on scouting parties against the Tories & Indians for 3 or 4 weeks when General Greene besieged Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781] a strong fortification commanded by Col. Cruger [John Harris Cruger]. The applicant then joined General Greene, with Capt. Joseph Calhoun where he remained until the siege was raised, in consequence of a strong reinforcement under the command of Lord Rawdon coming to the besieged we returned and met 3 days afterwards near the place where Abbeville Court house now stands when we got there, we heard of a collection of Tories on long Cain Creek, a company of about 30 volunteered to go and disperse them; Capt. Joseph Calhoun was in command we came upon them unexpectedly, at daybreak, they fired upon us within 15 paces, when a shot killed the applicant's horse under him. ~~William~~ James Hutchison was killed by my side. The Tories fled in the swamp.

The applicant then went on a campaign with General Pickens, Major Capt. Noble & Capt. Calhoun, beyond Saluda River, down on the Congaree; below where Columbia now stands, in pursuit of the Tories; killing and dispersing them wherever we found them.

We then returned and fell into the road leading from Ninety Six to Orangeburg, behind the British, and had several skirmishes with their out guards, and took several prisoners. We then returned to the up country and the applicant was constantly in the service of the United States against the Tories & Indians until about the last of October 1781. General Pickens, and Col. or General Clarke, undertook an expedition against the Cherokee Indians about this time. The applicant marched with Col. Anderson & Capt. Calhoun into the State of Georgia, on its frontier, the first skirmish was at an Indian town called Sawta [?] where we killed several and took some women & boys prisoners. We then went to another town Eschota 3 miles distant where we killed some and took others prisoners and both towns there was about 70 killed & taken prisoners. We burnt 2 other Towns about 15 miles distant. We then returned to Abbeville District; soon afterwards the applicant was on a tour down on Edisto about a notorious Tory officer Bill Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] a bloodstained desperado, we did not get him; but we took others prisoners. On our return, the Tories intercepted our forage wagons and killed John Pickens (a brother of General Pickens) and a few more; others were made prisoners, who were delivered to the Indians, and all massacred, by the Indians. We pursued them into the Nation, but were unable to recover our men. The same winter the Applicant was in 2 other expeditions against the Indians in one of which, he was in the frontiers of Georgia. After this General Greene called for aid from the up Counties when the applicant volunteered again, as he always did, under cap Major Noble and marched from Abbeville to General Greene's Encampment near Charleston on Ashley River 2 miles below Bacon's Bridge. This was in April 1782. He remained there under General Greene until July from thence he returned to Abbeville and was on two expeditions again after the Indians. This applicant was from time to time dismissed, but required to hold himself in readiness at all times and received no discharge until the end of the war. And he does not recollect what became of his discharge then, if he ever received one. This applicant was born in Abbeville District South Carolina lived there until he was 30 years of age -- then moved to Pendleton District South Carolina lived there until the year 1823 -- then moved to Alabama Greene County where he now resides. Charles Holland¹ & Jacob Holland² living in Pickens County Alabama knew this applicant during the whole War also

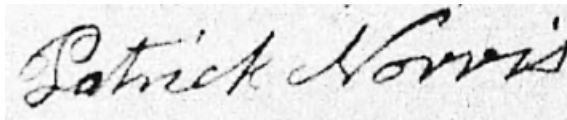
¹ [Charles Holland S7027](#)

² [Jacob Holland S10866](#)

James Pettigrew³ and James McCarter⁴ who lived in this County knew this applicant. The above named individuals can testify as to his good Character and good behavior in actual service in defense of the United States, which was about 2 years. 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. Sworn to & subscribed the day & date aforesaid in Greene County

S/ James Yeates, Clerk

S/ Patrick Norris



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James Pettigrew being duly sworn in open Court according to law deposeth & saith that he has known Patrick Norris ever since they were boys this deponent & said Norris were raised boys together & lived in 1 mile and a half of each other during the whole war for some time before & after the war he will say in the whole at least 25 years & then they lived for many years in about 12 miles of each other & they now live in about 10 miles of each other he states that he knew well that said Norris rendered the services above stated he was not in all the Campaigns with him though he knows of his departures and arrivals & his absence & was actually with him in the Battle of the Cowpens and in one expedition with him against the Indians besides these they were on many scouting parties together.

This affiant states that there is no circumstance related by said Norris in the above declaration which he does not believe to have taken place & he knows of no man whose reputation for truth was better in his neighborhood in Carolina than his nor does he know of any here whose reputation is better for morality or veracity he is certainly worthy of full faith & credit upon oath he believes the said Norris to be the age he represents himself to be.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open Court

Attest: S/ James Yeates, Clerk

S/ James Pettigrew



[James Monett, a clergyman, and Matthew H. Rainey gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Alabama Greene County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Patrick Norris who being duly sworn deposeth & saith that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following Grade viz.: 2 years one month & 10 days I served as a private volunteer soldier, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 9th day of August 1833.

³ [James Pettigrew W5522](#)

⁴ [James McCarter S13890](#)

S/ Wm. M. Murphy, JP

S/ Patrick Norris

[Facts in file: Veteran died February 12, 1840, leaving a widow, Rachael who died September 6, 1844, leaving Mrs. Rebecca E. Hall and Mrs. McCann, widowed daughters; letter dated April 13, 1840 from Greensboro, Ala., contains the statements that Rachel Norris is 73 years old, blind, and living with one of her widowed daughters who has 7 children and 2 nieces to support; that Mrs. Norris had been married to her husband about 53 years when he died.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]