

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Abner Norris S1575

Transcribed by Will Graves

f15NC/VA

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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 Tennessee, White County} SS

On this 19th day of October 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Worshipful, the justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions for said County of White, Abner Norris a resident of White County and State of Tennessee aged about seventy-five years who first being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision 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 herein stated.

1st As well as he can remember, he entered the service in 1776, as a volunteer, and as a private: He then resided in Halifax County Virginia; His term of service was for three months, and he served it out, under Captain James Cobb. The names of his other officers he does not remember. From Halifax, the Company, with some other troops (how many he cannot say) marched to Petersburg, where they remained a very short time, without any active service, or anything remarkable happening; from thence they went to Williamsburg – where they remained a short time without performing any Service of importance. From Williamsburg, the troops went to Hampton town. From there, they crossed in a Vessel to Norfolk: which place, he states had been burnt by the British [the British burned Norfolk on January 2, 1776 under the command of Lord Dunmore, the last Royal Governor of Virginia]; how long he remained at Norfolk he does not remember: the British had left that place – he states that he saw them moving off into the Ocean, while he was in Hampton road, on his way to Norfolk. From Norfolk, the troops went by water to a town called Portsmouth, not far from the mouth of James River: at the last named place, his three months expired, and he obtained a discharge from his Captain – which has long since been lost by time or accident, or both, he only can state the fact that it is lost.

2nd After returning home from his first tour, his father sold his land in Halifax Virginia – and moved to Guilford County NC. He was drafted for three months, as a private under Captain John McAdoo [John McAdow], in the County of Guilford. The name of his Major was Robert Roulston [Robert Ralston]. His Colonel's name was Pacely [sic, John Paisley] – at least he was so called, but the Number of the Regiment he cannot give: and he thinks, but is not certain, that this second tour was about two years after the expiration of his first tour. This tour was after the Tories: from Guilford, they marched to Deep River – where they remained some considerable time. The only event he can remember worthy of noting, was the surrounding of a house where some Tories were harbored, and then the house was burnt. Nothing further happened, which can be considered important during this tour. The troops to which he was attached, were principally employed, in ranging about the Country in quest of Tories he served out his three months, and obtained a discharge, which in like manner, has been lost.

3rd His third tour was also for three months as a drafted private. His memory is so frail,

he cannot remember his Captain's name. His Colonel was the same as in the preceding tour – Paisley. From Guilford Court house, the troops crossed the Yadkin River and went about three days journey on the other side from Guilford, where they encountered the British and retreated back to the Yadkin River – and were pursued by the enemy. He remembers that Major Rutherford was killed during this retreat. In this tour, the Declarant states that he was under General Davidson [William Lee Davidson]: he states also that General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was along: after the retreat, across the Yadkin, word came, that the Tories were committing depredations, up towards the Shallow Ford: Volunteers were raised, some out of each Captain's company, to go in quest of them. This declarant was one of the number that went, while the Main body of the troops remained stationed at the place to which they had retreated. These volunteers from the Army encountered the Tories near the Shallow Ford [October 14, 1780], and killed about 15 of them. The troops then returned to the Army; where they remained a few days, and then recrossed the Yadkin, and pursued the British, and occasionally Scouting parties of the Americans took some prisoners. This declarant served out his three months, making in all Nine months. He also received a discharge for this third tour, which has also been lost.

He knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his service: nor has he any Documentary evidence by which it Can be established. He hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State: Sworn to and subscribed the date above.

{Seal}

Answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department and propounded by the Court

1st He was born (as he is informed) in Lunenburg County Virginia on the 12th day of January 1758.

2nd He has no record of his age: but responds from information from his mother.

3[rd] When first called into service, he lived in Halifax County Virginia when called into service after that, he lived in Guilford County NC. After the war – he removed from Guilford to Greenville District S. C. from there, he removed to what is now the County of White and State of Tennessee, where he now resides and has resided, nearly 30 years; how long, he cannot precisely say.

4th He volunteered his first tour: both his subsequent tours, he was drafted.

5th He cannot certainly state that he knew any of the officers of the Regular Army. He cannot be more specific than he has already been as to the General Circumstances of his service.

6th He received Written discharges, each tour.

7th The names of the following individuals to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, to whom he is known in his present neighborhood, [sic] and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution. Viz.: Nathan Bartlett – James Hudgings, Dudley Hunter, Samuel Johnson, Lewis Bohannon and Reverend Levi Perkins, and Reverend Corder Stone.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 19th day of October 1833.

S/ [illegible signatures by both clerk and deputy clerk]

S/ Abner Norris, X his mark {LS}

[Levi Perkins, a clergyman, and Isaac Buck gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina and Virginia militia.]