

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Lawrence (Laurence) S31810

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/5/13

[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 Indiana Monroe County:

On this eleventh day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Amory Kinney President Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of said State and Abraham Buskirk and Stephen P. Seall Associate Judges of the Circuit Court of said County now sitting, the same being a Court of record Joseph Laurence [sic] a resident of Green County in said State aged seventy-seven years (the first day of next month) who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress passed June 7th A.D. 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following Officers and served as herein stated to wit.

He was born in Albemarle County Virginia. He has not in his possession any record of his age, it being with his stepmother Isabella Laurence in Surry County North Carolina as he is informed and believes. But as well as he is able to state from a recollection of the knowledge obtained when he had the opportunity of ascertaining correctly he was born in the year 1755. He was a small boy perhaps 2 or 3 years old as he is informed & believes at the time of General Braddock's Defeat [July 9, 1775]. His father's name was Richard Laurence. This declarant resided in Virginia in Albemarle County where he was born until the sixteenth year of his age, when he went to the Captain of the Company within whose bounds he resided and enrolled himself. The first or second year after his said enrollment to [sic, he?] stood a draft.

In his twenty first year as well as he can recollect and in the year of our Lord 1775 or 6 (being now so frail from old age, and on that account so deficient in memory as not to be precisely certain) and a short time after his marriage, he volunteered and entered the service of the United States in the Militia of the State of Virginia in a Corps of "Minute men." He did not engage for any precise period of time as such volunteer, but undertook to serve in the expedition to, and for the defense of Williamsburg in Virginia and such other expeditions as might become necessary against the British. Said troops were footmen. He was rendezvoused at Albemarle County Court House in said State of Virginia and entered the said service and served under the command and in the Company of Foot commanded by Captain Carr, whose first name as well as he recollects was Dabney. In a day or two after that rendezvous he was marched in said Company by itself (there being no larger division or command) down to the Bird Tavern on the Road to Williamsburg. On their way at said Tavern they received the news that the British had taken Williamsburg, and afterwards retreated to their shipping. Said Company with this Applicant was discharged from said Expedition. He received no written discharge, but continued

under orders to rendezvous at the same place under the same Officers. He was not under the command of a Colonel during said Expedition. By reason of his loss of memory he cannot state all the circumstances of said "minute service" in said Expedition, nor the particular circumstances of the residue of the time during which he served in such minute service. He was repeatedly ordered out rendezvoused and marched in short expeditions upon alarms, and continued in such minute service during his Continuance in Virginia, which was about one year and a half. According to the best of his recollection he served in said "minute service" at least one year. He received no written discharge. He cannot safely swear as to any other particulars of said service from his loss of memory, owing to his old age and as he believes hardships peculiar to his life. He removed to Surry County North Carolina and there permanently settled himself.

In the Spring of 1777 (he cannot give the date with more certainty) to the best of his recollection, he volunteered as a Ranger in the Militia of North Carolina in a Company raised in said County of Surry mainly if not exclusively and to range in said County and Country adjacent. He volunteered for no particular period for the purpose of watching and guarding against the depredations of Tories who were stealing robbing and committing other injuries. He ranged in said County of Surry and there about and served in such service at least nine months and within a very short time of that precise term. Said Company of Rangers were foot men, and commanded by Captain William Underwood. He was discharged in the latter part of said year he thinks in said County of Surry; but not in writing; none being given.

In the year in which the British destroyed Wilmington in North Carolina he cannot remember with sufficient certainty to state the year, the Militia of North Carolina being divided into divisions of ten men each and called out in rotation. This applicant and the division to which he belonged was called into the service of the United States in said Militia in the Company of Foot commanded by Captain David Umphreys [David Humphreys]. The manner in which he was called into the said service, resembling as near as he can describe it, the nature of a draft. He was rendezvoused at Old Richmond Surry Court House North Carolina. Being sent by Captain Umphreys to his (the Captain's) residence for his clothes and money when this applicant returned to the place of rendezvous, said Company had marched, and this declarant at his own request for fear of Tories was placed in the ranks of a company commanded by Captain Kimmins [John Kimmins]. This applicant marched in said Company to Bells Mills on Deep River in Randolph County North Carolina. At or near said Mills said Company was fired on by the Tories under Colonel Fannon [sic, David Fanning] and said Company fell back twelve miles or thereabout and encamped for the night. Next morning this applicant went to Captain Kimmins and told him, and advised him of the necessity of joining other Companies in advance and of the wish of said Applicant to join Captain Umphreys on his way to or [sic] Head Quarters at Wilmington. Captain Kimmin replied that "he intended to stay there and eat out the damned Tories before he left them." This declarant expressed his anxiety to march remarking that they were without ammunition or in great want of it and without the means of doing any good and that he thought something more than eating ought to be done, that they were badly situated to fight. Upon which angry words ensued. This Applicant told Captain Kimmins he would quit him. The Captain threatened to press him. This Declarant defied him and left him, and considering it unsafe and unnecessary to attempt to reach his Captains (Umphreys') alone through a Tory Country, he returned to Surry County and reported himself to Colonel Armstrong and was placed under his order in a Light Horse Company (Cavalry) designed for Wilmington. But before said Cavalry Company marched said Captain Umphreys returned with his Company,

and the object of the expedition being at an end, said Cavalry Company never marched. He was in said Service to Bells Mills at least four weeks, and was discharged (in said County of Surry) when he had rejoined Captain Umphreys Company & command without writing. Having faithfully to the satisfaction of said Captain Umphreys & Colonel Armstrong also all his Officers (excepting Captain Kimmins) served said four weeks.

In the year 1779 as near as he can state from his recollection he volunteered in the Service of the United States in the Militia of North Carolina in the Company commanded by Captain James Giddens and marched from Surry County where he entered said service & rendezvoused, until said Company joined Colonel Benjamin Cleaveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and was under his command in Wilkes County in said State. He then continued under the command of said Colonel. He volunteered as foregoing not for any precise length of time, but to go in the expedition to Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780] against Colonel Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson]. On the march in said expedition in Wilkes County by order of his Officers & his own choice he was mounted on a horse in a Light Horse Company & continued transferred to, & in said Company & by such permission of his Officers & his own consent was in the same enrolled. Said Cavalry Company was commanded by James Shepperd [James Shepherd] Captain. Said Captain James Giddens' Company being Infantry or Foot men. Thence they moved to Green River in South Carolina where they with this Applicant were discharged. The spies having reported that the British had retreated to "Ninety Six" the Head Quarters of their main Army at that time. He received no written discharge nor did his comrades. He served in said tour probably more but at least five weeks. He does not recollect the County where he was discharged.

In the same year as the recollection best serves him, being said year if he is right in his memory of 1779, being he is certain a short time before the Battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], and whilst the British were at Hillsboro Colonel Martin Armstrong of Surry County employed this Applicant with others who volunteered and formed a Company and entered into an engagement with said Colonel Armstrong to go a tour to the Lead Mines on New River for the purpose of packing Lead and guarding and defending themselves on the march they found their own Horses Arms and Ammunition and marched under the orders of said Colonel, though he was not present on the march. The engagement in its terms was that each man should pack from Chisels mines [Chiswell's Lead Mines] on New River two hundred pounds of Lead and it be delivered at a convenient point in the Country. For which said Colonel Armstrong engaged that they should receive credit for one tour of duty as if the same had been performed in any other way. The length of the period or to tour to which said expedition after Lead should be deemed equivalent was not mentioned. No Officers accompanied said expedition. They marched as much as possible in concealment & kept the object of their journey a secret. They marched to said mines twelve of them including this declarant, and brought back each his two hundred pounds of Lead and according to the Colonel's orders delivered it at Salisbury in Rowan County North Carolina. They performed said service and procured said Lead under great difficulties & in great danger, greater than generally attended other kinds of service which since he performed a faithfully and to the acceptance of said Colonel, he received from said Colonel no certificate or discharge in writing. He served in said expedition seven days: and such a tour of duty as to which it was an equivalent he understood it to be the time necessary for an expedition to that part of the Country where the main Army of the enemy was then posted; which was Hillsboro: & the time necessary for such an expedition must have been at least five or say four weeks; for which four weeks, he prays an allowance & pension.

He again Volunteered in the Militia of North Carolina. The date he cannot state from his failure of memory, but it was about two weeks he well remembers before the Battle of Guilford. He entered the service at Surry County North Carolina in the Company of Foot commanded by David Umphreys Captain under Colonel & in the Regiment Commanded by John Armstrong who during a great part of the War was a Major in the Regular Army. This declarant rendezvoused in Surry County & was marched about fourteen miles or thereabout when the said Colonel Armstrong dispatched him this declarant with an express to meet Colonel Preston and Major Crockett from Holston on New River. He met them at the Meadows on the head of Cox's Creek. His horse, he having been mounted for the purpose of his errand being injured by hard riding the declarant was left behind the Army, and was delayed in his return & on his way after the main Army he met with his Captain James Giddens, who having been ordered back to Surry County from the Main Army with twelve men to protect the settlement on the frontier of Surry in the Hollows of Yadkin River this Applicant fell in with him & marched with & under his command. This Declarant with said Captain Giddens & Command first took a Tory and as well as he recollects his name was John Roberts a Tory Colonel. They promised him and his son their liberty and gave it to them they having taken him his son also if they would inform them where to find Joseph Burket [? probably Joseph Burke or Burk]¹ and Mark Adkins two other Tories. They found them and hung them. It being Colonel Armstrong's orders to hang all Tories wherever they were caught. Said old Colonel Roberts was the same who was taken a prisoner at Kings Mountain as he was informed. By the time of this hanging said Tories & guarding for a short while the Hollows of the Yadkin [River] the Battle of Guilford was over and the war being principally ended in that portion of the Country this declarant was discharged from the Service. Under this engagement this declarant served upwards of one month perhaps, he will state positively at least three weeks. He was not discharged in writing.

Whilst engaged in the Ranging service within before stated in 1777, (he now recalls to mind) an additional circumstance occurred. Colonel Roberts said Tory Colonel it was reported was about to raise a Corps of Tories, and was subsequently ascertained to have done so to join the British Army. Captain James Giddens and another Captain appointed to collect in squads of four or five to prevent suspicion at McCraw's Store. This applicant with four others on their way to this place of rendezvous stopped at Words on the Flower Gap Road and a company of Tories of fourteen commanded by Coil coming in sight this Applicant and his Squad mistook them for Whigs, and his brother being sent toward them to request them to halt, they appearing to intend to pass They tacked and surprised and surrounded this Applicant & his Comrades, and made them prisoners, and after stripping them of their horses and guns released them. After traveling all night they reached Captain Shelton's Camp. He served in a number of other tours of a less important kind. For a long time before the Battle of Guilford he was little else than a Soldier day and night, at all times whether in the regular embodied ranks or not. He was from home carrying expresses, guarding and watching against the movements of bands of Tories. Some of these less important excursions he has been advised need not be mentioned, some of them and the incidents of those described he has in part forgotten, nor can he positively declare that those mentioned are in the order in which they occurred. He cannot from his loss of memory give dates or circumstances with more precision than he has herein. It has been with difficulty he recalled the names of places. Some he has forgotten. A few owing to their having made deep impressions at

¹ *Burket*

the time they transpired he is able to state only.

He lived in said County of Albemarle Virginia when first called into service in said first tour & Service, called the "Minute Service." He lived in said County of Surry in the State of North Carolina at the times of entering the service in all the tours & expeditions, in the foregoing declaration described after said "Minute Service" in Virginia.

He states that many of these services by him performed some of which was in short excursions and therefore not mentioned were attended with more hardship and danger than service in large regularly organized armies – when large numbers of Militia were raised and the fact known to the Tories, they seldom failed to seize upon such opportunities to commit their depredations. In defending the lives & property of the families of the absent citizens (Whigs) much of this applicant's time & services were employed. And this was important service.

In said tour to Wilmington North Carolina at the time he guarded with Captain Kimmins he had almost forgotten to state he was in the appointment of First Sergeant.

Previous to his immigration to the State of Indiana to the County of [indecipherable]² where he resided about eleven years or upwards he resided in said County of Surry in the State of North Carolina he now resides in Green County and has there resided about four years. Said County of Green joins said County of Monroe in the Circuit Court of which (the latter) he makes this declaration. This declarant says the reason for making his declaration in this County (Monroe) instead of Green, is that David Banta Clergyman and William Burch his witnesses reside in Monroe where this declarant is well known. That he could not attend at the Circuit or any Court of record of Green County with his witnesses without great inconvenience. The County of Monroe being in the same Circuit and the same Judge (President Judge) present.

He has never received one cent of pay for any part of said services. He has no documentary evidence of any part of said Services, nor does he know of any person or persons who buy testimony of his Services he could procure except the Certificates here with. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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.

He cannot state the names of any regular officers other than those herein mentioned. He never received a discharge or commission. He is known to Colonel Thomas Warnock and others of his own neighborhood in Green who can testify & to David Banta clergyman and William G. Burch of Monroe County who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ Joseph Lawrence, X his mark

[David Banta, a clergyman, and William Burch gave separate affidavits in support of the application of this veteran, said affidavits being more or less in the standard form.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia service for one year.]

Warrick

2

Could be Warrick but the "W" doesn't conform to other initial "W's" in this file.