

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas Brent Porter S32454

f12VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/5/12

[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. 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 fails 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Washington County: SS: In the Washington County Probate Court –

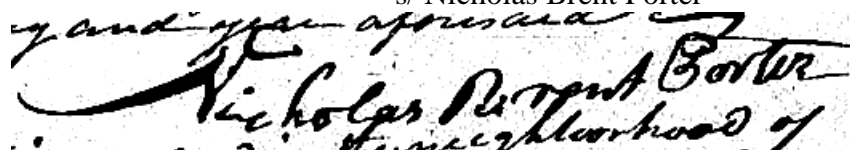
On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1834 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record, before the Honorable Samuel Peck the Judge thereof now sitting Nicholas B Porter a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged 70 years on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1833, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832 – That he first entered the service of the United States at Stafford County in the State of Virginia where he then resided, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 1779 as a private in the militia, under an engagement to serve as a minute man for no definite period, but as long as his services might be needed, by then and there joining a company under the command of Captain William Farrow. Immediately after said company was organized, Captain Farrow was promoted, and the said company was placed under the command of Captain John James, Joseph Combs was Lieutenant and Henry Clifton was Ensign. – That he marched as a private in said company under the said officers to Alexandria in what is now the District of Columbia, said company was there attached to a Regiment, the Colonel of which I cannot now recollect., – Remained in Alexandria until about the month of May or June 1779, was then ordered to march, and did march with said company under the same officers to the house of William Brent Esquire near the mouth of Aquia Creek [Aquia Creek] on the Potomac [River], there had an engagement with the forces under Lord Dunmore in which the house of the said William Brent Esquire was burned; this was about the month of June or July 1779. – After the engagement said company was dispersed but collected again in a short time, then marched to Fort Tobacco, & then the company was under the command of Colonel Dade, – remained at Fort Tobacco until sometime in November 1779, when marched back with said company to Fredericksburg (Virginia), there gave up his arms & was permitted by Colonel Posey to return home, but to hold himself in readiness to march at a moment's warning. – This was about the first of December 1779. And this declarant states that he was constantly engaged in actual service upon the tour of duty herein above described not less than ten & a half months. – That in the month of March 1780 at the same place (Stafford County Virginia) he again entered said service in the same capacity of minute man in the militia in the same company, & under the same officers, but for no definite period of time; that he marched with said company to Liegetown on the Rappahannock [River] and soon after his arrival at that place, he was appointed Sergeant Major by Colonel William Brent, and in that capacity he afterwards served, – remaining at Liegetown till about the month of August 1780; then marched with a detachment to Norfolk remained at Norfolk some time, and then marched back to Fredericksburg (Virginia) at which place he received permission, about the first of December 1780, from General Whedon [George Weedon] to return home, but to hold himself in readiness

to March at a moment's warning. This declarant states that he served on this tour of duty not less than one month as a private and not less than 6 months as a Sergeant major. –

That about the first of January 1781 at the same County of Stafford (Virginia) he was again called into the service with the same company then commanded by James Hoar Captain George Burrows Lieutenant & Henry Clifton in some, marched with said company from thence to South Carolina, and there joined the Army under General Morgan, was in the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]; default during the battle as a private under Colonel Washington of the light horse, Colonel Washington having furnished him with a horse, received a wound in the arm, and soon after the battle marched to Albemarle Barracks, & assisted in guarding the prisoners, and remained there upon that service until sometime in the month of October 1781, when the said company was ordered to Yorktown that he marched with said company, and whilst on the way an express met them that Cornwallis & his Army had surrendered. He then returned home & was not again called into the service – that he was in actual service in this last mentioned tour of duty from about the first of January 1781 to the latter part of October in the same year, and not less than 7 ½ months and during all that time he served in the capacity of a Sergeant Major with the exception of the time he served under Colonel Washington at the battle of the Cowpens as above stated. – This declarant states that he was in the actual service of the United States, and served during the year 1779, 1780, & 1781 as he has above stated not less than 11 & a half months as a private minute man, in the militia, and not less than 13 ½ months as Sergeant Major. – He further states that he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. – 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 the day and year aforesaid.

s/ Nicholas Brent Porter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas Brent Porter". Above the signature, there is a faint, partially legible phrase that appears to be "y and year aforesaid". Below the signature, there is another faint phrase that appears to be "in the neighborhood of".

[Thomas Green, a clergyman, and Richard Lovelace gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The following are the Interrogatories propounded by the Court to the said Applicant together with his answers thereto as prescribed by the War Department. –

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. I was born in Stafford County State of Virginia on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1763.

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

Ans. I have no record of my age in my possession, but I expect there is a record of my age in existence amongst the records of Aquia Church, Horton Parish in the said County of Stafford –

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. When called into service I lived in said County of Stafford, Horton Parish ; and after the war I lived in the same Parish with Colonel William Brent about 5 years, & until his death, then lived in same Parish with Doctor Valentine Payton till 1792, then joined a troop of light horse, under General Wayne & served as such under Wayne about 3 years, then went to the State of Kentucky, and lived in that state until 1815, when I moved to this County, where I have since resided and still reside –

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

Ans. I was called into service as a militia man, for no definite period of time; but to serve as a minute man whenever required, as I have above stated.

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans. I recollect Colonel Augustus Wallace, who had the command of the troops when I was at Alexandria as I have stated. I recollect well Colonel William Brent (he being cousin to my mother) I also recollect well Colonel Posey, who was afterwards a General in Wayne's Army – I also recollect Major Jack Willis who had the command when I went to Norfolk as I have stated above – I also remember well General Weedon, & also General Morgan who commanded at the battle of the Cowpens, also Colonel Washington who furnish me a horse at that battle, & under whom I fought, I do not now recollect any circumstance of importance respecting my service more than I have stated in the foregoing declaration –

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

Ans. I never received any discharge from the service, nor did any who belonged to the same company I did receive a discharge – I however received an appointment from Colonel William Brent as Sergeant Major, and acted as such as I have stated, but said appointment was not in writing nor was it customary to make such appointments in writing.

7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ans. In the neighborhood where I now reside, H W Hackett, Joseph Bates, Major Samuel Hays, Uriah Glover, Richard Lovelace, William Case Esquire, & Thomas Green clergyman, James Hamersly, Aaron Walker I would also refer to the following persons (if living) residing in Washington City & in Virginia, to wit, Daniel C Brent, Richard Brent, Robert Brent, Colonel John Cook, Colonel George Mason, Colonel Thompson Mason, Colonel Bailey Washington, Colonel Enoch Mason, Fransy Daniel, Doctors Valentine Payton, Rawsey Payton, John Fox, Nathaniel Fox, William Wallace, John Munkure, Colonel William Garrett, Colonel Burgess Ball

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