

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas Perry S3672

f20NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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

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State of Tennessee Madison County } S.S.

On this seventh day of February, personally appeared in open Court, before John B. Cross, John Tidwell and James H. Rogers Esquires Justices of the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions for said County now sitting Nicholas Perry a resident of said County and State aged Seventy-two 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 7th of June 1832.

That he was born on the 11th of April 1760, and will be 73 years of age if he lives to see 11th of April next, he was born in North Carolina in what was then called Hartsford [sic, Hertford] County on Cutty Whiskey Marsh, where he lived until he joined the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. He has no registration of his birth. He is an unlettered man, being neither able to read or write. He understood from his father & mother, when he was born, who had his birth recorded in a book, but what has become of it this declarant does not know, as his father & mother both died before he was 20 years of age. He entered the service of the United States in November 1778, being drafted for 5 months service, in the North Carolina militia and belonged to the company commanded by Captain Harris [James Harris], Lieutenant Moses Tyler and Ensign John Langston, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Williamson [sic, perhaps John Pugh Williams], about two weeks after [he was] drafted he marched with his Regiment to Fayetteville, and from there we were marched to join General Ash [sic, John Ashe] of the North Carolina militia, we reached a point near Augusta Georgia, [in] December or January, the headquarters of the American Commander in chief General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] being at that time either at Purrysburg or Black Swamp. About the last of February, the British retreated from Augusta, towards Savannah, and General Ashe was directed to cross the Savannah River, and take a position at the Junction of Briar Creek [Brier Creek] on the South side of said River, where we arrived about the first of March. In a day or 2 afterwards the British under Colonel Campbell [Archibald Campbell] appeared to be taking measures to prevent our crossing Briar Creek, they having previously burnt the bridge. We were laying at our ease not suspecting any danger, until all of a sudden the British came round in our rear, and hemed [hemmed] us in between the Creek and the River. We were panick [panic] struck and for safety plunged in the River, a part of the British being on the other side of the Creek, this declarant swam over the River, but many of his comrades were drowned and killed in the River. In this

battle<sup>1</sup> he does not believe the militia fired a gun, about one hundred Continental troops under General Elbert [Samuel Elbert] made some resistance, but were overpowered. After the battle, we assembled at Purrysburg, where we remained some time and marched from thence to Black Swamp, and about the last of April reinforcements from North and South Carolina arrived, in the time of service of five months having expired, this declarant with others whose term of service had expired were marched home by Colonel Williams, where we arrived in the last of May 1779. About a month or two after his return home this declarant volunteered for three months in a troop of horse raised and commanded by Captain Hardy Murfree, the man after whom the town of Murfreesborough North Carolina is named. We started down upon the sea coast to intercept some British who were in the habit of leaving their shipping and committing great destruction to the property of the inhabitants cutting down orchards and burning fields etc. we expected to cross a large Swamp upon a causeway of logs and bridges, but when we came to them the British and Tories had destroyed the bridges so that we could not cross and were compelled to go near 50 miles lower down, and crossed Tulls Creek [near Moyock, North Carolina] by taking our wagon to pieces and placing them across canoes and swimming our horses, After reaching the sea coast, we turned and proceeded north without overtaking or meeting any of the enemy, and proceeded as far as Suffolk in Virginia, which had been burned by the enemy before we reached there, from here we returned homeward, being out about three months, after our return he was discharged by Captain Murfree. We had written discharges at the expiration of both terms of service, the first signed by Colonel Williams and the latter by Captain Murfree, but being unlettered and not knowing that they could be of any use to him at any after period he took no particular care of them, and cannot say how or when he lost them. After the war was over this declarant moved to Wake County North Carolina where he married and lived until about two years past, when he moved to Henderson County in the State, where he lived one year, and then moved to this County where he has resided one year, and still resides here.

This declarant refers to Gideon Goodwin and Allen Goodwin who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief as to his services as a involuntary soldier. He knows of no person living by whom he can prove the actual performance of his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present, and declares that his name is not on Pension roll of any State or the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the date above

S/ R. McIver, Clk

S/ Nicholas Perry, X his mark

[Gideon Goodwin and Allen Goodwin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the North Carolina militia.]

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<sup>1</sup> Briar Creek March 3, 1779 <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>