

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jacob Surber S4017

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 5/27/12

[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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

The State of Ohio, Highland County

Personally appeared before the subscriber one of the justice of the peace in & for said County on this 21st day of June AD 1833 Jacob Surber, a resident of the said County of Highland, aged 89 years 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 June 7th AD 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

The following interrogatories were propounded by said Justice of the peace to said applicant to which the annexed answers were returned:

1st Question. Where & in what year were you born? I was born in Germantown in the State of Pennsylvania in the year of our Lord 1744.

2nd Q. Have you any record of your age? Answer: I have not.

3rd Q. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, & where do you now live? Ansr. I lived when called into service in the County of Shenandoah in the State of Virginia. After performing my several tours of service in the revolutionary war & again returned to said County of Shenandoah where I lived 'till the year 1801—when I moved to the State of Tennessee, remained there about 9 years when I moved to Highland County Ohio where I have ever since lived.

4th Q. How were you called into service? Answer. I always volunteered.

5th Q. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served; such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect, & the general, circumstances of your service. Ansr: [1st] In the month of March AD 1777, I volunteered in the Company of Virginia Militia commanded by Captain Jonathan Denton¹ in the County of Shenandoah in the said State of Virginia. Said Company was stationed at place called Wendall's fort in said County of Shenandoah. Soon after I joined said Company, I among others was sent out by my said Captain as a spy against the Indians with orders to range through the mountains of said County of Shenandoah & the neighboring Counties. I acted as a spy in this tour six months during which time I frequently returned to said fort to give information to my said Captain. The spies of the Company killed one hostile Indian during the time of my service. I was discharged verbally by Captain Denton in September 1777.

2nd In the month of April AD 1778, I again volunteered under said Captain Denter of the

¹ This officer's name looks like "Denton" in some places and like "Denter" in others. I could not find an officer by either name in the Virginia resources available to me.

Virginia Militia. & served as a spy against the Indians over the same tract of Country—rendezvoused at the same fort Wendall & was discharged after six month service by my said Captain.

3rd . In the month of March AD 1779, I again volunteered under the same Captain Jonathan Denter of the Virginia Militia as a spy against the Indians. Served as a spy for the term of six months over the same tract of Country after which I was again verbally discharged by my said Captain at said fort Wendall.

4th . In the month of April AD 1780 I again volunteered under the same Captain Denter at said fort Wendall for a six month tour as a spy against the Indians. I served as a spy through the same tract of Country for six months & was then discharged verbally at said fort Wendall by my said Captain. As a spy against the Indians, I spent two years at least during which times I repeatedly saw hostile Indians and frequently gave intelligence of this fact to my said Captain Denter who was stationed for a principal part of some 2 years in said fort Wendall with a part of his Company. There was at said fort Wendall no higher office. There was a Captain during my service as a spy. & my memory is so bad on account of my old age that I cannot recollect the name of Colonel who commanded the regiment of which said Denter's Company was a part.

(5th). Sometime in the first of March AD 1781, I again volunteered in the Company of Virginia Militia commanded by Captain George Rinker at said County of Shenandoah in Virginia. Our regiment was commanded by Colonel Jacob Rinker. We were called together at that time for the purpose of driving off some Tories who were collecting in force at a place called Gap Capon in the mountains of said Shenandoah County. We marched immediately to Gap Capon & dispersed the Tories then collected after wounding one and taking four prisoners. After serving three months in the tour I received a written discharge from my said Col. Rinker.

(6th). About the middle of July AD 1781 I again volunteered in said County of Shenandoah under Captain George Riker of the Virginia Militia in the regiment commanded by Colonel __ Tipton [John Tipton]. This was soon after the army of General Cornwallis invaded the State of Virginia. I marched under said officers to a place called the “burnt ordinary” from the fact that a part of the British army under Cornwallis had burned the place a few days previous & from there to the place where I volunteered when I was charged by my said Colonel. I volunteered for but 20 days served out my 20 days & rec'd a written discharge.

(7th). In the month of August AD 1781 I again volunteered in said County of Shenandoah for the Virginia Militia under Captain Lee—for a three month term—our Colonel was named Darke [William Dark or Darke]. The object of our being called out at this time was to defend the State against the invasion of the British under Lord Cornwallis. We marched under command of said officers to Yorktown soon after I volunteered. I remained under said officers before said Town of York which was then occupied by Cornwallis & besieged by Washington until the surrender of Cornwallis & after serving three months was discharged by my said Captain Lee & I received at the time a written discharge.

In all the 7 terms of service in the revolutionary war above mentioned I served two years, six months & 20 days at least.

6th Question: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your service as soldier of the revolution?
Answer: Hercules Murphy, Nathan Pulliam, Jacob Coffman, John Wardton, Anthony Sonner, & many others will testify as is requested.

7th Question: Did you receive a discharge? After the 4 first above mention times of service as a spy, I was verbally discharged by my officer—After the three last tours, I rec'd in each case a written discharge all of which I have since lost.

This applicant says that at the said siege of Yorktown, Va., he was wounded in the left arm by a

musket ball—That during said siege he became acquainted with Generals Washington, Lafayette, Wayne & Stephenson—I Knew no other officers or regiments other than already mentioned. He has no documentary proof nor does he Know any individual who can testify as to his services.

That said applicant resides between 10 & 15 miles from the place where the Court of record for said County sit & that he is unable from bodily infirmity to go such a distance from home without serious injury to himself.

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 subscribe the day of year aforesaid before me.

S/ John Colvin, JP

S/ Jacob Surber, S his mark

[Nathan Pulliam, a clergyman, Frederick Gibler and Anthony Sonner gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The State of Ohio, Highland County

Personally appeared before me one of the justices of the peace in & for said County the within named Jacob Surber who made solemn oath that he was in the service of the United States during the revolutionary war as an Indian spy at four different times & that each time when he went out as a spy against the Indians & served six months as he has stated in the within declaration he was in actual service either as Indian spy or under arms & performing garrison duty in fort Wendall where the spies of Shenandoah headquartered—And that during the time in which this applicant's service as mentioned in the within declaration was performed, he was never employed in any civil pursuit but always was under arms & performing military duty.

S/ Jacob Surber, S his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me a justice of the peace of said County this 23rd day of October In the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred & thirty three.

S. John Colvin, JP

[Facts in file: Veteran died August 23, 1839 leaving one child, whose name is not given nor is the name of his wife shown in the file.]

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