

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Samuel Pharis S7309

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 North Carolina Cumberland County } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions

On this the sixth day of December in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Josiah Evans, Daniel McCormick and Hector Stuart the Presiding justices of said Court (which is a Court of record), Samuel Pharis a resident of Bladen County 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 1832 -- That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That at about the age of 17 his father John Pharis was drafted to serve 3 months in the militia of the State of North Carolina, that this Declarant agreed to take the place of his father, and in his stead entered into the service under a Captain Joseph Wood and served the term of three months that being the term for which his father the said John was drafted to serve, the year he does not recollect, but remembers that it was before the taking of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] by the British. That after this time he volunteered in the militia or State troops of North Carolina under Captain Samuel Porter for three months, and marched from Bladen County in this State to Charleston and was there in the engagement which took place and which resulted in the taking of that place by the British. That he was there taken prisoner by the British, that he obtained a parole and returned home. That afterwards he volunteered in the service of the United States under Captain Simon Hadley of the Militia of North Carolina for three all months and on a scouting expedition during that time. That after the expiration of said time he entered the service for one month as a substitute in the place of one John Cashwell who was drafted to serve in a company commanded by Captain William McDaniel. That afterwards he entered the service under the command of Captain William Ellis. That while under the command of Captain Ellis he was the most of the time in pursuit of Tories. That subsequently he was placed under the command of Captain Jaret Irvin [Jaret Irwin] under whose command he was in a Battle [Tory Hole, August 27, 1781] between the Americans and some Tories at Elizabeth [Town] in Bladen County, the Tories were commanded by one Slingsby [John Slingsby]. That afterwards he was engaged in a fight with the Tories at Big Creek in Cumberland County where the Americans were commanded by Captain Ellis. That he does not recollect the year he was in service nor the precise terms for which he at various times volunteered and served. This Declarant further states that he served during the greater part of the war and as long as it was thought necessary and this part of the Country. This Declarant further states that he had regular discharges at the expiration of his terms of service but has lost them

and that he has no documentary evidence of his service -- he further states that William Grice<sup>1</sup> and Stephen Hollingsworth<sup>2</sup> are acquainted with the fact that he served in the State troops of this State during the Revolutionary war to whose testimony he begs to refer. He begs also to refer to the affidavit of Laban Tatum hereunto annexed.

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/ Samuel Pharis, X his mark

Questions propounded to the applicant by the Court

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

Answer: I was born in Cumberland County January 1761

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

Answer: I have at home

Question 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?

Answer: I was living in Bladen County & have lived there ever since

Question 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?

Answer: I have answered this question in my Declaration

Question 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.

Answer: I do not remember any others than those stated in my Declaration

Question 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?

Answer: I did but have lost them

Question 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.

Answer: I would refer to William Grice and Stephen Hollingsworth & Jonah Evans Esquire

William Grice and Stephen Hollingsworth living in the County of Cumberland do certify that Samuel Pharis who has subscribed the foregoing declaration was a soldier in the Revolutionary war that they served with him in Captain Ellis Company for some time, & also that they knew him in the service under Captain Hadley & Captain Johnsons company, the precise time which he served they do not recollect, but from their own knowledge & from general reputation they believe that he served as he states.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Grice, X his mark

S/ Stephen Hollingsworth, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Sampson County}

This day Laban Tatom personally appeared before me John Wright one of the Justices assigned

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<sup>1</sup> [William Grice S6934](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Stephen Hollingsworth S8726](#)

to keep the peace in and for said County and maketh oath that he is well acquainted with Samuel Pharis of Bladen County that he knew the said Pharis during the revolutionary War and was in the Service with the said Pharis three months under Captain Joseph Wood and Samuel Porter under the command of General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] at Charlestown in the year 1780 and that he left said Pharis at Charlestown that said Pharis served faithfully as a Soldier during that time.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November 1832  
S/ J. Wright, JP    S/ Laban Tatom, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Cumberland County } Sc

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Cumberland in the State of North Carolina Samuel Pharis who being first duly sworn according to law maketh the following statements in amendment of his Declaration made in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of said County (at the center Term 1832) in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time which he served altogether nor the precise years in which he served, but is confident that he served not less than the periods mentioned below and under the officers herein after mentioned -- to wit

That in the year 1778 (or 1779) while residing in Bladen County in this State, he was a substitute for his father John Pharis (who had been drafted to serve 3 months in a militia Company of Infantry) entered into the service of the United States under Captain Joseph Wood -- that he marched with said Captain Wood to Charleston in South Carolina and was under the command of General Lincoln at that place that he remained at Charleston till his term of service expired and that he served during this term of 3 months as a private soldier.

That after the expiration of this term he volunteered under Captain Samuel Porter at Charleston in South Carolina for 3 months and was in the Battle which was terminated by the taking of Charleston by the British -- that he was then taken prisoner by the British and after a short time permitted to return home under a parole -- that General Lincoln was the commanding officer during this tour -- that this Declarant served during this tour of 3 months as a private soldier --

That after returning home to Bladen County in this State he volunteered in a Company of Light Horsemen there, under the command of Captain Simon Hadley and served for the term of 3 months -- That while in this service under Captain Hadley he was not under any Colonel or General that he is aware of having been all the time upon scouting expeditions, against the Tories in Bladen and Cumberland Counties in the State the year in which this service was rendered this declarant cannot precisely recollect but believes it was in the year 1780 -- During this tour of 3 months he served as a private.

That afterwards he again entered the service as a substitute for John Cashwell who had been drafted to serve one month in a militia Company commanded by Captain William McDaniel in Bladen County in this State; that he served the full term of one month as a soldier in Captain McDaniel's Company. This service he believes was rendered in the year 1780. That ~~the~~ there was no remarkable circumstance occurred during this term -- That it was spent in small skirmishes with Tories -- the Company was detached from any Regiment but subject to command of Colonel Ow[balance of word cut off, but probably Col. Thomas Owen]. That

afterwards he volunteered in said Bladen County in a Company of militia infantry commanded by Captain William Ellis, the year he cannot recollect precisely -- that he remained under the command of Captain Ellis for a short time during which he was engaged in pursuing and skirmishing with Tories in Cumberland County. That afterwards he was placed under the command of Captain Jaret Irvin and was attached to a body of troops under the command of General Brown [sic, Col. Thomas Brown] and Colonel Owen [Thomas Owen] of the North Carolina Militia, that he then marched under General Brown against a body of Tories in Bladen - - that the Tories overpowered them and that the Americans were obliged to retreat to some distance beyond the River Neuse in this state -- that they soon rallied returned to Bladen and attacked and defeated the Tories at Elizabethtown in this state. That after this he was again placed under the command of Captain Ellis, and marched with him to Cumberland County in this State where they had a fight with the Tories at a Creek called Great or Big Creek during this tour he served 3 months as a private soldier.

The said Declarant states that he at divers times during the war for short periods, served in different companies, but cannot recollect how long a time -- But is certain that he served at least for 13 months as stated in the foregoing and for which he claims a pension.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 9th May A.D. 1833

S/ John McNeill, JP

S/ Samuel Pharis, S his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$33.33 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 10 months in the North Carolina militia.]