

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Surls S7659

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Transcribed by Will Graves

3/22/11

[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.]

State of North Carolina Montgomery County

On this 19th day of April A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me William Coggins a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Robert Surls a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged eighty-four 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 1832.

That at the time he entered the service of the United States he lived in the County of Lenoir in the State of North Carolina. That he is not able to state what was the particular date of his service, but believes it was in the first of the war: That when he first entered into the service of the United States he thinks he was about twenty-four years old but he might have been more as to the fact he has an indistinct recollection. He was drafted for a term of three months under Captain Joseph Green and Lieutenant Malchel Heren at Lenoir Courthouse and a few days after the draft the Company was marched to Wilmington and placed under the command of General Caswell who had a considerable force stationed at that place. The affiant states that he does not remember any other of his officers names except the ones above named. That while he was at Wilmington he was engaged in building fortifications and digging trenches along the river Cape Fear. That [part of the paper is torn or water damaged so that it cannot be read] served for three months the time for which he was drafted was out and he received a discharge from his Captain Joseph Green which he has lost by his house being burnt and he then returned home. This affiant states further that soon after he returned from the service there was a general muster in Lenoir for soldiers called at that time nine months men and that he volunteered for a term of nine months under Captain Benjamin Harrison the Lieutenant's name he cannot recollect and collected together at Kingston [Kinston] on Neuse River in Lenoir County where the Company together with other Companies who had come together at that place remained there a few days – this Affiant from his lack of memory is unable to mention the names of the officers who took command at Kingston except that General Caswell the same whom he had been under at

Wilmington marched a day or two with the Regiment and left them under the command of some Colonel and other officers, whose names this affiant does not recollect. From Kingston this affiant was marched to Halifax on Roanoke River which River the Regiment crossed at that place and was marched through Norfolk in Virginia and from thence to Baltimore and from there to Philadelphia where this affiant was with the rest of the soldiers attached to General Washington's Army. The affiant passed through a good many towns, and villages on his way to Philadelphia the names of which he cannot recollect: after the Companies that started from one or County had been united to the Army at Philadelphia under the command of General Washington the whole of his forces immediately left that place and marched to West Point on the North River when they arrived sometime in the fall of the year. That they remained at West Point until just before Christmas at which time the Army at that place built a great Fort. This affiant is at this time unable to give a satisfactory account [one or more indecipherable words] of this part of his service. He does not recollect that General Washington was at West Point whether it was only a detachment of his Army, that was sent there in order to erect fortifications that he together with the rest of the forces at West Point returned to Philadelphia where they arrived on Christmas Eve and went into Barracks. During the rest of the winter when the winter had broken up the time full which this affiant had volunteered his services had expired and he was put on board a vessel at Philadelphia and was carried to Norfolk by water. From Norfolk the affiant and all the rest who went from his part of the Country marched to Halifax on the Roanoke where he and the rest received their discharges and Captain Long's old field as the place was called. That he served 9 months this tour for which he received a discharge which discharge has been lost as aforesaid by fire. The discharge was given him by Captain [one or more lines of text lost by the paper being sworn or water damaged] withstanding he is unable from old age to recollect dates of service or the names of his Regiments or field officers, he is well assured that he served 9 months the last tour and 3 months the first making in all 12 months for which he claims a pension. This affiant knows of no person in this part of the State who can testify as to his services and if there are any persons living who know of them they reside in the lower part of the State and he is too old and poor to procure their testimony. The affiant states that he lived in Lenoir on Neuse River from the date of his service until 11 or 12 years past when he came to Montgomery County where he now resides. In his present neighborhood where I reside I am acquainted with Edward Wright, Dred Blake and Isham Hix who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. This affiant is unable to procure the testimony of a clergyman to testify to the same as there is none in his neighborhood to whom his character is known. The affiant states that he has no record of his age nor does he the date of his birth.

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 before me the day and year aforesaid

[signature of the attesting officer is obliterated]

S/ Robert Surls, X his mark

[Edward Wright gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn pp. 15-17: veteran made an amended application dated August 8, 1833; I cannot tell that he added any facts to his prior declaration: Norman McLeod & E. Blake gave the standard supporting affidavit for the amended application.]

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