

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Surgenor S7662

fn17NC

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 Richmond County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions

On the 14th day of July 1832 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record) for the County of Richmond in State aforesaid John Surgenor resident of said County aged eighty-one years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the Provision made by an Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he the said John Surgenor was drafted for the Term of six months in the latter part of 1778 or 1779 in the State of North Carolina in the County of Edgecombe from which place he marched under Captain Simon Lee into the State of Georgia where he was placed under the immediate command of General Ashe [John Ashe] who was one of the Generals that commanded the North Carolina Troops that he was at the Battle of Briar Creek under the command of General – when he was defeated by the British (commanded he thinks by Colonel Primrose[]) – that he served out the time for which he was drafted – that in addition to the above service he was drafted he thinks for five months – (the Captain's name not recollected) that he was under the command of General Green [Nathanael Greene] at the time when Lord Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] gave him Battle and defeated the Americans at Guilford. That he was employed the greater part of his time in the latter service in wagoning provisions for the American Army. That he served out the whole of the last draft except about one fortnight when he was called home to see his family. In addition to the above Service this deponent states that he was under the command of Robert Diggs of North Carolina whose business it was to procure victuals [vittles] for the Army and that he was 3 months in procuring, killing and salting meat. That he has never received any compensation from the Government and that he is now an old infirm man with little or no property to comfort & sustain him in his declining years. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and he declares his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year above written.

Test: S/ M. P. Crawford, Clerk

S/ John Surgenor, X his mark

State of North Carolina Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions at April Term 1833, John Surgenor personally appeared in open Court it being a Court of record made oath upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God and saith, that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the time set forth in his declaration, making in all fourteen months with the exception of one fortnight.

The affiant states that he knows of no person in this County to whom he was known as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, that at that time he lived in Edgecombe County North Carolina that shortly after he removed to Richmond County that he believes were he able to go to Edgecombe that he would be able to find many of his companions many yet alive but that he is old and infirm & penniless having to [be] supported entirely by the charity of some few friends, he states that he has been living in the neighborhood for the last 40 years and that the following Gentlemen to whom he refers have been intimately acquainted with him & well know that he was always reputed to have been a soldier & a true friend of his Country, viz., This Deponent states that he was born in the year 1751, that he has his age in his family Bible at home, that he was born in Edgecombe will Halifax, which County he knows not, That when called into service he lived in Edgecombe County but for the last 40 years he has been a citizen of Richmond County where he now lives – he states that at the Battle of Guilford he received a discharge, he thinks from Colonel Long. If his memory serves him right, which discharge he has lost or mislaid. The Persons to whom I am known among others are Walter Leak Senior, John McAllister, the Reverend M. D. Cray, W. Crawford, & in fact the whole Neighborhood from report will say that I have always been reputed a Whig & Friend of my Country. The Court after hearing the Declaration and asking devers Interrogatories of the applicant as well as from their acquaintance with him to give it as their opinion that his declaration and the amendment are true.

[attested by M. C. Crawford, Clk]

[Elias Sinclair, a clergyman gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[Thomas P Williams gave testimony that he has heard Mark Rollins who he knows to have been a soldier of the revolution a soldier of the revolution a soldier of the revolution a revolutionary soldier state that he knew that John Surgenor was in the battle of Briar Creek.] involved in the revolution state that he knew said John Surgenor and was in the battle of Briar Creek.]

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State of North Carolina Richmond County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace of said County John Surgenor who being duly sworn deposes and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below (viz.) That he was drafted in 1778 or 1779 for six months & was placed under Captain Simon Lee (the Colonel he cannot recollect but thinks that his name was Eaton or Eason whether this was his Colonel that went with him from Halifax County, or whether it was the Colonel under whom he was placed in Georgia, at the Battle of Briar Creek he knows not). That he was marched into Georgia and was under the immediate command of General Ash at the Battle of Briar Creek (and thinks also that a general Bryant was also there). That he served out his six months draft, That in addition to the above he was also drafted for three months, Captain's name not recollected, was under the command of General Greene (does not know the Captain) marched from Halifax to Hillsboro at Hillsboro he was selected & ordered by his General to cart

provisions from Halifax & Tarboro to the General Greens Army, he was afterwards sent under Colonel Long at Halifax to guard the Jail at Halifax in which were Prisoners or Tories taken by the Americans, he states that being drafted he supposes that he was on this account selected to cart & guard the jail, which services he faithfully rendered and which were equally essential to the success of the American arms, as if he had been the whole time regularly engaged in the Army. That he served out the whole of his last draft Except one fortnight, and in addition to the above he states that he was under Robert Diggs and aided in procuring provisions for the Army, he thinks that his last service was prior to the Battle of Guilford, for he well recollects that in procuring provisions that they took the third hog over 12 months old from all settlers & friends to the American cause – he states that it is impossible for him to recollect or even to give a detailed statement of events as they succeeded each other for it is all in his mind nothing but confusion, he states that he has been informed by Walter Leak Senior¹ a pensioner, that the first service in Georgia was a nine month Draft & not six months as he thinks although he has always been under the impression that it was for six months, but be it long or short he served out his Time.

He has no Person living by whom he can prove his service in these parts, and only offers to his own oath and what circumstantial testimony he can procure (viz.) the oath of Thomas P Williams & the oath of Walter Leak, which although they do not go positively to prove his service yet at least corroborate his own oath.

27 May 1833

S/ R. R. Thomas, JP

S/ John Surgenor

State of North Carolina Richmond County: This day personally appeared before me Walter Leak Senior a soldier of the revolution & a Pensioner under the act of 7 June 1832 and made oath that the first draft which John Surgenor describes having served was for 9 months, & not 6 months as is stated in the declaration, that the way it is so fully impressed on his mind is from the circumstance that he himself was drafted at the same time – the same service for 9 months and hired a substitute one Alexander McDonald & paid him for 9 months, that he has had [indecipherable word] conversation with said McDonald as to the incidents & events which took place during this service, and that he firmly believes that John Surgenor was there for about 40 years ago the first time he ever got acquainted with John Surgenor, they [one or more indecipherable words, possibly intended to be 'talked over'] the incidents such as swimming the River and running through the Briers which Alex McDonald has related to the Deponent as having taken place at which conversation John Surgenor related a great many little circumstances and events, which McDonald told Deponent did take place, Deponent further states that he has been acquainted with John Surgenor for about 40 years & always considered him to have been a Whig and believes the statement made in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed

the 27th of May 1833

S/ Walter Leak



[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 11 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

¹ [Walter Leak S7136](#)