

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Porterfield W1995

Margaret fn27NC

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. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina Orange County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, November Term 1836

On this the 2nd day of December, 1836, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting, John Porterfield a resident citizen of said County, aged seventy-three 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 he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

1st Tour This Declarant states that on or about the 25th day of August 1780 he was drafted into the United States Service for a tour of 3 months the object of this draft was to raise troops to guard the public Jail and Town of Hillsborough -- this Declarant served as private in a company of militia under the command of Captain William Jamison -- Thaxton [sic, James Thackston] was Colonel. In this service as private I was engaged with other troops in guarding the said public Jail and Town till the expiration of my 3 months tour, which was on or about the 25th of November following, when I was regularly discharged by Captain Jamison and returned home. This tour this Declarant proves by Thomas Horner,¹ whose affidavit is hereunto annexed -- In this tour, this Declarant states he was in a regularly organized Corps & called into Service by Competent authority.

2nd Tour On or about the 10th day of December following to wit 1780, there was a draft for 3 months militia man to joined General Greene -- when this Declarant volunteered for said Tour - - the Company to which he was now attached (most of them drafted man) was under the Command of Captain William Nicholls -- Archibald Murphey of Caswell County was Colonel of the Regiment -- rendezvoused at Caswell Court House on or about the 10th day of December of that year -- and were ordered to march to the Town of Charlotte, which was then the headquarters of General Greene -- in our march thither, we crossed Haw River at the Hi Rock -- thence to Martinsville -- thence to Salisbury, where we remained some time, as General Greene had marched into South Carolina; we were ordered to the neighborhood of the Catawba [River], and were put under General Davidson [William Lee Davidson], and were stationed to guard McCowans Ford [sic, Cowan's Ford] on the Catawba River -- but were driven from our station by Corn-wallis's [Cornwallis] Army -- from McCowans Ford we went to widow Torrences [sic, Tarrant] -- thence to the Yadkin [River] -- thence to Guilford Court-House and in this retreat was joined by General Greene -- from Guilford we retreated over the Dan into Virginia -- after

¹ FPA S8682

remaining there some time -- returned to North Carolina -- and in or about the 10th day of March following, his tour ended and he received a discharge from Captain Nicholls and returned home (proven by B. Bowers) -- That in this Tour he was in a legally organized Corps and called into service by Competent authority -- and served as private all this Tour.

3rd Tour and the last This Declarant states that on the first July 1781, he was drafted into the United States service for a tour of 3 months. That he served as private this tour in a company of Militia, at first under the command of Captain Wilson -- Joseph Taylor of Granville [County], Colonel. That they rendezvoused at Mt. Tirza [also spelled Mt. Tirzah], then in Caswell now Person County -- from Mt. Tirza we marched to Harrisburg in Granville, to guard some public stores that were deposited there. Sometime in September following we received orders to march to Hillsboro to guard that place, as an attack by the Tory forces under Fanning [David Fanning] was apprehended and when on our march to Hillsborough an express was sent us that the Tory forces had taken Town and had made the Governor and many others prisoners. We were ordered to march with rapidity. Joined the other troops that were in pursuit of Fanning and endeavor to recover the prisoners: -- we crossed Eno [River] at McCabe's -- and Haw River at Lassiter's Ford -- Thence to Cross Creek -- where our Captain Wilson resigned, and the command of the company was given to Captain Dickerson -- from Cross Creek -- we were marched to Raft Swamp where we joined Butler's [General John Butler's] troops -- we were part of the time with General Rutherford -- was stationed a while at Swan's plantation and Monroe's Bridge on little River -- and was next marched to North East bridge -- where we first had intelligence of the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis, this was now as well as this Declarant can remember on the first of November 1781. -- That he was at Raft Swamps when his 3 months expired but at the request of his superior officers he (with many others) remained one month longer -- and at the expiration of the 4 months was duly discharged as having served 4 months by Captain Dickerson and returned home -- In this tour this Declarant was in a legally organized Corps and called into Service by Competent Authority. That he knows of no person living that served with him in this Tour. That in all, he served 10 months, & as private. This Declarant states that he was born in this County on the 14th day of February 1763 as appears by a record of his age.

That he was living in this County when he entered the Service and has been living there ever since.

That when he entered the service he was drafted & volunteered.

That he knew Colonel Lytle, Colonel Mebane, Colonel Nash & others continentals.

That he knew Colonel Moore, Colonel Thackston, Colonel Murphy, General Butler, General Eaton, General Rutherford & other militia officers.

That he received discharges but that they are now lost --

That his first discharge he received from Captain Jamison.

That his 2nd he received from Captain Nicholls.

That his 3rd he received from Captain Dickerson.

That he is known in his neighborhood to General Joseph Allison and Samuel Madden, who testified to the Declarant's being a man of truth, and reputed to have been a revolutionary Soldier.

That there is no Clergyman living near to him who has any knowledge of his revolutionary services -- that he knows of --

That the reason he did not applied earlier for a pension was that he did not know of any living witnesses of his Service till within a few weeks he passed. That he is now old and infirm and cannot travel without much pain.

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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Porterfield

Test: S/ J. Taylor, Clerk

State of North Carolina Orange County: On this the 30th of November 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County of Orange aforesaid, Thomas Horner, a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 76th year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh oath that in the war of the Revolution he served a 3 months tour in guarding the Town of Hillsboro, in the fall of 1780; tour commenced about 25th of August he thinks of that year -- and remembers very well that John Porterfield of said County served all of said 3 months in guarding the said Town in Jamison's Company -- and we were discharged at the end of said tour by Captain Jamison, on the 25th of November 1780, and this affiant says that said Porterfield is a man of truth and veracity, and has the reputation of being a Soldier in the war of the Revolution.

Sworn and subscribed the day and date first above written before me

S/ S. Strayhorn, JP

S/ Thomas Horner

State of North Carolina Orange County: On this the 30th day of November 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, Brittain Bowers, a resident citizen of the aforesaid County, now in the 74th year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law, maketh oath, that, in the Spring of 1781, he was in the United States service under General Greene and has this day saw and conversed with John Porterfield a resident of said County who represents that in the Spring of that year he served a 3 months tour in the militia under Captain Nicholls & Colonel Murphey -- this affiant feels perfectly satisfied of seeing said Porterfield there in the militia, and from the account he gives of his services, feel satisfied he served out said tour of 3 months. -- Under General Greene --

Sworn, and subscribed, the day & date above written before me

S/ S. Strayhorn, JP

S/ Brittain Bowers, X his mark

[Joseph Allison & Samuel Madden gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 27]

North Carolina, Orange County: On this the 26 day of May 1837, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Porterfield now in the 74th year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law maketh the following as supplemental evidence to his Declaration for pension to wit:

That early after the passage of the act of June the 7th 1832, he made inquiry to ascertain if any of his revolutionary Compatriots were living, but could not hear of any till a few days before November Term last, when this affiant met with Thomas Horner and Brittain Bowers and availed himself of their testimony.

This affiant had understood that there would not be any favorable action upon his application, unless he had living witnesses -- and this is the reason he did not apply at an earlier day for a pension and he did.

Sworn and subscribed the day and date above written before me

S/ Benjamin Trolinger, JP

S/ John Porterfield

[fn p. 11: On December 1, 1849 in Orange County North Carolina, Margaret Porterfield, 75, filed for a widow's pension as the widow of John Porterfield, a pensioner at the rate of \$33.33 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him November 7, 1796; that her husband died November 12, 1846.]

[Facts in file: the widows name prior to her marriage was Margaret Clark; the file contains no records regarding any children the veteran and his widow may have had.]