

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nicholas Starnes (Starns) W26445

Barbara¹ f87VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 4/18/12

[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.]

[Note: Use this transcription with care—the text is very difficult to decipher because the scribe's handwriting is challenging and the ink has faded badly.]

[f p. 11]

State of Alabama, Jefferson County

On this 13th day of May in the year of our Lord 1834 personally appeared in open Court before me Samuel Chapman Judge of the seventh provincial Circuit of said State, Nicholas Starnes, a resident of said County aged seventy eight years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed on the 7th of June 1832. That he was born on the sixth of November 1756 on the County Creek in the State of Maryland & when one year old was taken by his parents to the County of Fairfax in the State of Virginia where they remained until he was sixteen, when they removed to Craven District in the State of South Carolina where he lived until the commencement of the revolutionary war when he again removed to that portion of the country then known as the County of Washington in the State of Virginia after remaining there for some time he was on the 13th of September 1775 a volunteer under Colonel William Campbell in the service of the United States & was attached to Captain Crabtree's [perhaps, James Crabtree] company of mountaineers. At this time he was first called out to serve in an expedition under Colonel Arthur Campbell against the Tories who had assembled at one Coxes' on New River. The object was to disperse them, but after marching fifty miles, information was had that the Tories had abandoned their position there, we then returned home after an absence of ten days. In the autumn of the same year he was again called into service, acting as a Sergeant in the same company & troop commanded at this time by Colonel William Campbell, [illegible word] for New River again, against the Tories embodied at Coxes', in this expedition we crossed the Holston [River] at Starnes' Ford, marching to New River, then crossing & met Col. Cleaveland's [sic, Benjamin Cleveland's] troops, joining them we all marched over the River to Coxes' house (which had been plundered) where we were informed that the Tories had left there days previous; here the forces of Col. Campbell &

¹ Barbary. The following note appears on the cover sheet of this file: "This woman was really Barbara widow of John Hibbin or Hibben of the Ills Vols. War 1812 See Rej. B. L. 273759 (55) inside and the former widow of Nicholas Starnes."

Cleveland separated & commenced a pursuit: Colonel Campbell came up with them at a place called the Big Glade[?], the Tories fled and we pursued about twelve miles, we then returned home, this expedition having lasted three weeks. In the latter end of September 1780 as well as he now remembers, he was again called into service against Col.

Ferguson [Patrick Ferguson] in the South of King's mountain, in this expedition he acted as Sergeant in a company of Captain Crabtree, having Colonel William Campbell for their commander, they took up the line of march crossing the Holston [River] again at Starnes Ford, New River at the mulberry fields & the Catawba [River] at a place the name of which is not now recollected. In this battle he had no Captain (Crabtree having been left with about two hundred footmen in what was then called the rich valley) he fought under the immediate command of Col. Campbell in person. After the battle of King's Mountain [October 7, 1780] the wounded were placed under his care, with [illegible words] & they ordered to return home, this expedition lasted three months. In the autumn & winter of '80 & '81, he volunteered & served as a Sergeant in Captain Truit's [or Pruit's ?]² Company in an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, in this expedition they marched about 100 miles across the Holston at Casson's [?] Ford, thirty miles from which came up with Colonel Sevier [John Sevier], we marched to the French Broad [River] & down that to a little River called Tellico and after camping there a few days, Captain Truit's Company marched to Hiwassee, from there we rejoined Colonel Sevier at Tellico & from thence we returned home. This expedition lasted five weeks & two days as well as he can now remember. This expedition they killed 14 Indians & burned 16 towns. From the 13th of September 1775 on to the close of the revolutionary troubles, he always considered himself liable & held himself ready to march at an hour's warning in defense of the Country; indeed during this period his services were called for to act under General St. Clair against the Indians but owing to the [illegible word] situation of his family at that time, he was compelled to hire a substitute at one hundred Dollars, none of which has ever been returned to him at any time. After the close of the revolution he moved into the State of Tennessee in the valley of the same name, the County not remembered, in which State he lived until the 3rd of June 1829 when he removed to this County where he has ever since lived. He says that he does not now remember to have ever received any discharge from service except from Captain Pruet which has long since been lost. He has never had any commission during his service. He is personally known in his present neighborhood to John Burford, Capt. Geo. Green & Peter Crawford, any or all of whom he thinks no whale his character for truth & could testify to the same if required.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, & he declares that his name is not on any pension roll of any Agency of any State.

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Nicholas Starnes, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded by the Court to Nicholas Starnes upon his application for a pension

1st: When and in what year were you born?

² In summarizing the contents of this file, the War Department used both Capt. Truit and Capt. Pruit as this officer's name.

Answer in the body of the application

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer I have none

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer I lived when going into service in what is now called Washington County in Virginia since the revolution I have lived in different parts of Tennessee, until the year 1829 since which time I have lived in the County of Jefferson, Alabama

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

[no answer noted]

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer in the body of the application as for memory.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

Answer in the application

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer by John Burford, Capt. Geo. Green & Peter Crawford.

Test: S/ Hugh Morrow, Jr., Clerk {Seal}

[Jesse Ellis, a clergyman, and Samuel S. Earle gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 2: Copy of a license issued in Rhea County Tennessee for the celebration of the rite of matrimony between Nicholas Starns and Barbary Winters issued October 10, 1816.]

[Wife's maiden name Barbary Winters. They are married in Washington County, Va., on or about October 10, 1816. Nicholas died on May 22, 1835. After Nicholas Starnes' death, she married John Hibbin, January 26, 1847; Hibbin died at his residence in Scott County, Arkansas October 27, 1854³].

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was it pension at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 3rd, 1853.]

³ In other documents in this file, the date of his death is given as October 27, 1856.