

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Purvis W2691

Elizabeth

f36VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/10/12

[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.]

Virginia: At a Court of Monthly Session held for Nelson County at the Courthouse on the 25th day of September 1832

State of Virginia Nelson County: SS

On this 25th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of said County, now sitting, George Purvis, a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged seventy-five years the 19th of October next, 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 in the year 1775, he joined a volunteer company in the County of Amherst & State aforesaid, commanded by James Higginbotham, as Captain, James Cabell as Lieutenant & Nicholas Cabell as Ensign; the company met at Nicholas Cabell's in said County, and then marched direct to Williamsburg Virginia by the way of Richmond, and served there under said officers three months, or upwards, and was then marched back to said County & discharged. He does not recollect what field officers commanded at Williamsburg. He was standing guard when Governor Dunmore made his way to the British's shipping: a guard was afterwards placed at his house to take him in case he should return. That in the year 1776, he again entered the service in a volunteer Company commanded by Captain James Montgomery, Tilman Walton Lieutenant, and the Ensign he has forgotten, the company met at Lovings Gap in said County, and marched by Richmond to Petersburg, and headquarters was about three miles above Petersburg, where he remained at a place called the Long Ordinary, until his tour of three months expired, having stayed about ten days at Petersburg in the first part of the tour; two regiments were stationed there, one of which was commanded by Colonel Stovall, the name of the other Colonel he has forgotten, he does not recollect the name of the other officers of said Regiment; after the tour of 3 months was out, the company was then marched to Richmond, & discharged. In the year 1777 (he believes) he was drafted in said County of Amherst and marched from Roberts' in said County and a company commanded by Captain John Digges, Lieutenant Morrison, and he does not now recollect the name of the Ensign, to the County of Hanover, where the Company was attached to the ___ Regiment commanded by Colonel Meriwether & Major John Pope after getting to Hanover, Captain John Digges resign, and the company was put under another Captain, his name not recollected. The Regiment was then marched and easy march to the Burnt Ordinary between Williamsburg and James Town where the Regiment was stationed until the tour of three months had expired, the company then marched to Bottom's bridge below Richmond, and was discharged. That in the same year (he believes) he was again called into service and served in a Company commanded by Captain John Christian, Lieutenant James Pamplin and Ensign Thomas Haskins, the Company met at Amherst

Courthouse, and marched from thence down into the County of New Kent, to a little place not recollected, where the Company joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Mathews, he does not recollect the names of the other field officers; after this the Regiment was continually moving about, and guards placed at almost every crossroad, so there was no place of regular rendezvous the British were then at Hanover town, the Regiment was stationed from three to five weeks at a place called the Burnt Chimneys, between Williamsburg and Norfolk, he served in this tour three months, and the Company marched to Richmond, & was discharged. That in the year 1778 (he believes), he was again called on, and served in a Company commanded by Captain John Pamplin, Lieutenant Samuel Bell and Ensign Samuel Allen, the Company met at Amherst Courthouse and marched on by Albemarle old Courthouse on James River, then to Richmond to Gillis Creek, and joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Daniel Ganes [Daniel Gaines] and then marched on to an old meeting house below Richmond between James Town & Williamsburg, the meeting house was called (he believes) Hickory run meeting house, there the Regiment stayed four or five weeks, then marched to a place called Holts old Forge, on the Chickahominy, where it remained sometime, say a month, when it again marched, in company with another Regiment, to Bacon's Tavern, about halfway between Richmond and Williamsburg where the tour of service expired, & the Company discharged. That he was again called on (he believes) in the year 1778 or 1779, and the Company met at Amherst Court house, and under the command of Captain John Jacobs, Lieutenant James Ried [James Reid or Reed or Read], the Ensign not recollected, the Company marched by Richmond, and joined a Regiment commanded by Colonel Tompkins just below Rockets, the other field officers not recollected, the Regiment then marched down James River, near to James Town and stayed there a short time, and was constantly moving about; guards were again placed at almost all the cross roads, & over places, so the Regiment had no regular station, after serving out the tour of three months the Company was marched to Richmond & discharged. That in the year 1780 or 1781, he again joined a Company of volunteers commanded by Captain Tilman Walton, Lieutenant James Roberts, the Ensign not recollected, the Company met at Loving's Gap in Amherst County, and marched to Richmond and crossed James River, and marched down to Osborne's and again crossed James River, where the company joined a Regiment, by whom commanded he does not recollect, nor the other field officers nor the number of the Regiment, after joining the Regiment it marched near to a place called the Malvern Hills, the Regiment stayed there about 10 days, and was marched about from place to place in the lower Country and was again stationed a while at the Burnt Ordinary, at this place said Purvis was on guard one night under Lieutenant Roberts, when the British light horse were said to be approaching, a guard fled and secreted themselves in a thicket, two of the light horse of the enemy came up and one was shot by one of the guard, through the thigh, of which he died, & the horse was killed dead; the other made his escape; after this the Regiment marched towards Richmond, a few miles, to a place of few houses, the name not recollected, stayed there a few days, when the company in which he was was marched to Richmond & discharged, having served three months. In the year 1781, he thinks, about the 19th or 20th of May, Cornwallis had crossed James River at Columbia in pursuit of the Army, under Lafayette, who again crossed back, at this time a Company of volunteers was again raised in Amherst County, and James Morrison was Captain – __ Reid was Lieutenant, the name of the Ensign not recollected, said Purvis volunteered in this Company, it met at Warwick's Gap, then called Key's Gap in the said County of Amherst, and marched near Columbia, where the company remained some few days; Cornwallis was then at Mrs. Lewis' with his forces and as the different companies & forces from the upper Country were gathering upon him he continued to

move down the Country, the gathering force continued to follow on until they got to Richmond, where the company, of which said Purvis was a member, joined a Regiment, commanded by Colonel Meriwether, the other field officers not recollected; the forces under Lafayette, to which this Regiment was then attached then marched down to within two miles of James Town, where General Wayne's Army was stationed. General Lafayette commanded them to move from that place to another. He said Purvis heard the picket guard, under Wayne & the British fire upon each other, none of the soldiers under Colonel Meriwether was in that guard. It was thought the next day there would be a general engagement. The Company in which he was a member was a rifle company and each man was directed to run 30 bullets, the next morning the Army was put in motion, & Captain Morrison's rifle company was placed as front guard to the Artillery, so this company was in advance and the artillery following, and the order was if the enemy made its appearance the rifle Company should fire & fall to the right and left, and let the Artillery come into play, after this, very early in the morning before it was clearly light some of the officers came riding up, and ordered a halt, but the Army continued to march on until it arrived in sight of James Town, and found Cornwallis & his force had taken shipping, the forces stayed there near the town on the height two or three days, and then marched to Malvern Hills, and was stationed there until the Company of Captain Morrison was discharged, having served three months or more; he having entered the 24th or 25th of May and was not discharged until the last of August. He served in the whole service a little upwards of 2 years, having served sometimes over and above the regular term, and as it was the practice not to discharge one company until another came to take its place. He does not now know what has become of his discharge, as she kept no care of them, so they are lost, nor has he any documentary evidence of his services, he knows of no person living who served with him, but he knows Hezekiah Hargrove & Charles Purvis both of whom knows of his services, & can also testify to his veracity. 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 & year aforesaid.

S/ George Purvis

The Court propounded the following Interrogatories to the applicant and they are answered as follows

1. Question. Where and in 4 year were you born?

Answer. I was born the 19th of October 1757 in the County of Caroline.

2nd Question. Have you any record of your age, & if so, where is it?

Answer. I have it in this Bible (which was shown to the court.)

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

Answer. I lived in the County of Amherst since its division, in Nelson & have ever lived since the War in the same County.

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

Answer. I first entered as a volunteer & served as a volunteer 4 times & as a Militia man drafted 4 times of three months each time.

5. Question. State the names of the regular officers with the troops when you served; such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service?

Answer. I have stated all these things in the declaration here prepared which I referred you to, it is very long and would take some time for me to rehearse the whole. It has been prepared by my

directions, and is all true, the court will please read it as my answer.

6th Question. Did you ever receive any discharge from service, if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I received a discharge from Captain Higginbotham from Colonel Meriwether & several others, from all my commanding officers. I believe, when I left the service, at the different times, but I have since taken no care of them, leaving they were of no service, they are all lost.

7 Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity & of their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. Hezekiah Hargrove, Charles Purvis, Robert Rives & Spotswood Garland.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ George Purvis

We Hezekiah Hargrove & Charles Purvis the first aged eighty-five years & the latter age 66 years residing in the County of Nelson, formerly a part of Amherst County, hereby certify that we resided in the neighborhood in which George Purvis lived, who has made the foregoing declaration, during the revolutionary War, except the part of the time, when said Hargrove was in service himself, that we well know that said George Purvis was frequently in the service of the Country both as a volunteer & Militia man, during the revolutionary war, and we believe he was in the service every year and we think, to the best of our recollection, that he was in the service at least seven or eight different times, and we further certify, that we all well acquainted with the said George Purvis, that we believe him to be a man of 75 years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion, because we know the fact. We also state that he is a man of veracity & can and all to be relied on. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Hezekiah Hargrove

S/ Charles Purvis

[f p. 14: : January 24, 1852 in Nelson County Virginia, Elizabeth Purvis, 85, filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of George Purvis, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him October 29, 1795; that he died on or about the 15th day of October 1838; and that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 17: copy of a marriage bond issued in Amherst County Virginia October 19, 1795 to George Purvis and John Lowing conditioned upon the marriage of George Purvis to Elizabeth Murphy.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$70 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 21 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]