

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

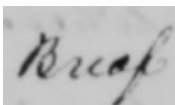
Pension application of Nathan Yarborough (Yarborough, Yarbrough) W4870 Mary f48NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 3/9/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 19]

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

On this the 5th day of August A.D. 1833 Nathan Yarborough a resident of the County of Chatham aged 83 years old who being sworn according to law made the following Declaration in order to attain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832. That he was drafted in the County of Chatham for a three months Tour that he entered the service as a private in the month of December 1779 under Captain James Herndon that he was marched to South Carolina that he was commanded by Colonel James Hinton in General Lillington's [John Alexander Lillington's] Brigade that he served his term out faithfully and was honorably discharged which will appear by his discharge which is hereunto annexed. And he further states upon his oath that he was again Drafted and entered the service as a private in the month of November 1780 that he was Drafted in Chatham County. That he had orders to go to Hillsboro. That the Chatham Troops met at Hillsboro But for some cause which he does not now Recollect they had no officers that the small pox was Brief [?]¹ in Hillsboro and that Captain Etheldred Jones who commanded the Troops from Wake County was stationed a short distance out in the Country to keep clear of the smallpox and the Chatham men were Directed to his Camp that they went to Joneses camp that he Drew Rations for them until they had orders to march to South Carolina that their officers failed to come on and that they had the privilege of choosing officers for themselves and that they chose Captain Jones that they were marched through Salisbury to South Carolina under Captain Jones and were commanded by Colonel Farmer [Lt. Col. Thomas Farmer of Orange County, NC]. That they joined General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] the next day after the Battle at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and marched back with all possible speed until they crossed the Catawba River. That at the Catawba General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] came and joined in the Command and he further states that the Chatham men still remained under the command of Captain Jones that they with the Wake men amounted to nearly or quite two full companies in number and he further states that in the afternoon before Morgan and Greene marched from the Catawba Captain Jones with his men was ordered to go on an Island in the River at Sherrills Ford and Guard the passage and prevent the British from crossing if they should attempt it during the night that they went in upon the Island and kept their stationed During the night without any Knowledge that the Main body of the Army was going to march off of during the night. That the next morning as soon as daylight appeared a heavy firing commenced between the British and the men stationed at a ford 3 miles



below. That Captain Jones very soon had orders to quit his station and marched out of the Island and when they marched out the Army was gone and Colonel Farmer informed them that General Davidson who commanded below was killed [Cowan's Ford, February 1, 1781] and his men Defeated or dispersed that the British had crossed the River and were about to surround them and Gave orders for them to disperse and every man take care of himself and he further states that it created great confusion But that Captain Jones who was a Brave man tried to rally his men and retreat in order. That a considerable part of the man rallied and they took up the line of March after the Main Army and he further states that they marched about four or five miles when they were pursued by a large number of British Light Horse and were overtaken and that they had to seek safety by flight into the Woods that some were killed and that he himself escaped with Seth Cotten who was the only one of the company he saw afterward until he got home. That he was at a loss what to do Believing that the British had Got between them and the Main Army they were afraid to follow any further so that he went home and he further states that he had a Brother at the same time in the service named Benjamin who he was apprehensive was killed. And he further states that a few days after he and Seth Cotten got home that his Brother Benjamin also came home and informed him that himself and Captain Jones and some of the men succeeded in overtaking the Army and that he had orders to collect the men again who had come home in Chatham and that Captain Jones had gone to Wake to get the Wake men who had got home and that they as soon as they could be collected had orders to meet on Haw River and he further states that he assisted in collecting the scattered men and they met Captain Jones on Haw River as soon as they possibly could be collected and from Haw River they Immediately set out and marched to Dan River where they joined General Greene. And he further states that when they got to Dan River General Greene had the companies regularly organized and that the Chatham men were taken from Joneses company and put under the command of Captain Nicholas as well as he recollects and he further states that from Dan River he marched under General Greene to Guilford. That he was in the Battle at Guilford [March 15, 1781] and he further states that from there he marched with Greene to Ramsey's Mills that there he thought his Term of service would Expire. But as he had been Drafted for a three months Tour of service to be performed in South Carolina. It was insisted that that service had not been performed and the times were so troublesome that he felt more safe in the Service than he did at home he states that he consented to go with Greene to South Carolina and serve at a Tour rather than insist to be discharged. And he further states that from Ramsey's Mills he marched under General Greene to Camden in South Carolina that there they had a hard Battle [Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] in which he was engaged he thinks in the Hottest of it that they were Beaten there and from there they were marched to Ninety Six there they Besieged the Fort [Siege of Ninety Six, May 22-June 19, 1781] and spent some time in Battering the British works at Last Greene undertook it by storm But that they were again Beaten with considerable Loss that from Ninety Six Greene marched towards North Carolina again but on the march his time Expired and he was Honorably discharged and highly complimented by General Greene for the faithful manner that he had performed his Duty. And he further states that while on his way home from South Carolina that the weather sat in very wet so that he was for several days drenched with constant rain so that his clothes on him and the Contents of his knapsack were wet and as it was very warm weather everything in his knapsack mildewed or rotted before he got home and he further states that he put his discharge into his knapsack as the safest place he had But when he got home it was entirely destroyed by the Wet and mildew. And he further states that he was Discharged in the latter part of June 1781. But by whom his discharge was signed he does not recollect and he further states that his last tour of service commenced the first of December in 1780 and terminated the Latter End of June 1781. And he further states that he was in actual service the Last [tour] something more than six months. But how many days or weeks he cannot say but that he can with safety positively say

that he served six months in the Last Tour and that he served nine months in the whole period and he further sayeth that he has no Documentary evidence whereby he can prove his Last Term of Service and that he knows of no person now living that has any personal knowledge (except his sister Milly Yarborough) of his Services and that he is so old and infirm and decrepit that he has no opportunity of seeking any further proof and must Rely solely upon such proof as he has mentioned.

He hereby Relinquishes every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any State.

Sworn to in Subscribed before made this fifth day of August A.D. 1833.

S/ Geo. Luther, JP

S/ Nathan Yarborough, X his mark

Interrogatories

When and in what year were you born? Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

Answer: I was born in Duplin County in the year 1750 agreeable to my father's family Record which I have now in my possession.

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

Answer: I was living in Chatham County on the plantation where on I now live when I was called into service and I have lived at the same place ever since.

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?

Answer: I was Drafted both terms I went into the service as I before stated.

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: I have stated all the names of the officers that I can state with certainty and I am certain I should not have Recollected their names if I had not been acquainted with most of them before and since the war my memory has failed me so much that I could not have named a single officer I served under the first term of it had not of been for my discharge

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

Answer: I Received two discharges the one I have the other was destroyed as I have already stated and by whom it was given I do not recollect.

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] I will state the names of the Reverend Frederick Rollins and Avent Cotten day are both men that have been acquainted with me from their infancy and Mr. Cotton I expect has often heard his father and state that he was in the service with me.

And I do hereby [state] it as my opinion that the applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and served as he states.

S/ Geo. Luther, JP

[Frederick Rollins, a clergyman, and Avent Cotten gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Chatham County

This day Milly Yarborough age 73 years old personally appeared before me George Luther one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County and after being sworn in due form of law Deposeth and saith as follows (to wit) That she was well acquainted with Nathan Yarborough Before and during the Revolutionary war. That they are own Brother and Sister that they were raised together and have lived together all their life time. And the Deponent further

upon her oath states that Nathan Yarborough was a man Grown before the Revolution Broke out that his father had Grown him off a part of his Land and Nathan lived with his father and worked to himself on his own place. That she washed and made his clothes and she further states that Nathan was drafted to go into the Army for a three months Tour and as she understood he went to the South that she recollects he went and stayed his term out and returned home in the Spring in time to make a crop. And she further upon her oath states that the next fall about the time he finished gathering his crop he was drafted for three months to go to the South again that her brother Benjamin was also Drafted and went into Service at the same time And this Deponent further saith that Nathan went off into the service and have been gone some time but very unexpectedly came home and informed them that he had been in South Carolina but met the Army coming back that the British was in chase after them and that after the Army had crossed the Catawba River that Nathan Yarborough informed them that his company was stationed at the Ford to keep the British from crossing as long as they could But that General Davidson had been killed and the men Beaten or fled and she further sayeth that Nathan told them that his Captain and a part of his men started to overtake the Army and were overtaken by the British Light Horse in a Long Lane and that they had to make their Escape the Best way they could or be killed or made prisoners and that Nathan could not give any account what has become of Benjamin his Brother. And this deponent further saith that Seth Cotten returned with Nathan and stated the same that Nathan stated. And this Deponent further saith in a few days after Nathan came home his Brother Benjamin also came home and informed them that he and Captain Jones and a considerable number of the men had overtaken the Army and marched with them to Guilford Court House that he was sent home from there to collect all the Chatham men that had come home and Captain Jones had gone to Wake to collect the Wake men and that he was to meet Captain Jones at Haw River with the men. And this Deponent further saith that Nathan and Benjamin collect [sic] the men and while they were engaged in that she was herself engaged in preparing their clothing ready against they started [sic]. And she further sayeth that in a short time they returned from Collecting the men and took their knapsacks and started and she never Expected to see either of them again as Cornwallis was then in the Country there was a General alarm and this Deponent further saith that she heard no more of Nathan after he left home the last time as she Recollects until General Greene marched to Ramsey's Mills which was within 4 miles of her father when Nathan came home and she and the Rest of the family thought he had been gone over three months he had come home to stay But Nathan informed them that he was not yet discharged. And this Deponent further saith that General Greene and the Army lay at Ramsey's Mills several days that her father went to get Nathan discharged But informed them when he came home that the officers did not seem willing to give him up that he was called the strongest and most active man in his Regiment and a good soldier and that Nathan said the times were so troublesome that he had rather be in the Army than at home and that he was going with General Greene to South Carolina. And this Deponent further saith that Nathan sent to her to wash and do up his clothes for him against the time he had to March and either Bring or send them by his father. And she further saith that she prepared his clothes that her father made Nathan a pair of shoes and that she and her father both went to carry his clothes and shoes the Day the Army marched and that she saw Nathan set off with General Greene's Army and this Deponent further saith that when Nathan left them at Ramsey's Mills he told them if he ever got back it would be about the first of July and she thinks as well as she now Recollects it was nearly the month of July when he Got home. And this Deponent further saith that she cannot say how long he served But that she is very certain that he was Gone more than six months the Last Tour he served and she further sayeth that she cannot tell the Date or year that Nathan performed his Last Term of service in any other way than that it was the year that Cornwallis marched through this Country. And this Deponent further saith that she very distinctly Recollects that it was a

very Rainy time when Nathan Got home and had been for some time and his clothes in his knapsack were nearly rotten and that he had some papers and some paper money Bills and it which all torn to pieces by handling that she took them out herself and tried to dry them but they were so rotten she could do nothing with them they were so much Damaged and she further sayeth that she cannot read writing But that Nathan told her at the time he got home that one of the papers that was destroyed was his discharge and she is confident it was and that she is confident that Nathan served as he states in his Declaration. And this Deponent further saith that about four years ago Nathan Yarborough was kicked by a stud horse which dislocated his hip and injured his back so much that he has not since that time been able to walk a step or turn himself in bed without help. And she further sayeth that since his confinement she has discovered a very considerable decay of his memory. That before he was [indecipherable word] he was Remarkd for his unusual Good health and memory But since that he has in as Great measure Lost both and further this Deponent saith not.

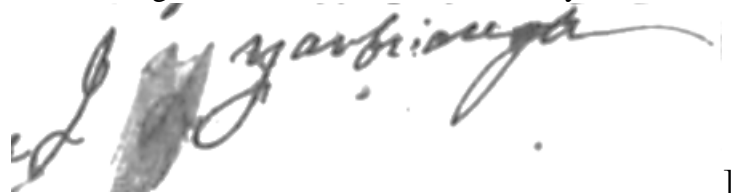
S/ Milly Yarborough, X her mark

Sworn to and Subscribed before me the fifth day of August 1833.

S/ Geo. Luther

[p 2: On August 6, 1841 in Chatham County North Carolina, Mary Yarborough aged 81 filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of a Nathan Yarborough, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him September 7, 1790; that her husband died January 4, 1834. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 4: On August 6, 1841 in Chatham County North Carolina, Jeremiah Yarborough, 71, gave testimony that he is the youngest brother of Nathan Yarborough deceased; that he was present at the wedding of his brother Nathan and Mary Menter at the house of her father William Menter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeremiah Yarborough". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first letter "J" is large and prominent. The signature is followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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[Facts in file: The widow died March 8, 1854. The file contains substantial family birth information.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 9 months in the North Carolina militia.]