## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Purviance W2666 Patience fn33NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 10/1/09

[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 Tennessee Madison County

On this 23rd day of July 1835 personally appeared in open court, before the Circuit Court of Madison County now sitting in the Town of Jackson, Joseph Purviance a resident of said County of Madison and State aforesaid, aged about seventy years and five months, 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 is to say, he entered into the service of the United States under Captain James White who was shortly afterwards promoted to the rank of Major -- the time as well as this declarant recollects was about the last of March 1780, that he remained in service from that time for about 2 months, and was employed in guarding the Waxsaw [sic, Waxhaw] settlements from the depredations of the Tories. At the time of this tour Declarant was under the command of Captain White and to whose company this declarant had volunteered himself for the period above stated -- There the first term of service of this declarant ended. This declarant further states that at the time he volunteered as above stated he resided in Mecklenburg County State of North Carolina; that the company to which he belonged as above stated was not connected with any other troops he the militia or Regular -- being employed alone in defending the settlements from the Ravages of the Tories as above stated; during this term of service declarant was in no regular engagement with the enemy. He states that he received a regular discharge from Captain White but that he has long since lost it not expecting that at this late period of his life it would be of value to him he was not studious to preserve it and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. This declarant states that he volunteered again under the same Captain White in the same year 1780 shortly after the Defeat of the General Gates<sup>1</sup> at Camden South Carolina. The British Army soon after this defeat moved up into the Waxhaw settlements and there remained for some time: when a Regiment of militia troops under the command of General Smallwood -- sent on from Virginia as this declarant recollects to relieve the South; arrived in the same neighborhood; General Smallwood finding the British Army stationed there halted his Army; and waited the movements of the enemy's forces. It was at this time and under these circumstances that this declarant entered a second time as he has stated in the service as a volunteer under Captain White and Captain White with his company was immediately attached to General Smallwood's Regiment. This declarant states that this was the only company that joined Smallwood's Regiment in that section of Country & that he does not recollect the names of any of the officers under General Smallwood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> August 15-16, 1780.

When the British troops had remained at this place for about a month after this declarant was placed under General Smallwood, having come to no engagement; they marched thence to Charlotte in North Carolina and this declarant was then discharged and this ends the second term of service of this Declarant, who received a regular discharge from Captain White but which has been lost as the one above mentioned. This declarant knows of no person by whose testimony he can prove his service in this tour -- which lasted only one month. After the British forces had been marched to Charlotte as above stated and the discharge of this declarant he again entered the service as a volunteer under Captain John White a Brother of James White who was now promoted to the rank of Major -- sometime in October 1780 as well as this declarant recollects: and was marched from Mecklenburg County where he then resided to about 15 miles East of Charlotte -- at the house of a Captain afterwards Colonel John Fifer [sic, John Phifer] -- and there stationed under Captain John White to guard some military stores. This term of service continued one month the British troops remaining in Charlotte only about that length of time when this declarant was regularly discharged by his Captain but which has been lost or mislaid with the other discharges of this declarant knows of no person by whom he can prove his services in this tour. This declarant states that in a few days after his discharge he again entered the service as a volunteer under a Captain Stephen Alexander. This was about the first of December 1780. Captain Alexander sent out with his company immediately after the British Army who were now marching towards Guilford Court house in North Carolina and between Charlotte and the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River we fell in with Colonel Francis Block of Rowan County North Carolina, with a Regiment of Militia Troops also on his march to Guilford Court house -- we were immediately joined to Colonel Locke's Regiment and were marched together until we reached Guilford County, where we were all placed under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene], and where we remained in the service until the battle of Guilford Court house which took place in the month of March 1781 -- in which battle this declarant was engaged. Immediately after this battle the British troops marched towards Yorktown -- and this Declarant with his company was regularly dismissed and this ends the 4th term of service of this declarant, making in all 7 months service which this declarant rendered as he has above stated. This Declarant 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.

S/ Jos Purviance

Sworn to and subscribed this day 23rd July 1835 in open Court before me.

S/ H. W. McCorry, Clerk

Questions propounded by the court

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: in Lancaster County & state of Pennsylvania in the 24th day of December 1764.

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I had one in the State of North Carolina but forgotten or neglected to bring it with me to this Country.

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

Ans: I was living in Mecklenburg County North Carolina when called into service;

continued to live there after the Revolutionary War until in September 1831 -- when I removed to Jackson County and State of Tennessee where I resided about one year and since that time have lived in Madison County where I now reside.

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was a volunteer –

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer -- I recollect none but Captain Alexander Major Francis Locke and General Green, and the other officers I have named in my Declaration –

[6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?]

I received regular discharges from the service which were given me by Captain James White, Captain John White and Captain Alexander -- but have lost or left them in North Carolina as I have stated in my declaration.

[7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.]

I am acquainted [with] Jonas Clark and William D. Crowell who lived in my present neighborhood

[H. W. McCorry, Clerk, and William D. Crowell gave was amounted to the standard supporting affidavit -- Crowell also stated that the only clergyman in the neighborhood was so afflicted by rheumatism that he was unable to appear in court.]

[fn p. 19]

State of Tennessee Madison County: to wit

The supplemental Declaration of Joseph Purviance of the County of Madison and State of Tennessee aforesaid for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed on the 7th of June 1832.

In addition to what this declarant has already stated in his original declaration which is now on file in the office of Pensions, War Department in Washington city. This declarant states that in the year 1780 orders were issued by the Governor of North Carolina (Abner Nash as well as this declarant recollects was at that time Governor) under the authority of the legislature of the said State of North Carolina to raise troops by drafts and volunteers, for the purpose of suppressing the Tories who had united and raised a force in the neighborhood of the Waxhaws in South Carolina -- and in pursuance of this order this declarant volunteered as he has stated in his original Declaration under Captain James White, whose company was attached to the brigade commanded by General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] -- This was the first tour of service of this declarant. The second tour this declarant served under the same Captain James White having volunteered again -- and his Captain White's company was attached in this second tour to

the brigade commanded by General Smallwood. After General Smallwood withdrew his Army from the Waxhaw settlements this declarant returned home and volunteered under Captain John White a brother of Captain James White the latter having been promoted to the break of Major, and Captain John White's company was placed under the command of General Davidson and by his orders placed at Fifer's to guard the military stores at that place. The British Army which had been stationed for some weeks at Charlotte now took up their line of march northward for the purpose of meeting General Greene -- and the military stores were placed under the charge of Colonel Francis Locke and guarded by his Regiment, and this declarant regularly discharged; at this time troops were raising according to the orders of the Governor to be sent home to join General Greene -- as it was expected he would be attacked by the British forces which had just left Charlotte -- accordingly this declarant volunteered again under Captain Stephen Alexander and was ordered on to join Colonel Francis Locke's Regiment. This declarant states that in pursuance of this order they set out -- in 2 or 3 days came up to and joined Colonel Locke's Regiment where this declarant remained until after Battle of Guilford Court house and this Regiment was placed under the command of General Greene so soon as we were able to reach his Army which was several weeks before the battle took place.

S/ Jos Purviance

[fn p. 14: On October 24, 1853 in Carroll County Tennessee, Paciunce Purviance [sic, Patience Purviance], 67, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Purviance, a pensioner for which services in the revolution; that she married him she thinks sometime in October 1834; that her husband died February 27, 1845; and that she remains his widow.