

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension Application of Nicholas Fry (Frye), Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll 1031,
Application # S6859

Transcribed and annotated by Nancy Poquette

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Supp'd by Will Graves 1/10/09

Burke County, NC, May 21st, 1838, Nicholas Frye, aged 92 years:

“That he entered the service of the United States about some of the last days of April or the **first day of May 1781**. Was called out by draft in the county of Lincoln and was put under Captain Smith at Davidson’s Fort or the Upper Station to defend the place from the murders and ravages of the Cherokee Indians for the term of four months. Captain Smith soon got married and went to Iredell County with his wife and then Captain McFarland took the command of us, and sometime in the forepart of the month of September, Colonel McDowell came there and wanted all the men that could be spared and that was willing to go with him a three months tour he said, against the Tory Scotch.”

“Captain McFarland said that he would discharge all that had been there for three months and upwards and that he would go with McDowell and those that were discharged might go if they pleased; and the captain and several of us went right forthwith on to Salisbury, and there we were mustered into the ranks of General Rutherford, and we then proceeded to march through the Scotch settlements through the counties of Montgomery, Richmond, Cumberland, and Johnson, and others that I can’t recollect. We expected from report that as the British was in Wilmington that the Scots would embody and go to them, but they did not attempt to do so. We met Colonel Armstrong as we went down and he was on his way home. He had scoured among them and had got them entirely passive. We went within five or six miles of Wilmington and some of the scouts went to Cape Fear River opposite the town and shot across the river at the British, but they were out of reach.”

“Somewhere about the twenty-fourth or twenty-fifth of October, the gladdening news of the capture of Cornwallis at Little York in Virginia, which gladness was witnessed by much firing of platoons and many huzzahs which was one of the great memories of our tour. We continued to pass and reconnoiter through the lower part of the state until towards the 20th of December, then we were moved up into Mecklenburg County near ~~baties~~ [sic, Beatties] Ford on the ~~catauber~~ [sic, Catawba] River and there most of us from Lincoln and Burke County were discharged with the exception of a few that had the charge of some public wagons. Myself and others went home from Beatties Ford. This was called the Wilmington or Scotch campaign. Thus ends my services in the old Revolution. Four months at the fort and three at Wilmington.”

Interrogation: Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in Pennsylvania state and the county of berks [Berks], and born in the February, the 2nd day 1746.

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

I was born and educated by German parents and I have a German Bible and my name and age is in it as you see stated in the above answer.

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

My father moved from the state of Pennsylvania when I was fifteen years old and settled in North Carolina in Lincoln County, and when I grew up, I settled in the said county and where I lived when called into service, and I have lived there ever since until about nine or ten months ago, then I moved up into Burke County to live with my son-in-law for I am now so old and infirm that I must have some person to take care of me...”

How were you called into Service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a

substitute for whom

-for my first trip or tour of 4 months as I have stated I was called out by draft from the County of Lincoln State of North Carolina on the last days of April or the first days of May in 1781 for 4 months -- and my 2nd tour I volunteered 3 months at the Fort where I served my 4 months at the Fort -- to go with Captain McFarland to Wilmington --

State the names of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such as continental and militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

As to officers while I was at the fort, there was none to be seen but those that commanded at the fort. Colonel Davidson did come once to see us, and Colonel McDowell come to get volunteers, and as for our three months tour, there were but very few troops or officers for they were mostly gone to the siege at Little York in Virginia. We met Colonel Armstrong and his division of militia on their way home. I saw some other officers, but I cannot recollect their names nor grades. General Pickens came to see General Rutherford, but I don't know whether he then had any command or not, and as for general circumstances, I believe there is none more than is stated in the foregoing declaration. There was one circumstance happened at the fort. One of our men, and Margaret Davidson's negro man went to the mill pond to shoot ducks and the Indians shot the white man and he died that night..."

Did you ever receive a discharge from your services and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

I received my discharge for my 4 months tour at the Fort from Captain McFarland and for my tour of 3 months at Wilmington I was discharged by Colonel McDowell -- but both of my discharges are lost or mislaid so that I cannot find them -- the fact he is in the war was over and peace made I did not know that they would ever be wanted.

Why have you not made application for a pension before now?

I did about four years ago. I went to Abel Shuford, esq, one of the justices of the County of Lincoln and took an old soldier with me to prove my services at Wilmington. And I thought perhaps my oath to the declaration might do, but the Esq. told me that I must prove both my tours by a living witness or I could get nothing and that there was nothing allowed for any term or terms of service for less than six months. So I declined any further trial, for I did not at that time know of any man living that was at the fort, but since I have come into Burke County to live, I have heard of an old man by the name of Jacob Grider¹ up towards the mountains, and there was a man of that name with me in the fort, and I have sent to inquire of him, and he is the same Grider that was with me in the fort, and went with Captain McFarland and others of us to Wilmington. Now inasmuch as my discharges are lost, I do expect to procure the depositions of Jacob Grider to prove my tour of four months at the fort and my three months under General Rutherford; and there is an old blind man by the name of Sherwood Bowman that was with us under General Rutherford. The old man that went with me to Esq. Shuford was named George ?Ikard. He is since dead..."

Did you ever receive a commission & if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it

no I done all my services as a private Soldier

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 of your services as a soldier of the revolutionary war

I think that Alexander Abernathy will testify for me as clergyman and Philip Warlick Esquire & John Berry for private neighbors.

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 but this present claim that I now make in the State of North Carolina. Sworn to and Subscribed this day and year first above written Before me

S/ Groves Bowman, JP

S/ Nicholas Fry, X his mark

¹ [Jacob Grider W3980](#)

[Alexander Abernathy, a clergyman, Philip Warlick and John Berry gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

“On this 23rd day of May, 1838...personally appeared, Jacob Grider...and he deposeth that he served a tour of duty in the militia service at the fort called the Upper Station in Burke County, a term of upwards of five months in the spring and summer of 1781, part of the time under Captain Smith, and part under Captain McFarland, and that Nicholas Fry served there with him in the militia service the same spring and summer and under the same officers the term of four months, and that McFarland discharged them both in the first part of the month of September, and that they, Grider and Fry did forthwith go on to Salisbury with Colonel McDowell and their captain McFarland, and they served a three month tour together under General Rutherford in what was called the Wilmington Expedition...Jacob Grider.

“Sherwood Bowman²: That he was called into the militia service in the month of September 1781 and rendezvoused at Salisbury and served three months tour under Captain McFarland, and that Nicholas Fry was a soldier and served full term of three months under the same Captain McFarland. This deponent further sayeth not. Sherwood Bowman.

² No one by this name claimed a pension from the Federal Government for services in the Revolution.