

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to John Nail VAS356

[vsl 2 files](#)

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/3/13

[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.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Petition for bounty land

John Nail – Soldier – Virginia Continental line –

The evidence in this case is – the statement of three respectable witnesses, that John Nail entered into the Continental service in March 1776 as Sergeant for three years & served that term – that he afterwards reenlisted for the war, and served to the end of it – That in 1780 or 1781 he was commissioned Ensign.

The above is all the evidence. The name of Ensign John Nail does not appear on the Army Register.

This evidence will probably be regarded as sufficient in the case of a Sergeant – If your Excellency should allow the claim as Sergeant, the allowance should be made for the war.

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith, Commissioner

March 13th 1834

To his Excellency
Governor Floyd

The following documents are in the file of Henry Aimes in the VSL bounty land files.

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State of Mississippi, Monroe County

Being informed that the Heirs of Aaron Camfield & Henry Aimes state, that John Nail of the County of Monroe, has heretofore given testimony about the services of their Father's in the Revolutionary War, in the Virginia Continental Line, which claims are said to be undecided & request the undersigned to state what he knows about the said John Nail.: Therefore I, David W Wright, Judge of the High Court of Errors & Appeals, of the State of Mississippi, do, on my official responsibility, certify, that John Nail aforesaid has been well known to me for the last 11 or 12 years –: He is highly respectable; & no other man of the same name he believes, resides in Monroe County: & as a member of said court, or as an individual, would believe anything he would say, either on his oath, or by mere statement; & that from information commanding his belief, have no doubts, he was a soldier of the Revolutionary War.

Given under my hand & seal this 8th day of April 1835

S/ D. W. Wright

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The State of Alabama Marion County
February Session of the County Court 1834

At a regular term for the sitting of this Court appointed by law Cornelius Dabney of Laurens County, Robert Adams and Richard K Meade of Pickens County in the State of Alabama and John Nail of Monroe County in the State of Mississippi came into open court, all of whom was first lawfully sworn true statements to make and true answers to give, to all lawful questions, which might be asked them or any of them by the Court, and the said persons having been by the Court interrogated generally, as to their knowledge of facts, about the services of Aaron Camfield in the revolutionary war, on their oath saith. That they were well acquainted with Aaron Camfield of Bedford County Virginia, before, during & since the revolutionary war and affiants aver, that in the forepart of the year 1776, Camfield went into the Continental Service in Captain Harry or Henry Terrell's company for three years, in the 5th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Adam or Edward Stephens [Edward Stevens], Robert Watkins was the first Ensign in this company, but shortly after marching he became sick and unable for duty, Aaron Camfield was appointed Ensign in his stead, by brevet, Watkins died at or about Norfolk in a short time so the command of Ensign was finally and fully confirmed in Camfield, George Goggin died in the Army not long afterwards, commanding as first Lieutenant in this Company. Thomas McReynolds was the second Lieutenant in the same, who on Goggin's death, rose to the first lieutenancy, and Camfield to the second, Captain Terrell before the expiration of his three years, rose to the command of Battalion, McReynolds to the captaincy and Camfield to the first lieutenancy, McReynolds, by a ball from the enemy (it is believed at the battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778]) had his thigh broke just above his hip joint which disabled him from active duty for some time after his three years expired, left the Army and affiant Meade with him, so Camfield regularly rose to the full command of this Company. Because of the vacancies mentioned and because that Camfield on his first three years being finished – did reengage in this service and command, for five years or during that war and for these causes these affiants all agree as own their oaths they all believe, that Camfield was (at the end of McReynolds service aforesaid), commissioned a full Captain. In some battle, it is believed at Germantown [October 4, 1777], or Monmouth [June 28, 1778] rather Camfield and McReynolds' Company was under General Scott's command, he was wounded deeply on the side of the breast, but he got on duty reasonably soon. Affiants consulting each other and their own recollections about this matter maturely believe firmly that affiants Nail and Adams were under Camfield's command as Captain at the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], and it is believed that battle [indecipherable word or words] that Camfield's Company formed a part of the Virginia Continental's commanded by Huger. This Brigade finished the fight, in which Captain Camfield got wounded more, near his old wound, and deeper, it seemed to afflict him inwardly like the Consumption beside the exterior wound. He lingered sometime in the Army, and finally was permitted to retire an invalid or a supernumerary officer until he might get well. He joined the Army no more as these affiants know of. They saw him after the war in Bedford County Virginia, he never recovered his wound and these affiants believed it was the immediate cause of his death at last.

Question by the court 1st How long did Captain Camfield serve in the Virginia Continental line, was or was not, his service continued or successive or was it broken and at what intervals, was he or was he not ever, for any cause, cashiered or superseded. # Answer. This Captain Camfield served in the Virginia line on Continental establishment from March 1776 until March 1779, three successive years, as Ensign and Lieutenant and after that he served successively as Captain

in the same service a few more than two years, then he left the Army because of his wound as an invalid or supernumerary officer. He was never cashiered or superseded.

Question 2nd It is the duty and the business of this Court so to inquire and sift this matter, as to be of fully satisfied or not of all the real facts, you speak of times, places, persons, battles and wounds, on your several oaths, what are your reasons for all these assertions. #Answer. Meade, Adams and Nail marched into the Virginia Continental service from Bedford Courthouse Virginia (and Dabney in the company commanded by Captain Cheavis [?]¹) at the same time in the same service, and in the same Company to wit Captain Terrell's, as did this Aaron Camfield, all of us served in the same Regiment, and three of us, in the same Company, under his command as before stated, three years. Then affiant Meade left the Army and says no more. Then Adams and Nail continued to serve under Camfield as full Captain up to Guilford battle, two years more, and Dabney being also in the same Regiment also knows that fact because of his last one at that battle, retired as a supernumerary officer, as stated before. We have on oaths stated that only which we had every opportunity to know, and that which a free conference now here for several days, satisfies our minds is strictly correct. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court on the 3rd day of February 1834.

S/ Cornelius Dabney

S/ Robert Adams

S/ Rich'd K. Meade

S/ John Nail



