

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Bounty Land Warrant information relating to William Nelson VAS378

vsl 2VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/13

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

I do certify that William Nelson was appointed a Lieutenant in the Continental Army in my company in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment sometime in February 1776, & died about January or February 1777.

S/ Jno. Ashley Capt. [sic, John Ashby<sup>1</sup>]  
3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment

The above is a copy of the original filed in 1797 when the 3 year allowance was made.

S/ T. Green [?]

To the Governor of Virginia

The petition of William Shutte for himself & the other heirs of Lieutenant William Nelson respectfully states; that said Nelson entered the Virginia Continental line in February 1776 and died in service in 1777.

See the affidavit of Captain John Ashby – The Council Journals of 22 July 1776, when he was at that time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Continental Regiment.

The Bounty for 3 years service has been received. – The petitioners asked the additional bounty from February 1776 to the end of the War.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

S/ T. Green  
their attorney

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[in another file in the bounty land records of Virginia]

I Do Certifie that William Nelson was appointed a Lieutenant in the Continental Army in my Compy in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment sometime in Feby 1776 & Died about Jany or Feby 1777

S/ Jno. Ashby Capt.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Virg. Regiment

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<sup>1</sup> There is no record of a Captain named John Ashley having served in the Virginia Continental line. That is, however, a record of a Captain John Ashby who served in the 3rd Virginia Regiment Continental line

I Do Certifie that William Nelson was appointed  
a Lieutenant in the Continental Army in my Company  
in the 3<sup>d</sup> Virginia Regiment some time in Feb<sup>y</sup>  
1776 & Died about Jan<sup>y</sup> or Feb<sup>y</sup> 1777 -

John Ashby Capt  
3<sup>d</sup> Virg: Regt.

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 7-page file

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

Your memorialists Thomas Nelson of Prince William County respectfully represents that his uncle William Nelson was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment early in the War of the Revolution and entered said Service, and after serving a Campaign he died in the said Service. Your memorialists being a nephew & one of the heirs of said Lieutenant William Nelson & having been lately advised that the Virginia Government would on proper application grant to the heirs at law of said William Virginia land Bounty as for a service of 3 years – your memorialists requested a statement of the facts in this case from Chief Justice Marshall [John Marshall] sometime since and on receiving his letter, which is here with file your memorialists considering his remarks as applying to all [image of the document is cut off at the bottom thereof at this point] [next page] claim for land for 3 years may be referred for examination – and that the same may be allowed & he will ever pray &c

[the signature is too faint to discern but does appear to be signed]

[Attested in June 1835 in Prince William County Virginia]

Richmond Jany 3d 1835

Dear Sir

I received your letter of November and supposed your inquiries to respect Colonel William Nelson of Caroline who was also in the Continental service during the war of our revolution. I answered your letter with this understanding of it. On looking over my letters before I set out for Washington I reperused yours and am satisfied that your inquiries relate to Mr. William Nelson of Fauquier [County].

I was very well acquainted with him before the war of the revolution and know that he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Culpeper Minute Battalion which assembled at Culpeper court house on the first of September 1775 and marched soon afterwards to Williamsburg. He was appointed a Lieutenant

Received for 1790

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the 20th and im-  
posed your inquiries to respect Col. William  
Nelson of Caroline who was also in the conti-  
nental service during the war of our revolution.  
I answered your letter with this understand-  
ing of it. On looking over my letters before  
I set out for Washington I perceived your  
and am satisfied that your inquiry  
relates to Mr. William Nelson of Fauquier

I was very well acquainted with him  
before the war of the revolution and know  
that he was appointed a lieutenant in the  
Culpeper Minute battalion which <sup>left</sup> departed  
at Culpeper court house on the first of ~~Sept~~  
1775 and marched soon afterwards to  
Williamsburg. He was appointed a lieu-

[Note: the image of the second page of this letter is unfortunately cut off along the top and left hand margin. What follows is a transcript of the portion of it as can be deciphered.]

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment in the company  
... commanded by Captain John Ashby which march  
... North in 1776 and served one of the ...  
campaigns ever made in America. I  
... am not certain that he died in  
... 1776 - 7. All I know is that I served  
... in brigade with 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment during the  
... 1777 and did not see Mr. Nelson. I  
... did in the service. I do not believe that  
... Congress or of the state has allowed him.

I am Sir very respectfully  
Your Obedient  
J. Marshall

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment in the campaign  
led by Capt. John Ashby which marched  
North in 1776 and served one of the  
campaigns in America. I  
am not certain that he died in the  
1776-7. All I know is that I served  
in the brigade with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. during the  
1777 and did not see Mr. Nelson. I  
died in the service. I do not believe that  
Congress or of the state has allowed him

I am in very respectfully  
Yours  
J Marshall

Report upon the claim of the air of Lieutenant William Nelson, of the Continental line, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir

I report to your Excellency the following facts, which are all of which I have any knowledge, in relation to this claim –

The Journals of the Council show that on or about the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1776 William Nelson was a Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment. It does not appear, when he was commissioned. He did not settle his accounts with State Auditor, or with the Continental Commissioner; and his name does not appear on the Army Register of the Continental line.

William Nelson Lieutenant of the Continental line received  $2666 \frac{2}{3}$  acres of land on the 9<sup>th</sup> day March 1797 which was allowed to him for a service during the war. It is not in my power to say whether or not this was the officer, whose air is now claiming bounty land.

[The image of this page of the document is cut off at this point]

[next page]

acquainted with William Nelson of Fauquier – that he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Culpeper minute Battalion which assembled at Culpepper Court House on the first of September 1775, and marched soon afterwards to Williamsburg. That he was appointed Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Regiment, in the company commanded by Captain John Ashby, which marched to the North in 1776, and served one of the severest Campaigns known in America – that he believes (but is not certain of the fact) that the said William Nelson died in the winter of 1776 – 7 – that he (the witness) served in the same Brigade with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment during the Campaign of 1777 and did not see Mr. Nelson – that he believes he died in service – (see the letter of January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1831, signed "J Marshall")

Respectfully submitted

John H Smith Commissioner &c

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1835