

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Nathan Ellis R3317

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[The handwriting in the following is almost undecipherable.]

State of North Carolina } On the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1845: personally appeared before me  
Orange County } King Barber one of the acting Justices of the peace and a  
member of the Court of please and quarter sessions in and for the said County of Orange – Nathan Ellis a  
Resident of the aforesaid County and State aged 97) ninety seven years who being first deuley sworn  
according to Law doth on his oath make the following deklaration in order to obtain the benefit of the  
provisions made by the act of Congress passed June the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

that He vollentered in the arney of the united States in the yearly part of the ware of the  
Revolution for five years [see endnote] under Captain Curshaw, and Major Frussun[?] that towards the  
Close of the said five years searvice he was placed under the Comand of Captain Moore theere Business  
and those who ware with him was to keep Guard a Long the Mereland and Delewair Cost [sic: Maryland  
and Delaware coasts] that he was frequently ot with thee arney at Baltimore Philadelphia and was at  
yorktown when General Wallaces was made prisner [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] that He Resided in  
Mereland State worcester County that He Enterd the sevice at Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] in the said  
County of warecester and State of Meriland that He was finally discharged at Philadelphia that his  
discharge would Testify to all these particulars. was Burnt. where he overseened for Willie P.  
Maregens[?] Father. in about the date 1805. that He surveed out the said five years faithfully with the  
Exception of a few times when He was paroled to go Home to see His folkes and Get Clothes that he  
was not out of the Survice at any Time during the said five years Survice Moore than three weekes at any  
one time that soon after the close of the said ware He Removed to North Carolina Orange County where  
He steell Resides.

that: the Reason He has not Long since appled for a pention is that when the act, passed giving pentions  
to Certain Solgiers His discharg as before stateed was Destroyed and that He new of no way to Establish  
his survice the Declarant Nathan Ellis says that He Can prove by John B. Bowers [John Brittain Bowers,  
pension application S6674] a pention and who was Virginia Solgeer in the said ware that He saw Him  
this Declareant in the Service two or three Times during the Reveloutionary ware and this is all of the  
Evedence He is aible to make.

He hereby Relinquishes Every Claim what Ever to a pentioner or annuity Except the presant and He  
declares that His name is not on the pention Roll of any agency in any State. Sworn to & Subscribed the  
day and yeare aforesaid before me.

Witness/ [signed illegibly]

Nathan hisXmark Ellis

State of north Carolina } on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1845  
orange County }

came before me Frederic Moize one of the acting Justices of the peace for the said County of orange  
Britton Bowers [sic: John Brittain Bowers] a residant of the aforesaid County an state an a Pensioner of  
the united state aged 84 years who being first duly swron according to Law deposeth an sayeth that he is  
personally acquainted with Nathan Ellis who is now applying for a Pension for his Revlutiony servises  
and that this deponent knows the said Nathan Ellis in the days of the Revolution that this deponant did  
not serve with the said Ellis but that he has a very perfect Recolection of knowing & seen the said Nathan  
Ellis in servis at Philidelphia & at Brandywine [see endnote] and at york Town when Lord Cornwallis  
was taken this deponant Livs near to the said Nathan Ellis is confident that he is the Idintial man that he  
saw in the service at the above named places and Further sayeth not  
sworn to & subscribed on the above date before me Tist F. Moize JP Britton hisXmark Bowers

NOTES:

Enlistments were never for a period of five years. Militiamen along the Maryland coast were frequently called out on short notice to repel invasions by the British, but they were not continually in service for long periods.

In his own pension declaration, John Brittain Bowers did not claim to have been at Philadelphia or Brandywine, but this may have been because he was then a militiaman, and militia service did not count toward a pension under the acts of 1818 and 1820 under which he applied. In any case, it strains credibility that Bowers would recall seeing Nathan Ellis at those places and at Yorktown unless he knew him before.

The file contains a statement dated 21 Nov 1845 and signed by several of Nathan Ellis's neighbors attesting to his character and reputation as a soldier of the Revolution.

Documents in the file state that the name of Nathan Ellis was not found on the rolls of the state of Maryland, which would not be unusual if his service was in the militia. Ellis's claim was rejected for the following reason: "No such service as he alleges in the militia of Maryland, and his name is not on the continental rolls."