

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Neal R7565

f31SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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[State of Mississippi, County of Monroe]

The declaration of A. G. Neal of Monroe County State of Mississippi, dated 6th May, 1853, before Judge W.A. Tucker of the Probate Court, declares that he is 45 years of age, that he is a son [of] John Neal deceased who was a revolutionary soldier and served in all as much as 2 years as he believes. That John Neal entered the service from Union District, State of South Carolina, as near as he can state, in the year 1778 or 1779, (he does not state the date as certain, but to the best of his information and belief) as he has heard his father the said John Neal say. His superior officers were Colonel Brandon [Thomas Brandon], Colonel Roebuck [Benjamin Roebuck], Colonel or General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and General Greene [Nathanael Greene], and he was with them at the Battle of the Cowpens; (which took place 17th January 1781).

He served as a private of dragoons, and also on foot, and he also served some time as a spy, for the proof of all of which service he refers to the revolutionary rolls in the War office and elsewhere, (further certificates of corresponding service has been obtained from the Comptroller General of South Carolina; and filed at the Pension Office). He says that his said father John Neal died in Monroe County of Mississippi 21st day of June 1840 aged 75 years, (he may have been a few years older) that he was an uneducated man and did not know how to proceed to secure his pension, in consequence of which he died without apply for it.

To this declaration Judge Tucker certifies as follows: "In the said W. A. Tucker Judge of Probate of said County does hereby declare that it is his opinion that the said John Neal was a revolutionary soldier, and the said Judge further certifies that the said John Neal died in said County on the 21st day of June 1840 and also that AG Neal, Jesse Neal and Elizabeth Neal are the only surviving children and the legal heirs of said John Neal."

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Certificate of Mrs. Elizabeth Easter, dated 6th May 1853 Aged 80 years she is probably 5 or 6 years

older says she is the sister of John Neal deceased, that he was a soldier in war of the revolution. Her knowledge of the circumstances of his service grows out of the following facts, that she has a distinct recollection of the absence of her brother, the said John Neal from home during a great portion of the time of the war, and of his return home from the campaigns and has frequently heard him relate to his friends to many dangers, hardships and difficulties of the war he passed through, so far as he was engaged in it, but particularly has she heard him speak of the battle of the Cowpens 17th of January 1781 when he always spoke and the highest terms of his superior officers under whom he served, to wit: General Greene, Colonel Brandon, Colonel Roebuck and Colonel or General Morgan -- She is a citizen of the County of Monroe, State of Mississippi and has been for the last 20 years, that her said brother John Neal died 21 June 1840, that she was

present at his funeral. Elizabeth Easter swears also to the identity of the children named in the declaration of AG Neal -- Sworn and subscribed before Judge WA Tucker.

S/ Elizabeth Easter

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Affidavit of Peter Cockerham of Monroe County, Mississippi, date 5 January 1854, says he is 67 years old, that he knew the said John Neal 448 years, and that he believes he was a revolutionary soldier, and that he was always so reputed in his neighborhood, that he often heard him speak of his service; and this deponent further states, that he has often heard his father in law, Henry Smith, (who was himself a revolutionary Soldier and a pensioner from Franklin County, State of Georgia, say that he was well acquainted with John Neal whilst in the service

S/ Peter Cockerham

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A. G. Neal in his letter to me dated 24 March 1853, says his father was a Militia Soldier in the revolution and served in South Carolina, was under General Greene, and Colonel Morgan, and fought under them at the battle of the Cowpens (17 January 1781), but his Captain I don't know, part of his time he served with his brother Joseph Neal who commanded a Spy Company. He then refers to the rolls or proof [of] service of his father, and says, the rolls or record is all the proof I can offer except my father's sister (Elizabeth Easter), who was at that time twelve years old, and can testify to his identity &c. He further says, my father lost some 2 or 3 courses in the service which the records will show.

[Note: There evidently was a certificate from the South Carolina Comptroller of Public accounts dated January 24, 1854 listing payments made to John Neil/ Neal for various services during the revolution. The original of this certificate does not appear among the documents in this file. There is, however, beginning on page 28 and continuing thereafter the following summary of that certificate:

Certif of Comptroller Genl. S. C.
Janry 24. 1854.-

Certif to John Neil - 219 das Spy for Spartan
Recft - attested by John Thomas Col -
from Janry 12 to Aug 18th 1779 -
also signed by Neil -

do 28 das Horseman 7 Feb to 6th June (first march) 1779
50 " Footman in 1779-80 - Capt Patton
Col Brandon

187 " Horseman 18 Decr '80 to 4 May '81. Capt Fearis
Col Brandon

40 " Horseman 5 May '81 to 25 Oct '82. - Capt
Crawford Col Brandon - also signed

8 mos 15 das 255

by John Neal - signed by a X (made N)

Certif for Balance for militia duty under Col Brandon
for Balance £ 148. currency £ 21. 25. 10 1/4 stg
After fall of Charleston
Received by John X Neill

Do Militia duty in Roebuck's Regt. - after fall
of Charleston - per Anderson's return
Currency £ 169 - Stg £ 23. 17. 1/2

The letter of A. G. Neal to Spalding dated
June 10. 1850 shows that he derived his
facts from the Comptroller's office. - (see No 8.
See also No 9 - letter of Neal - & No 10 -