

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Niell (Neale, Neill) R7567

f10NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/27/17

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

State of North Carolina, Duplin County} Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1833

On this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Richard Miller, James Lawson and Stephen Graham Esquires, John Neale a resident of Duplin County in the State of North Carolina aged seventy-five years next fall who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

1. In a company of Duplin militia under Col. Davis [perhaps Colonel John Davis of Brunswick County], Captain Charles Ward, Lieutenant Brucus, Edward Houston he thinks was Ensign, he forgets his other officers, he thinks in the month of February in the year 1778 and left service in April 1778 having served a two months tour; that when he entered the service he resided in Duplin County N. C. near Sarecto [sic, Sarecta]; that he was a volunteer; that he was in no battle; that he is embodied at Rockfish bridge just above South Washington in New Hanover County and marched to Jumping Run about a mile from Wilmington where he remained till the two months were out, and was then discharged; that he was stationed at Jumping Run, to prevent the enemy from landing below and marching up to Wilmington, that there were three companies of militia at Jumping Run; that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whom he could prove his service in this tour.

2. In a company of Duplin militia under the command of Colonel James Kenan, Abraham Moulten Major, Charles Ward Captain, David Murdock Lieutenant, Caleb Quinn Sergeant he forgets his other officers in or about the month of February 1781 and left this term of service in the month of May 1781 having served a three months tour of duty; that he resided as aforesaid; that he was a volunteer; that he was in no battle, but there was a skirmish at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County on the East side of the North West River, this applicant being stationed on the West side, the enemy commanded by Major Craige [sic, James Craig] and the Americans by Colonel Brown of Bladen [County] who was wounded in the arm; that he embodied at Moorfields about 6 miles from the Big Bridge where the Onslow and Duplin militia collected, from thence marched to the Big Bridge where the troops remained making entrenchments, from thence to Rutherford's Mills where a fortification was raised, from thence to Limestone Bridge across the North East [River], from thence to Kingston [sic, Kinston] on Neuse [River] where he was discharged; that the night he returned home from Kinston, Cornwallis and his Army encamped at Robert Dickson's place in said County of Duplin where Parson Stanford now lives on their way from Wilmington to Virginia, that he has no documentary evidence, and thinks probably he can prove this service, or that he was in service at least at that time by John Johnson

of said County of Duplin & Robert Sloane.<sup>1</sup>

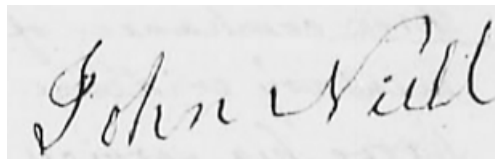
3. That he performed a short occasional tours of duty in expeditions against the Tories, consisting of 10, 15, 20, or 25 days at a time in the summer and fall of the year 1781 under Col. James Kenan, Major William Dixon, sometimes under Captain James Gillespie, and sometimes Captain Charles Ward, David Murdock sometimes Lieutenant, his other officers he forgets, amounting to two months at the least, that he was a volunteer; that he was in no battle; that his marches were entirely confined to Duplin County in quest of the Tories in various parts thereof; that he served with no Continental regiments or companies; that the regular officers he knew you were Captain Joseph Rhodes, Curtis Ivey, & Major Dougharty; that he has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whom he can prove these short tours of duty.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn & Subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jas. Pearsall, Clk

S/ John Niell

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Niell". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged or off-white.

Answers of John Neale the aforesaid applicant to the questions propounded to him by the Court as prescribed by the War Department.

1<sup>st</sup> I was born in Ireland in the County of Downe [sic, Down] as near as I can ascertain in the fall of the year 1758.

2<sup>nd</sup> I have no record of my age, the book my age was recorded in has been destroyed.

3<sup>rd</sup> When called into service I was living in Duplin County near Sarecta, where I have ever since lived & now live.

4<sup>th</sup> I always volunteered.

5<sup>th</sup> Captain Joseph Rhodes was with the troops at the Big Bridge and took command of Captain Harget's [sic, Hargett's] company of Jones County N. C. who was the only regular officer with the troops where I served. I recollect General Hogan's [sic, General James Hogun's] brigade of Continental troops of the North Carolina line. The militia regiments I remember were Colonel Kenan's, Colonel Brown's [probably Thomas Brown of Bladen County], Colonel Young's [probably Henry Young of New Hanover County] and General Lillington [John Alexander Lillington's] brigade of militia who marched into South Carolina. The general circumstances of my service are stated in the preceding declaration.

6<sup>th</sup> I received two discharges from Captain Charles Ward, which are lost or destroyed in some way, it has been so long ago that I don't know exactly what has become of them. I was verbally discharged by Captain Gillespie.

7<sup>th</sup> Major George E. Houston, John Johnston, James Williams, William Hudgins & others I could mention.

[George E. Houston and William Harriss gave this standard supporting affidavit referring to the applicant as John Neill.]

Personally appeared in open Court before the Court aforesaid Robert Sloane a resident of Duplin County aforesaid aged 81 years last April who being first duly sworn doth on his oath depose and say that he is well acquainted with John Neill the aforesaid applicant; that he knew

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1 [Robert Sloane S7523](#)

him before and during the Revolutionary war, that this deponent served with said applicant, a three months tour of service commencing in February 1781 under Captain Charles Ward, David Murdock Lieutenant, that during this tour there was a skirmish [Heron's Bridge, January 30, 1781] between the British and Americans at the Big Bridge in New Hanover County at which Col. Brown of Bladen was wounded in the arm, that their marches were as set forth in said applicant's declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jas. Pearsall, Clk

S/ Robert Sloane, S his mark