

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Neill R7578

Cynthia Neill

f26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/27/17

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

State of Kentucky, County of Logan

On this 24th day of February 1854 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for said County of Logan and State aforesaid Cynthia Neill a resident of said County of Logan and State aforesaid aged 72 years who being duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions made by the acts of Congress passed on the 7th of July 1838, on the 3rd of March 1843, on the 17th July 1844, on the 29th of July 1848 and the 3rd of February 1853 granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War, that she is the widow of John Neill (pronounced Nail) who was born and raised in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina and that he volunteered as a private early in the Revolution and marched against the Tories and Cherokee Indians as her said husband frequently informed her. That her husband the said John Neill was in the battle at Ramsour's or Ramsey's Mill [June 20, 1780] in which battle his brother William Neill¹ was killed the said William Neill had just returned from the Northern Army and was an officer in the same who on a visit to his family and friends volunteered his services against the Tories and was killed in the aforementioned battle. My husband the said John Neill was under Colonel Shelby [Isaac Shelby] or Colonel McDowell [Joseph McDowell] at the Battle of Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]² was with General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] at the time he was defeated by the Colonel Tarleton [Battle of Fishing Creek, August 18, 1780]³ was under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] and Greene [Nathanael Greene] in their retreat after the battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and was in the battle of Guilford C. House [March 15, 1781]⁴ as her husband has frequently informed her. She further states that she has no evidence that she knows of to prove her husband's service but that herewith enclosed she does not know whether her husband was ever promoted or not but frequently heard her husband say that he served in the War of the Revolution more than four years and received nothing but Continental money in payment which proved worthless.

She further declares that she was married to said John Neill on the 30th day of October 1799 that her name before marriage was Cynthia Forgy [sic, also spelled "Forgay" in latter documents] that her said husband died on the 3rd day of May 1828 that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service but the marriage took place previous to the second of January 1800 viz. at the time above stated. She further swears that she has never married since and is

1 [Andrew Neill R7580](#) also claims to have been a brother of William Neill who was killed at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill which occurred on June 20, 1780. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/ramsours.htm>

2 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/kingsmntn.htm>

3 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fishingcreek.htm>

4 <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/guilfordcourthouse.htm>

now a widow and that she has never made application for a pension.

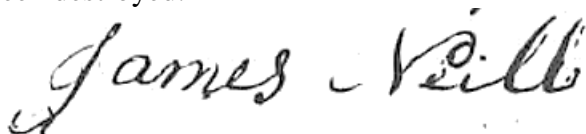
Witness

S/ John N. Nourse

S/ Cynthia Neill [sic], X her mark

S/ Hiram Neill

[On the same day and at the same place, James Neill made an affidavit that he is the second child of John and Cynthia Neill, that he was born February 2, 1803; his older brother, William, was born November 15, 1800, that said dates were recorded in his father's family Bible which has been destroyed.



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[p 5: Copy of a marriage license issued in Logan County Kentucky for the marriage of John Neill and Sinthy Forgay, said license being dated 30th October __ [year blank in this certificate].]

[p 7]

State of Kentucky, County of Butler

On this 15th day of February 1854 before me personally appeared Allen Givens who being duly sworn according to law depose and say that he was born in the County of Mecklenburg in the State of North Carolina and raised in said County and State that he was born on the 28th day of October 1762 and that he the said Allen Givens was well acquainted with John Neill was born and raised in the County of Rowan and said State of North Carolina distant about 9 miles from said Givens that the said John Neill was some four or five years older than he the said Allen Givens. That the said Allen Givens states on his own knowledge that the said John Neill was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, that he the said John Neill joined the Army in company with two of his brothers Viz. Samuel⁵ and William Givens in the year 1779 to the best of his recollection and was in active service from the time he first joined the Army until peace was made whenever and wherever his services were wanting he the said John Neill was always at his post. The said Allen Givens also states that the said John Neill was under Colonel Shelby at the Battle of Kings Mountain in the battle at Ramsour's Mill where his brother William Neill was killed, under General Sumter at his defeat and was in the battle of Guilford Court House the said Allen Givens states that his brothers of whom he has seven⁶ in the Army in the war of the Revolution and others that were in said battles informed him that the said John Neill were in the aforementioned battles and that he did signal service in them and was always esteemed as a gallant soldier. The said Allen Givens states that he settled where he now lives which was then in Logan County in the month of May 1799 and that the said John Neill was living in Logan County distant about 4 miles from him and that they lived neighbors until the death of said Neill. Allen Givens states that in a few months after he settled where he now lives that the said John Neill was married to Cynthia Forgy also that he married in the same year that the said Givens settled where he now lives. The said Allen Givens states that he is a disinterested witness.

S/ Robert N. Hood

S/ Allen Givens, X his mark

S/ Thomas D. Stroud

⁵ [Samuel Givens W743](#)

⁶ These brothers could include [James Givens S1879](#) and [Robert Givens R4054](#), both of whom filed for pensions claiming residency in Mecklenburg County, NC at the time they entered service.

[p 8: partial family record:

William C Neill was born in the year of our Lord November the 15th in the year 1800

BIRTHS.

William C Neill
was born in the year
of our Lord November
the 15th in the
year 1800

[p 9: On February 15, 1854 in Butler County Kentucky, William C Neill gave testimony that he is the oldest child of John and Cynthia Neill; that his father died in May 1828; that his mother is still a widow; that he was born November 15, 1800 as shown by the family record; that said record was copied by the affiant some 23 years ago from his father's family Bible which has since been lost or destroyed.

William C Neill

[p 19: On September 15, 1854 in Logan County Kentucky, Melinda Guffy gave testimony that she was well acquainted with John and Cynthia Neill about 2 years before their marriage; that at the time of their marriage the affiant was about 11 years old and lived within 2 miles of Major James Forgy, the father of Cynthia. She states that they were married in late October or early November 1799.

Melinda Guffy

James Guffy Senior also gave testimony that he was about 14 years old at the time that John and Cynthia Neill were married

James Guffy Senior