

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Nelson R7593

f13VA

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

Thomas Nelson of the County of Somerset State of Maryland (formerly of the County of Accomack State of Virginia) being over one hundred years of age and consequent infirmity attending on old age, render him unable to appear in Court he therefore on the 18th day of March 1852 Personally appeared before me a justice of the Court for Somerset County and State of Maryland and made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th day of June 1832 who being first duly sworn deposed & saith. That during the War of the Revolutionary [sic], he resided in the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia, that during the said War he served in the Militia of Virginia through the whole war. That during the war the militia were frequently called out to keep Guard at different Stations on the Pocomoke River near where I then resided to prevent the enemy from landing to get supplies and sack our houses &c and were in actual service a considerable portion of the whole War. That during the War he was twice taken prisoner by the British and had his House, together with all his property, burnt and destroyed, as he lived immediately on the war, expose constantly to the British where they would frequently [word written over and indecipherable] at the dead hour of the night and on one occasion took my Father also a prisoner and endeavored to force him to pilot their vessels, and because he refused threw him down the gang way of their vessel and broke one of his thighs and crippled him for life. This Deponent further states that Colonel Simpson commanded the militia at the beginning of the War and afterwards Colonel Corbin & others. This Deponent further states that he verily believes and has no hesitation in asserting as a fact that during the Revolutionary War he was in actual Service on guard in the defense of his Country over two years.

This deponent was borned in the County of Accomack in the State of Virginia, but has no record of his age but is confident that he is over one hundred years of age as he has lived to see his fourth Generation of children, and has living at this time one hundred and seventy-two children, including his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren which is so proverbial that some years since it was published in the newspapers of the day.

This deponent further states that some years after the close of the revolutionary war that having lost all his property in the war he removed from the County of Accomack Virginia to the adjoining County Somerset in Maryland where he has ever since resided and still resides. That he has never served as a substitute, but in his own proper person and at the end of the war he received no written discharge but verbally.

This deponent is known to the Honorable Joseph S. Cottman¹ now in Congress from this

¹ COTTMAN, Joseph Stewart, a Representative from Maryland; born near Allen, Somerset (now Wicomico)

district also to his members of the Legislature from Somerset now at Annapolis and nearly all the citizens of this County Generally by the title of "old King Nelson."

This deponent would long since have made his declaration but thought as he removed from Virginia it forfeited his right.

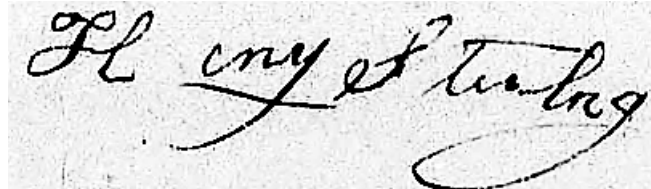
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written.

S/ Thomas Nelson, X his mark

Henry Sterling² a Revolutionary soldier siding in the County of Somerset Maryland hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Thomas Nelson who has signed the opposite Declaration and no to my certain knowledge that he was a militia soldier in the Revolutionary war and served one year as he states, as I was also on guard stationed opposite where he kept on the Virginia side, at frequently we saw each other and sometimes Colonel Simpson would bring his men over to assist us on the Maryland side.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of March 1852

S/ Henry Sterling

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "H. Sterling". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

County, Md., August 16, 1803; completed preparatory studies; attended Princeton College in 1821 and Yale College in 1822 and 1823; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1826 and commenced practice in Princess Anne, Md.; member of the State house of delegates in 1831, 1832, and again in 1839; served in the State senate in 1837; elected as an Independent Whig to the Thirty-second Congress (March 4, 1851-March 3, 1853); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1852 to the Thirty-third Congress; resumed the practice of law; also engaged in agricultural and literary pursuits; died on his farm "Mortherton," near Allen, Wicomico County, Md., January 28, 1863; interment in St. Andrew's Episcopal Churchyard, Princess Anne, Md.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000800>

² FPA R10119