

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Neely S11140

Transcribed by Will Graves

f16SC

rev'd 10/14/08 & 8/24/17

[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 Alabama, Shelby County }

Circuit Court: Fall Term 1834 SS }

On this 30th day of Sept. in the Year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty four personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of Said Court now sitting, John Neely, a resident of said County and State aged at least Seventy two years, 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 7th 1833: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, to wit: applicant states that he entered the Service of the United States in the Spring of the year 1782 [sic, 1781] as well as he can recollect at all events it was not exceeding ten days after the siege of ninety six [Siege of Ninety Six, May 21-June 19, 1781]. That at the time he entered the service he lived in Lawrence [sic, Laurens] County (now called district) of South Carolina; he volunteered when he entered the army and joined a company of Rangers the officers' names not recollected; continued in said company at least two weeks after which applicant with a friend of his without the loss of any day went directly to Newberry County (now district) South Carolina and joined Capt. John Wallis' [sic, John Wallace's] Company of Rangers in which service he continued until late in the Fall of the year 1782 [sic, 1781]. While with Capt. Wallis applicant was employed in keeping the Tories in Subjection as also the Indians—Applicant states that the reason why he quit the first company was because they returned to the Section of the State from which they came, say Greenville. Applicant states that he was from the time he entered the service in the Spring of the year until late in the fall of the same year with the exception of about two days which was employed in traveling after he left his company in Lawrence [Laurens] to join Capt. Wallis' Company in Newberry. That applicant states that on the same day that he left Capt. Wallis' Company he rendered his service by volunteering in Daniel Williams' Company of Rangers in which service Applicant continued without reference to time (as it was the most secure situation in which applicant could have been placed) until Hayes' defeat¹ at which place Capt. Daniel Williams was taken and hanged by the Tories (Cunningham [William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham] & Hood [Capt. John Hood]) and thereof all [?] as report said. Applicant was not in the battle but confined by Sickness. Applicant's brother was in the battle. The Tories on the day of the Battle killed John Caldwell, a relation of J. C. Calhoun's—Applicant states that this battle was fought—as well as he can recollect—in the winter of 1783 [sic, November 1781] day nor month [not] recollected.

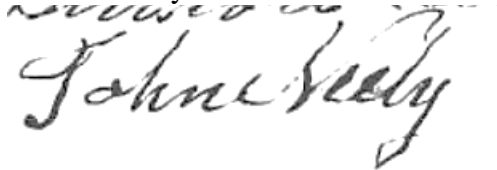
¹ November 1781: http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_hayes_station.html

By reference to the history of that day, the true date easily [can] be ascertained. Applicant states that while he was in Capt. Daniel Williams' Company, he was employed in keeping in subjection the Indians and Tories and in collecting and carrying to Charleston the wives of the Tories; applicant while in this service was principally employed in the counties of Lawrence [sic, Laurens], Newberry & Edgefield South Carolina. Applicant state that he did not go with the women that was taken to Charleston further than the county of Newberry. Applicant states that after the death of Capt. Williams he was commanded by William Irby, who was Williams' lieutenant who marched the remnant of the Company through the counties of Laurens, Edgefield & Newberry. The Object was to keep in subjection the Tories & Indians. Applicant states that he continued in said Company until the Spring of 1784 when they all quit the Service and went home. Applicant states that for some months after the Treaty of peace the Indians and Tories in South Carolina were as troublesome as at any former period as the history of the times ought to show, whether it does or not. Applicant has been informed that when an application shows a service in the militia [spelled "malitia"] for a greater length of time than six months, it is required that the applicant should show different undertakings in one of which to exceed six months. This is impossible because in many sections of the country such was not the case. In that section of South Carolina where applicant was employed, the Tories out numbered the Whigs, hence the camps was the place of the greatest security and no Whig dared to trust himself long at a time at any place other than with the Army & this continuance was made more to depend on a cessation of hostilities or a restoration of peace than any given period of time or stipulated terms of service and if the officers were in this respect regulated by any law on the subject it was unknown to applicant. Applicant was a young man, enthusiastic in the cause of liberty; he entered at the service with the intention to fight so long as the cause of liberty had an enemy and therefore never stopped to compute [the] time with his officers. His inquiries of them was not "is my time out now" but was rather [is there] anything further to be done. While applicant was in the service he was in no general engagement; he was in three skirmishes or fights with the Tories. He was during his service at no time with the regulars; knew nothing of the Regular officers except by reputation. While applicant was in the service, he was commanded first by Col. Hayes [spelled "Haze"] who succeeded Col. Williams [James Williams], who fell at Kings Mountain [October 7, 1780]. Applicant does not wish to be misunderstood; he was in the service long before the Battle of Kings Mountain but Col. Williams was absent until the above stated time after which Col. Hayes took the command and continued to command until his death as already stated. Capt. Kilgore [Benjamin Kilgore] was sometimes with us—Applicant knew from reputation Genl. Washington, Lafayette & Genl. Greene, and in truth divers others—Applicant quit the service without any discharge in writing as did all his company. He has no documentary evidence of his services; he knows of but one individual living that could establish any portion of his services in the War of the Revolution and that is Major David Anderson who did reside six months since in Lawrence District South Carolina whose affidavit he intends to try to procure. Applicant is old and infirm and his memory much impaired—Applicant would have been perfectly satisfied and would have felt amply rewarded for all his perils and sufferings without any compensation than that already realized from the reflection that he had some humble share in bringing into existence a nation of free men; but feels that he should not refuse to receive at the hands of the nation, its gratitude for those services that secured to the sick and the poor equal rights; and feels constrained from the fate of a former application, to say in conclusion that he indulges the hope that the officers of the Government who may pass upon this application will not be more technical in their objections than applicant was in computing his time with his officers while in

the service or more parsimonious of his country's treasure than he was of not only his health or blood but even his life when fighting his Country's battles.

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

S/ John Neely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Neely". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John Neely".

Sworn to & Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

[Daniel E. Watrous and James M. Nabors gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Answers to seven questions² propounded by the Court to the Applicant agreeably to the directions contained in the printed form and instructions issued by the Department of War.

Answer to Int. 1. I was borned in Ireland & from information upon which I rely some time in the year 1762.

Answer 2 Int. I have no record of my age.

Answer 3 Int. I was living in Lawrence County now district South Carolina when I entered the Service. I have lived since the Revolutionary War in both Lawrence & Abbeville districts South Carolina, the latter of which places he left in the year 1817 for Shelly County Alabama, where he now resides.

Answer 4 Int. I volunteered when I entered the Service.

Answer 5 Int. There was no regular officers with the troops where applicant served neither was there any continental with applicant. Col. Kilgore's Regiment of militia was at times with the troops to which applicant belonged as also several others militia officers at the heads of their respective Regiments, whose names applicant cannot recollect except a Col. Warton [sic, Wharton?] who went from Lawrence [sic, Laurens] District South Carolina. Applicant has fully stated in the body of this declaration all that he can recollect in reference to the character and nature of his services & to state it now again would be a mire repetition of what he has already stated.

Answer 6 Int. Applicant was verbally discharged from the service as was all other persons in the same company.

Answer 7 Int. The Court will call James M. Nabors & Daniel E. Watrous . By the Court to Daniel E. Watrous & James M. Nabors are your acquainted with the character of John Neely for

² The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

truth & veracity& is he reputed & believed to be a soldier of the revolution & has any one within your knowledge entertained a different opinion?

Answer. We are well acquainted with applicant's general character & know his character to be without reproach. He is esteemed & reputed by his neighbors to be a soldier of the revolution & never heard it disputed.

S/ Daniel E. Watrous

S/ James M. Nabors

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia.]