

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Nathaniel Seager S11365

MD [SC]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Columbia } S.S.  
County of Washington }

On this twenty sixth day of October 1832 personally appeared before me William Cranch chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the U.S. for the District of Columbia and sole Judge of the District Court of the said district Nathaniel Seager a resident of the City of Washington in the County of Washington and District of Columbia aged seventy three 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated:

That in the year 1778 He received an Ensign's Commission from the State of Maryland in the line of that State and was attached to Captain [Hatch] Dent's company in the regiment commanded by General [William] Smallwood and was immediately detached on the recruiting service in Charles and St. Mary's Counties where he served six months, he then joined his regiment at Annapolis, where he did duty for upwards of ten months when he was transferred to Capt'n. Millers Company in Colonel Thomas' [John Thomas] regiment and served in the same six months, he was then assigned, on receiving a Lieutenant's Commission, to Colonel Neale's regiment and marched [one or two illegible words] to the north, and was then appointed to General Morris' [possibly Lewis Morris] regim[rest missing] stationed near Philadelphia where he served about eighteen months. He was then transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment (he believes) of the Continental Army under the command of General [Nathanael] Greene from whom he received a Captains Commission and in that grade he served until the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783 – the scene of his services under General Greene was in South Carolina, and part of the time, with his Company, he was on detach service under General [Francis] Marion. That when he received his Ensign's Commission he was a resident of Charles County, Maryland. That he was in several skirmishes under General Marion, and was at the attack of Georgetown, South Carolina [24-25 Jan 1781 or siege beginning 28 May 1781], but was never wounded. That he knew Col. Simms [possibly Charles Simms of VA], Major Eaton [Thomas Eaton of SC], Gen'l. Smallwood, Col. Jno. Thomas, Col. Neale, Gen'l. Morris, Gen'l. Greene, Col. Bruce, Capt. Dent, Gen'l. Marion, Major White. That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service – and that he served, from the commencement of his service to his final disbandment in 1783 – four years and nine months.

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.

Question. Where, and in what year were you born?

Answer. In St. Mary's County, Maryland October 8<sup>th</sup> 1759.

Question. Have you any record of your Age, and if so, where is it?

Answer. I have none that I can find out.

Question. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in Charles County, Maryland when I entered the service. Since the revolutionary war, I lived some years in Charles County but for the last thirty four years I have lived on the spot where the City of Washington now stands, and I now live in the City of Washington.

Question. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I entered the service as an Ensign in the Maryland line.

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the troops, where you served;

such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

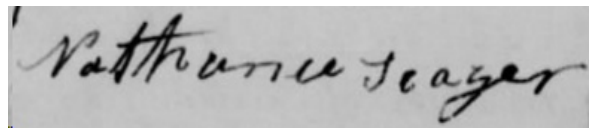
Answer. Col. Simms, Major Eaton, Gen'l. Smallwood, Col. John Thomas, Col. Neale, Gen'l Morris, Gen'l. Greene, Col. Bruce, Capt. Dent, Gen'l. Marion, Major White, Capt. Miller the 4<sup>th</sup> Reg't of the Continental line.

Question. Did you ever receive a Commission, and if so, by whom was it signed, and what has become of it?

Answer. I received Commissions as Ensign, Lieutenant & Captain, two former from the State of Maryland, and the latter was given me by Gen'l. Greene. The length of time prevents my saying by whom they were signed – they are lost.

Question. 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 of your services as an officer of the Revolution

Answer Robert Leckie – Barney Kelly & Levi Washburn & others

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathaniel Seager". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

I first became aquanted with Nathaniel Seagar in 1826, while constructing the Penitentiery in this District and employed him that year, also in 1827 & 1828 at the same work, his employment being to make & temper mortar, although old and feeble, he [undeciphered word] steady, and longer hours then the rest of the hands, and could perform as much labour as any of my other hands; he told me always that he had been an officer in the Revolutionary war, but that his papers were lost when the war office was burnt; so that he could not get a pension, and Mr Seagar has invariably made the same statement to others and I never heard it contradicted, nor the truth of it called in question: I again employed him to make mortar while constructing the Georgetown mills in 1831; and found that he was very feeble; and unfit for hard labour; which he said was caused by the hardships he had endured in the preceeding severe winter, for want of clothes, shelter, and the common nescessarries of life; I proposed that he should go to the poor house; but he refused, saying that he would rather die in a ditch, then submit to such degradation; but if any person who had any light work, that he could do, would afford him shelter, he thought he could do as much, as would be an equivelant to what he would want; I told him that he might come & live with me, and he did so, & has been with me ever since; and made himself as useful as could possibly be expected, and has earned as much fully, as the expence of his mantainance;

Washington City District of Columbia October 27 1832                      Respectfully  
[signed] Robert Leckie

An Amendment to the annexed declaration of Nathaniel Seager, late a Captain in the Revolutionary Army; now made in consequence of the facts therein stated having escaped his memory when the formal declaration was made.

That he Nathaniel Seager further on his oath declares that while under the command of General Morris whose head quarters were then near Philadelphia he was taken sick; in consequence of which he obtained a furlough for the benefit of his health – he accordingly proceeded to Alexandria now in the district of Columbia where he remained a short time – when a Schooner privateer under the command of Captain Johns being fitting out for a cruise and mounting 18 guns – Being on furlough for the benefit of his health while he was on board the privateer he was still in the service of the United States and on making his escape he considered himself bound to join the Army. he went on board of her and having got as far as the Capes of Virginia they were taken by an English ship apparently a man of war – although she had but false ports and but one round of Ammunition nothing but the cowardice of the Captain was the cause of the capture of the Schooner – the English vessel was commanded by Captain Jumper by whom we were taken to New York and then confined on board the New Jersey prison ship and suffered many

hardships during twenty one days – they saw the light but once a day and then only by being allowed to be upon deck every day at most but two hours – and their food was thrown down to them. He has since learnt that General Varnum [Joseph Bradley Varnum] late a Member of Congress and McBrown were confined with him – after suffering all the hardships and privations which nature was capable of bearing for twenty one days Six of us were taken out of the prison ship and conveyed to Quebec. After our Arrival at that place they contrived to make their escape and travelled through the Wilderness, suffering much hardship from fatigue and hunger having at one time to kill and eat a dog thereby preserving their lives until they reached General Morris' head quarters.

At another time in crossing the Big Pee Dee River after torries with a party commanded by Captain Smiley and myself he Captain Smiley was nearly drowned by getting his horse entangled to a grape vine in the middle of the river.

Sworn and subscribed before me this thirteenth day of November 1832. W. Cranch, Ch. Judge &c

NOTE: The file contains other testimonials to Seager's character. One dated 14 Nov 1832 states that 30 years previously Seager was living "on the Patuxent, his native place." The file also contains a statement not relevant to Nathaniel Seager but pertaining instead to an unidentified Capt. John Shelton.