

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Solomon R. Wells S14812

fn19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/25/11

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Dinwiddie: SS

On this 20th day of August 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Dinwiddie County, now sitting, Solomon R Wells, a resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged 68 years the 15th day of June last, 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 the 7th 1832. –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit; That sometime in the year 1780 but he does not recollect the precise date, he was called into the militia service, in regular draft by numbers, having recently before attained the age which rendered him liable for military duty, under Captain George Pegram of Dinwiddie County, where this Declarant was born & raised, & has ever since resided. He recollects that the Lieutenant of the company was Williamson Coleman and the Ensign Charles Williamson, all of whom then resided in Dinwiddie & have since died. That the company was marched from Dinwiddie County to Stonoe's Mills below Petersburg, where they remained some 10 or 12 days & were marched from thence to Suffolk in the County of Nansemond which had been then recently burnt by the British, excepting few private houses, and one public warehouse for tobacco which he recollects remained. That he remained in Suffolk a few weeks, in the company was discharged, having been in service, he well recollects one month & fifteen days. –

2. That he had remained at home but about a fortnight when he volunteered to join a company of light infantry militia which was called into service, under Captain Baker Pegram, Lieutenant William Scott and Ensign Benjamin Andrews all of this said County & since dead. That the company was marched to Suffolk again, from whence it was subsequently ordered to Portsmouth to operate against the British then stationed there, but they having retired to their shipping, and sailed, before the arrival of the company, the order for their advance was countermanded just before it would have arrived at Portsmouth and in a few days after, the 3 months for which the company had been called into service having expired, they were discharged, and he returned home.

3. That the next tour of duty which the Declarant performed was when he was called out in regular draft by numbers in the militia service under Captain Boswell Goodwyn, whose Lieutenant was Stephen Goodwyn and Ensign Barwell Carter, all of the same County, and all of whom have since died. That the Company marched to Petersburg a few days before that place was visited by Phillips [William Phillips] and Arnold [Benedict Arnold] – that he was engaged in the skirmish which occurred there and recollects to have fired in it five times himself, After the militia was repulsed his company was marched to Richmond, where it remained 2 or 3 weeks,

when it was moved down on the North side of James River, stopping occasionally on different positions, as low as Black ferry. That he recollects several places along the River in their line of march, – among them Curl's and Shirley. That the company was then marched up to Petersburg where it was discharged, after having been in service one month and seven days. He recollects that during the former tours, as well as this the Colonel to whose command he is Company was attached was Joseph Jones who resided in the same County near Petersburg. That on the first tour his Major was named Holt and on the second and the latter tour his Major was named Faulkner a very old officer, with very quiet hair. That he particularly recollects seeing Colonel Falkner [sic] at Petersburg when Arnold was there.

4. That subsequently sometime in the year 1781, he thinks it was, he was again drafted for duty in the regular routine of his number, in the militia service under Captain Gilliam Booth whose Lieutenant was Peter Eppes and Ensign Charles Williamson, the same who had acted as Ensign under Captain George Pegram during the first tour which the Declarant performed, all of whom resided in Dinwiddie and have since died. That the Company marched to Yorktown in Virginia where he recollects the following superior officers under whose command his company was, to wit, Major Walker, Colonel Blunt, and General Lawson. That he remained there until the surrender of Cornwallis, was engaged on the works, & saw the British troops marched out; but did not see Lord Cornwallis who did not come out with his troops. He there saw General Washington; and his three months for which he had formed, having expired either a few days before or the day after the surrender, which he cannot distressingly recollect, he was discharged and returned home. His only doubt as to the period of the discharge is that William Nunnally¹ who served in the same company with him on that & another tour states that the company was discharged before the surrender of the town, or any active hostilities before it, [several words overwritten and illegible] of the three months & that he thereupon came home. That the Declarant may possibly have remained the additional few days, as a volunteer, but he has no distinct recollection of such being the fact, but cannot be mistaken as to his having remained until after the capture.

That he was born, raised & has ever resided in the County of Dinwiddie, & served on each occasion in the militia called from that County. That he knows of no record of ever having existed of his age, but from what he has always understood he entertains no doubt that he has stated it correctly. That he never received any written discharge, on either occasion, the company's having been discharged verbally by their Captains under written orders of discharge no doubt received by them, and that he has no documentary evidence whatever of his services, but knows that he can prove by William Nunnally, who served those 2 tours with him, that he served the 2nd & 4th of those above mentioned and can prove by all his neighbors who have long resided near him, that he has always been reputed & considered a revolutionary soldier. He does not recollect anyone person alive who was with him on his first or 3rd tour.

He the said Solomon R Wells hereby relinquishes his 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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Slomon² R Wells, X his mark

I William Nunnally formerly a soldier of the revolutionary war and at present a planter residing

¹ [William Nunnally S5844](#)

² This veteran's name is spelled "Slomon" through most of the documents in this file.

in Dinwiddie County, do hereby certify, that I am well acquainted with the Declarant Solomon R Wells, and have been so from an early period in the revolutionary war. That I know that he served the 2nd and 4th tours of service set forth above in his Declaration being those under Baker Pegram and Gilliam Booth, inasmuch as I served each of them myself with him, & well recollect him in the same company with myself. I do not personally know anything of the other tours of which he speaks, but have no doubt that he rendered the service as he has represented. Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ William Nunnally, X his mark

[Isham E. Hargrove, a clergyman, and Jeremiah Miles gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.10 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 8 months & 22 days service as a private in the Virginia militia.]