

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Neel S15945

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 13 Sep 2012.

State of Virginia Giles County to wit:

On this 29th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court being a court of record before the Justices of the Peace for the county court of Giles now sitting William Neel a resident of Giles county and state of Virginia aged 71 years past 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 1832. He declares that about the year 1777 or 1778 he entered the service as a volunteer from the county of Augusta & state of Virginia in a company of rangers commanded by Capt Samuel Vance intended for the protection of the frontier against the Indians. The applicant does not exactly recollect the length of time that this tower embraced but thinks it did not exceed 6 or 7 months. But is confident he remained untill the expiration of the term of service and distinctly recollect that the company was discharged after a heavy fall of snow when the people in the stations returned to their families & pursuits. He was stationed at Warrick's station at the head of Greenbrier river [sic: probably the Fort Warwick near present Green Bank in Pocahontas County WV] and at the clover lick station [also in present Pocahontas County] at which latter place he was discharged. In the year 1780 (as he thinks) he went as a volunteer from Staunton in Augusta county virginia with a company under the command of Capt Patrick Buchanan in company with two other companies commanded by Captains Tate & Gilmore [possibly John Gilmer] to the state of North Carolina and found Gen'l [Daniel] Morgan at six mile creek [in present Pickens County SC] (after passing by Hillsborough Salisbury &c) the place was called head quarters. Where Genls [William] Smallwood & Morgan were Encamped with their troops at this place to wit six mile creek the army remained encamped for some time Colo [William] Washington commanded the horse Colo. [John Eager] Howard the regular infantry and Captans [Andrew] Wallace Brooks & Priggers[?] belonged to the regular forces under Genl Morgan. he went to Packoletts [sic: Pacolet] River South Carolina and was at the battle of the Cowpens or [Banastre] Tarleton's defeat [17 Jan 1781] where as well as this applicant remembers there were near 500 prisoners taken. At this battle the South Carolina recruited malitia under Colo Brannon [sic: Thomas Brandon] proved very defective in the commencement of the action but were subsequently rallied and assisted to complete the victory; after the battle the troops suffered greatly on their return to Salisbury N. Carolina with the prisoners from the high waters cold ranes and want of provisions at Broad River & Catawba there was several lives lost from high waters. In N. Carolina he found Capt [John] Cartmill's company of Virginia militia but the captain becoming sick the company was commanded by Lieutenant David Guynn [or David Gwin] and was under his command in the Battle at Guilford Courthouse [15 March 1781] under Genl Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] and Major [Thomas] Rowland the latter of whom commanded a scouting party to which this applicant was attached and was sometimes both night & day employed in the arduous duty against both the British & Tories and were successfull in taking some tories & British prisoners. Colo. [Henry] Lee commanded the cavelry and Genls Campbell & Williams [sic: probably Colonels William Campbell and Otho Holland Williams] were also there as well as he recollects. after this he was transferred to a company commanded by Capt David May and with it & Capt Smith's Company marched through Richmond & Williamsburg to York Town in Virginia and had the pleasure of being with the army untill the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] – saw the British army march out and ground their arms to the american & French forces The Batallion to which he was attached was commanded by Major Patrick Lockhart and was stationed next to the French Battery on a high bank next to York river He was born in Lancaster Pennsylvania and has the record of his age now before him He now resides in Giles and has resided here for 38 years. His service from the above statmt exclusive of his tower as a ranger embraces a period of two years or more. He has

no documentary evidence of his service. And he does not know at this time of any one living who is acquainted with his actual services or could testify as to the facts of it.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agent in any state or territory whatsoever

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid Wm Neel

Giles County & State of Virginia

Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid William Neel who being duly sworn Deposeth & saith that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time of his services but according to the best of his recollection he served as a private in the year 1780 & 1781 as stated in his Declaration that he never left the army without leave but was permitted to go home twice in the above two years was furnished with some Cloathing &c Returned again to the army & was in the service to the end of the siege of Cornwallis as stated in his Declaration that his first Tour under Capt Vance Being Excluded was wrong as stated in his s'd Declaration whereas it ought to have included that tour as he from the first allways had Imbraced it in part of his services that this Tour added to the above years 1780 & 81 down to the 17th of October 1781 would not Be less than two years to the Best of his knowledge for which he Claims a pension. This is the only amendment Required by the Instructions received as he is informed – Sworn to & subscribed this 16th Sept 1833 Wm Neel

Memorandum in the 1782 to the best of my Recollection & for some years after I was on the frontier settlements of Greenbrier County in the time of the Indian War with my friends & went to the Mouth of Kanawha with Col. Lewis's settlers & helped to guard the fort & was with [illegible word] scouting parties after the Indians. I believe I Remained at this fort & different places on the Ohio & Kanawha (all Exposed to the Horse stealing & Murdering Indians) about 22 months. after this I was one of George Clendennis [sic: George Clendenin's] Company of Rangers stationed at his Fort at the mouth of Elk River [Fort Lee at the present corner of Brooks St. and Kanawha Blvd. in Charleston WV, erected in 1788] to Range from the fort & guard the settlements. this Tour was 6 or 7 months I believe, but for which I never Received one Cent. During my stay in Countries[?] of danger & Death I helped to Bury no less than 9 killed by the Indians. when I made out my Declaration I was not informed that any services could be Received performed after the surrender of Cornwallis.

[The following is in Neel's handwriting. Punctuation partly corrected.]

Supplementary to William Neel's Declaration now in the pension office for a Revolutionary pension, I can relate some facts connected with my services in the different Companies of Militia from first to last, First Company of Militia Augusta County Virginia Samuel Vance Captain, see my Declaration I believe John Cartmill was his Lieut., some of the privates, Sam'l. McDonald [Samuel McDonald], Irwin Benson, Sam'l. Gillespie [Samuel Gillespie], Thomas Blake [possibly pension application S6657], Zachariah Bell, ___ Tacket, Second Company of Militia Patrick Buchanan Capt., Lieu'ts. name not remembered some of the noncommissioned Officers and privates, James Young and James Graham Sergeants, John Kerr, Nicholas Clark, Lewis Coursey, Gilbert Christian, John Bodkin, and Ephraim Bates. Gen'l. Morgans personal appearance to be over six feet high his make to be of vast Bodily strength, with a large scar on his Cheek bore no marks of distinction as an officer his Sword excepted. Battle at Cowpens, Tarleton's defeat, the Army paraded before day a cold morning, formed in single file with the Militia on the right of the Regulars, stood in ranks till sunrise, at which time the battle commenced, to all this I was an Eye witness, marched off in haste with the prisoners, recrossed Broad River encamped the first night on the north bank. Third Company of Militia, John Cartmill Capt, David Guynn Lieut, Taylor Townsend Sergeant, John Hicklin, John Henderson, James Erwin, Hugh McDonald privates – Guilford battle was

brought on by cannonading across a field, hostile Armies formed on the opposite sides in the woodland, the Militia on the left of the regulars, when the red coats advanced they forced the line of fence to the ground before them, a hot firing with small arms from both sides took place, as the British marched over the open field, advancing into the woodland, when our troops was forced to retreat before the Enemy, crossing a hollow, the British in full march over the ground which we had left, when our firing was again returned on them, here an officer on horseback, and unknown to me came in haste from our left calling with a loud voice retreat, he was obeyed and this was a final retreat to Goodspeed Ironworks [sic: Speedwell's Ironworks on Troublesome Creek], this I believe was the name of the place where our Army encamped the first night after the battle, and to all those scenes and facts I was an Eye witness. fourth company of Militia, David May Capt, Wallis Estill [Wallace Estill] Lieut. privates Robert Bell, Andrew Betty, John Carpenter, John Wiley, and William Griffey – Siege of Lord Cornwallis, the siege had commenced before the troops with whom I served had marched down, the firing of Cannon I heard many miles before we arrived. The British Army was surrounded and pent up by the American and french forces, with batteries and breastworks on both sides of the river Gloster [sic: Gloucester] as well as York Town, in the river between the two Towns lay the ships belonging to the British army it was said, I saw their masts standing up, but dont recollect to have seen any part of their hulls above water, here I remained to the end of the siege attending to such duties as was assigned to me by my superiors. It was fine clear day when the prisoners marched out, their form was by platoons, with muffled colours and Drums. Their Drums beating a low tone, this I saw and witnessed and was the grandest sight I ever looked at, as the long dreaded Enemy marched so tamely with their arms glittering in the Sun, the place where they were stacked was in an old field in the direction of Williamsburg, and marched back to the town. To the above statement of all those scenes, I was an Eye witness, and bore an humble part in all its toils and dangers. about this time I was taken with the Bloody flux, and was reported and certified by the Surgeon unfit for duty, was discharged and started for home, how long I was on the road I dont remember, indeed I have often thought few ever escaped from the jaws of death more narrowly than I did, to get home being reduced to such extreme weakness, was unable to walk but a short distance without resting. What has become of my discharges I know not, nor do I recollect the last time I saw them. I never expect to be able to discribe the dates of my services in the revolutionary war better than they are set out in my declaration, from want of my discharges, or any record to assist my memory, but still do believe the different periods of service as stated in my declaration will produce a term of two years or more. by the register of my age I am in my seventy fifth year

[Certified 19 March 1836]

[signed] Wm Neel

POWER OF ATTORNEY

STATE OF Virginia) Be it known that before me Robert W Harman personally appeared
COUNTY OF Giles) John M Neel & Hiram Neel who being duly cautioned and then sworn in
due form of law, state that they are children of William Neel or Nuel who was a Revolutionary Pensioner
in the State of Virg Giles Co, and that he died on the Eleventh day of February 1841 and that their mother
Rhoda Neel died on the Sixteenth day of January 1846 and that they were married on the ___ day of ___ in
the year 1792 or 93, and they were residents of Giles Co in the State of Virginia and that they resided
there years, and that previous they resides in (State and County) and that furthermore
[Power of attorney follows.]

In Witness Whereof, they have on this 19 day of October 1855 hereunto signed their names and
affixed their seals [signed] John M Neel Hiram Neel

NOTE: On 14 Aug 1833 Gov. John Floyd wrote a character reference for William Neel, "late a justice of the peace for the County of Tazewell." The file contains letters written by William Neel, including an undated one to the Pension Commissioner urging action on his pension application.