

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Nelson S1707

Transcribed by Will Graves

f16NC

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[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 Tennessee, Knox County

On the 2nd day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court at its Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County John Nelson a citizen of said County, aged about seventy six years who having been sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provisions of an act of Congress passed on the 7th day of June 1832—That he was born in Loudoun County, Va. sometimes as well as he believes in the year 1757, where he continued to live until he was seven or eight years old, when he moved to Rowan County, N. Carolina where he was living at the time of the commencement of the Revolutionary war—he states that as well as he now recollects, it was sometime about the commencement of the war, he entered the American army and was enrolled as a volunteer private in the company commanded by Captain Osborn [James Osborn] who lived as well as he now recollects in Mecklenburg or Rowan Counties and the company he thinks was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Locke [Francis Locke], and the whole body was under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. The object of this campaign was to fight with the Indians—from Charlotte, the place of rendezvous, the army marched directly over the mountain to the Cherokee Country and burnt and destroyed their towns, killed many of their warriors, and then marched back to Charlotte where applicant was discharged.¹ Applicant states that in this campaign he was three months in actual service. He states that from the great lapse of time since this service was performed and his extreme loss of memory he cannot tell particularly the incidents of the campaign—applicant states that sometime about the latter end of the year '75 or early in '76 he entered the army as a volunteer private, and was enrolled into the company under the command of the same Captain Osborn—Col. Locke and he thinks Genl. Rutherford—the object of this tour was to march against the Scotch who had collected near Cross Creek under one McDonald – the Army marched from Mecklenburg directly to Cross Creek, but before we reached there the enemy had been defeated [Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776]² and dispersed – applicant states that they took several of the Tories and Scotch prisoners and marched about through the country and then marched back to Charlotte, and were there discharged – applicant states that in this campaign he was in actual service three months – applicant states that sometime in the latter part of the fall or early in the winter of 1778 he entered the Army at Rowan County, and was enrolled in a company commanded by Captain Nicholson [Jacob Nichols] - he thinks Col Locke, and General Ashe [John Ashe]- he marched

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html

from Salisbury N.C. and he recollects of passing through Charlotte, Camden, crossed the Santee river was at Bacon's Bridge, and at Purysburg - he states that a short time before the battle at Briar Creek [March 3, 1779],³ he was detailed with a considerable portion of the troops up the river to a place called the two sisters [Two Sisters Ferry on Savannah River], under the apprehension that the enemy would cross there - here he remained until after the disaster at Briar Creek, when by permission of his officers he marched home with some others - he states that he was in actual service five months in this campaign - applicant states that not long after this last campaign he entered a Regiment of States troops and was enrolled at Salisbury in the company commanded by a young man he thinks by the name of Morgan; who was under Major Joel Lewis -- applicant states that he entered the army at this time for one year—his services were of a character so diversified that he cannot tell very particularly what he did - he was engaged all the time in scouting about through the country up upon Deep and Haw rivers and along the upper countries attempting to take Col. Fannan [sic, David Fanning] and other Tories, and in guarding the jails which were full of Tories - applicant states that he served a whole year in this service and was discharged at Cross Creek-- applicant states that sometime in the year '80 or '81 he thinks in the summertime he entered and was enrolled in a company of horse – he does not recollect the name of the Captain – but he recollects that his company was commanded by Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] – he states that in this campaign he marched to Ramsour's Mill and assisted to defeat the Tories [June 20, 1780],⁴ after which we were marched about through the country to take and disperse the Tories – he states that in this campaign he was in actual service three months – applicant states that from the long lapse of time since the above services were rendered, his great age, and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect precisely the terms of his said service nor can he well detail the many and various incidents which occurred – but he feels confident that he did not serve less than 26 months as a private for which he claims a pension – he states that after serving his two first campaigns he moved to Rowan County where he lived about 20 years, when he moved to Newberry District S. C. where he lived about 25 years, when he moved to Cooke County Tennessee where he lived until about two years ago when he moved to Rhea County Tennessee where he lived until about one year ago when he moved to Knox County Tennessee where he now lives – applicant states that he has no record of his age but believes he is as old as stated -- he states that he has no recollection of being at any time with any of the Regular troops - he states that he has lived so short a time in his present neighbourhood that he is acquainted with but few of his neighbors - and he states that there is no clergyman residing in his neighbourhood - he states that those of his neighbors who can testify to his veracity and his reputation for military services are John Nelson, William Nelson, William Mouldin and others - he states that he may have gotten a discharge at the termination of each of his campaigns, but of this he is uncertain he has lost his discharges if he had any, and has no documentary evidence whatever of his said services nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service - 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.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this 2nd July 1833

S/ John Nelson, X his mark

Test: S/ Wm Swan, DC

³ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁴ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html

State of Tennessee, Knox County

We John Nelson and William Nelson residing in said County do hereby testify that they are well acquainted with John Nelson who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 76 years of age; that he is reported and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed to in open Court this 2nd day of July 1833.

S/ John Nelson, X his mark

S/ William Nelson, X his mark

Test: S/ Wm Swan, DCIk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$79.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia for 20 months as an infantryman and 3 months as a cavalryman.]