

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Neel S1865  
Transcribed by Will Graves

f9NC  
rev'd 12/11/16

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

Declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832  
State of Tennessee, Monroe County: SS Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 1832

On this 18<sup>th</sup> December personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, now sitting, John Neel, a resident of said County of Monroe, aged 77 years, 9 months, 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, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States in the County of McLenburgh [sic, Mecklenburg], North Carolina under General William Davidson [sic, more likely that he served under William Richardson Davie not William Lee Davidson], Robert Irwin Colonel, being drafted, for what time he cannot remember, to go down towards Camden South Carolina to meet the British and Tories. The time he disremembers, but thinks it was shortly after the battle at the Eutaw Springs.<sup>1</sup> He was marched through the Waxhaw Settlement, down to the South Carolina border, and there they had an engagement with the British and Tories (mostly Tories) in which they were successful in defeating them. This engagement was at the flat rock, Cornwallis and Rawdon then lay in Charleston, but no British officer was at this battle, and, indeed, few others but Tories.<sup>2</sup> Shortly after, they were dismissed, and returned home, being out about a month. Some time afterwards, understanding that Cornwallis and Rawdon had left Charleston and were marching up to North Carolina, applicant with many others volunteered under General William Davidson & Colonel Robert Smith, and marched through Charlotte to the Catawba River, and were stationed at Beattie's and Cowan's Ford. Rawdon & Cornwallis came up & crossed with their Army, at both the fords, at which General Davidson's Army composed their crossing. Applicant was at the Tuckaseegee Ford during the engagement; and General Davidson was killed, at, he thinks, Cowan's Ford [February 1, 1781]. The British kept on through Salisbury and applicant and the troops under Colonel Irwin pursued them, on beyond Salem N. C. and shortly after we were dismissed & returned home. He is unable to say how long he was in service this tour. He suffered a great deal having no tents, cloaths [sic], and thinks he was out two months at the least. The third campaign he served he was drafted for three months, and went under General William Rutherford [sic, Griffith Rutherford?], and Colonel R. Smith, Major James Grimes, Captain Charles Polk, down to Cape Fear River, within two miles of Wilmington, the British then lying in Wilmington. They had a battle with the Tories,<sup>3</sup> & defeated them, where applicant lost his horse, (being this time of

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1 Since General William Lee Davidson was killed on February 1, 1781 and since the battle of Eutaw Springs occurred in September 1781, the applicant is clearly confused as to the dates of his engagement. If indeed he served under General Davidson, he would have done so prior to February 1, 1781.

2 Veteran appears to be referring to the engagement at Hanging Rock, July 30, 1780, in which forces under William Richardson Davie were engaged against a force of Tories.

[http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_hanging\\_rock.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html)

3 Veteran probably is referring to the action at the Brick House (November 15, 1781).

[http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_brick\\_house.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_brick_house.html)

the Cavalry) & never received compensation for him, they killed a part of the Tories and took some prisoners. The Cavalry, then under Colonel Smith, expected the British to come out of Wilmington, to attack them, and retreated eight miles up Cape Fear River, where they encamped. In a few days after General Rutherford, commanding the Infantry came to their assistance, and all marched to Wilmington, which the British, hearing of their approach vacated, and took their ships, and finally left the Country. Shortly after they heard of the surrender of Cornwallis; ~~and~~ the troops were dismissed for the news of his surrender reached them.

Applicant states that he received no discharge in any case; but he states that he thinks his services amounted in all, to at least for six months.

He was born in Ireland, in 1755; he has no record of his age. He was living in Mecklenburg County North Carolina when called into service each time, where he lived 28 years. Thirty years ago he left there and moved to Blount County Tennessee and eleven years ago he moved from Blount to Monroe County where he has resided ever since.

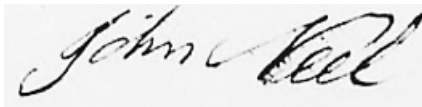
He states that Reverend George Snyder, Miller Isbell, Thomas J. Caldwell, Esq., David Caldwell, John Waugh & James Robinson are at present his neighbors, and can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution.

He has no documentary evidence, neither does he know of any person, 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 & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm J. Callaway, Clerk

S/ John Neel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Neel". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[George Snider, a clergyman, and Miller Isbell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[James Standifer, member of Congress, certified the application.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$22.50 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 3 months in the Infantry and for 3 months as a private in the Dragoons, all in the North Carolina militia.]