

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Nichols (Knows) S23823                      France  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 11 Sep 2015.

State of Pennsylvania Ss.  
County of Philadelphia

John Kanous now residing in the City of Philadelphia Being duly sworn doth depose and say that he enlisted in the Kingdom of France in January 1778 with Captain Blonde – Col Dulong – General Losing commander under the influence of Dr Franklin – for the term of During the War on the Continental Establishment of the North American Colonies and was in numerous engagements during the War, and was promised Eighty Dollars Bounty at the close of the War and bounty Land by Dr Franklin when he enlisted – neither of which he ever has received – that he served faithfully to the close of the War and was paid off his monthly wages and discharged at Wilmington Delaware at the close of the War 1783. And now prays the Secretary of the Treasury to inform him whether he is entitled to come in under the act of 13<sup>th</sup> May last or is forever to be excluded on account of being a french soldier who performed his duty faithfully during the Revolution. proofs of services in the American Army on the Continental Establishment during the war can be made.

Sworn and subscribed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 1820.                      John hisXmark Kanouse

Philadelphia July 23<sup>d</sup> 1825

[To Hon. James Barbour, Secretary of War]

John Canous, alias Nicholas a french soldier of the Revolution, states that he enlisted in the Kingdom of France in the month of January 1778 in the Corps of General Losing for the term of during the American Revolutionary War – In the Company commanded by Captain Blonde, Col Dulong. that said Corps landed at Newport Rhode Island, that he was in said Corps in the engagement at Kingsbridge in the State of New York, and was in no other engagement until the capture of Cornwallis in October 1781 and remained in said Corps until May 1783 when he was honorably discharged by his Officers having served out the full period of his enlistment until Peace between Great Britain and America; that his original Discharge which specified all these facts was given into the care of the late Honorable Cezar A Rodney deceased in 1806 and left by him in Washington City, and he understands that same was burnt at Washington City in 1814 by the british in the destruction of the public buildings: he also states that he employed a gentleman in Wilmington, Delaware whose name was Roarke now deceased, to prepare his papers for him to procure a pension and transmit the same to Washington where he believes them to be now on file: that in 1828 he was personally in Washington and saw the Secretary of War on the subject, who made some objection to his right to a pension on account of his being a frenchman and hired from the french goverment &c. The Honorable Lewis McLane was then his advocate and presented his claim for a pension. Said Canous now lives in Philadelphia is Eighty four years old, his wife seventy years old – has four children, there [these?] married: the youngest 36 years sickly but able to support hisself: that he although somewhat aged enjoys good health: has property sufficient to furnish one room where he lives on cheap rent with his wife in a house occupied by his son in law: that he has no property except a small supply of Household goods to furnish one room for himself and wife, and is now extremely poor and in need of a pension, or public charity.

Said Canous called twice upon General La Fayette [sic: Lafayette] on the subject of a pension and the General examined him and made a memorial of the principal facts which he has taken with him and will present to the Honourable Secretary of War on his arrival at Washington City, where this statement will remain as an outline of the facts until a proper time for investigation

Accept Sir the assurances of my sincere esteem and the Respect of your most humble servt  
Peter W Sproat/ No 62 Spruce st.

Philadelphia Oct'r 20<sup>th</sup> 1827.

Dear Sir [John Quincy Adams, President]:

By request of John Nicholas, a Soldier Enlisted in France in January 1778 for During the Revolutionary War, in the Corps under General Losing, raised by the influence of Dr Franklin, and who served During the War and was Honorably Discharged in 1783, and remained in America; who states that he called personally upon you at the Mansion House Hotel in this City, and that you kindly heard his story and directed him to address you by his agent &c

The claim of this Soldier of the Revolution was rejected in 1820 by Mr Calhoun, when Nicholas called personally upon him, on account of his his being a french soldier hired from the King of France and paid in full. Documents transmited to the Honourable Secretary of War July 27<sup>th</sup> 1825 on file at the department, and answered in like manner as by Mr Calhoun, in 1820 Nicholas states that he is now 86 years old, is poor, and in need of support.

I am Dear Sir, very respectfully  
your friend and humble Peter W Sproat

State of Pennsylvania } SS.  
City of Philadelphia }

On this thirteenth day of October Anno domini One thousand eight hundred and thirty two personally appeared before the Judges of the District Court for the City and County of Philadelphia John Nichols a resident of the City of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania of the age of Ninety one 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 Provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832. That he Enlisted in the Army of the United States on the first day of January 1778 in Paris, in France to Serve from that time until the end of the War. He was enlisted by Benjamin Franklin then Ambassador in France, and sailed from Paris in May 1778 in a Company of about 200 in number and arrived in Boston in July following and aftering doing duty in this Corps, a short time, they were attached to Colonel Toulon's Regiment; in which Major Passel also Commanded. the Company was Commanded by Captain Blondee, all from Paris. Deponent further says that at the time he Enlisted there were three others in the Corps whose surname was "Nichols" and on that account the Captain said Deponent must take the Name of "John Knows" under which name he was enlisted and known during the whole of his Service in the Army.

Deponent further says that he faithfully served in the said Company as a Soldier from the said time of his entering the Army in the Continental Line, and until he was regularly discharged in 1783 at Wilmington in the State of Delaware. That he was at the Battle of Kingsbridge in New York [possibly Lauzun's raid at Morrisania, 3 Jul 1781], and also at the Seige of Yorktown [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] and surrender of Lord Cornwallis; and participated in these & many other minor Engagements & skirmishes, that he marched with his Corps thro parts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

Deponent further says that at the end of the war he received his Discharge, which Document he delivered to Cesar A. Rodney Esq of Delaware about thirteen years ago; for the purpose of getting Deponent a pension but Mr. Rodney after having the Discharge some time mislaid it, as he informed Deponent and since then has departed this Life, and his family have not been able to find it

All those who served in the Company with deponent have departed this life, at least He knows of none who are now Living that can testify to his services, Except Michael Wolf whose deposition will be found hereto annexed.

Deponent Hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

John hisXmark Nichols

On the thirteenth day of October Anno Domini 1832 personally appeared Before the Judges of the District Court for the City and County of Philadelphia Michael Wolf of the age of 67 years & upwards who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that he is well acquainted with the

foregoing named Petitioner John Knows, by which name he was known in the Army, that while the deponent was in his youth he well recollects the said John Knows being in the revolutionary Service in the Continental Line in Colonel Toulon's Regiment, that he has many a time seen the said John Knows while on duty in the army and that he knows that the said John Knows was a Soldier and that he was at the Seige of York town and Surrender of Lord Cornwallis and that he was regularly discharged at Wilmington in Delaware as he has stated. Deponent further says that he cannot say how long in the whole that the said John Knows was in the Army, but he distinctly recollects that his first acquaintance with the said John Knows was in the Army, it was there he first saw him, and from the time he first knew him to the time of his discharge as aforesaid was Seven Months, but deponent always understood that the said John Knows had been in the Army a good while before their acquaintance together as above stated. Deponent does not now recollect the other Officers of the Corps to which John Knows was attached but the facts above stated are clear in his memory. [signed] Michael Woolf

NOTE: Although pensions were not as a rule granted to foreign soldiers, on 26 Feb 1833 Nichols was issued a pension for \$80 per year.