

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of James Nowell S25331

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[To] Colo. John E. Howard Baltimore
fav'd.[?] by James Nowel

Hager's Town [Hagerstown MD]. Feby 21st 1811

My Dear Sir

Among the few Old Veterans of the Revolution who have survived the wreck of time, and left to experience the aches & pains of a severe servitude is the Bearer James Nowell, who enlisted in the Company of Capt [Alexander] Truman of the 6th Regiment as a Fifer, went to the Southward took his musket & at the 2^d. action of Camden served in the Brave Capt. Smiths Company, where he received as he informs me a second wound. Having (as appears by Doctor Parrans Certificate been previously wounded to the North. I recollect Nowel very well, but as you know after the above mentioned action I was sent to Charlotte with the wounded & his not being a Bad wound he remained in Camp & was attended by Doctor Warfield. I cannot bear Testimony of his having been wounded in that action - but from his ac't[?] I have no doubt that the disability he labours under at present is occasioned in a great measure by those wounds, heightened no doubt by the want of the Proper Clothing & the uncommon hardships our Troops had to encounter in those disastrous times. Since Nowel came to this County which is about 11 years I can vouch for his having conducted himself as an upright, honest, Industrious man - few men having made greater exertions to acquire a Competency, but as he grows older he finds himself every day getting less capable of bodily exertion. He has avoided applying to his Country from hope that he could live by his own efforts, but is now sensible that these hopes were vain. He has long been decrepid in the leg he was wounded in which every day grows more afflictive & must soon deprive of the use of that limb. He has a Family of eight Children - five of them small & all of whom dependent on his exertions. He applied to Congress two Sessions past, & obtained Certificates, which were of no avail, not having provided to take them as the Law directs. He now goes to Baltimore to apply to Judge Houston for a Commission to take depositions, and applied to me for a letter to you, to interest you in his behalf, which I am sure was unnecessary as I well know your attachment to the Old Soldiers and your unceasing efforts to render the eving[?] of their Lives Comfortable. His living remote, his Ignorance of any Law having passed to provide pensions for the wounded & the hope of being able to live by his own personal exertions [one or two missing words] sufficient to satisfy the Judge why he [one or two missing words] applied sooner. You will probably recollect Nowel as you once interceded to procure him the office of Post Rider, & will of Course give him a line to Judge Houston.

With best wishes for your Health and [one or two illegible words] - and that of your [illegible word] Family. I remain your truly Aff't. Friend. R. Pindell
P.S. Should you not have suff't. recollection of Nowel you can inform the Judge who [illegible word] RP

[In a deposition dated 8 June 1811 Dr. Richard Pindell further stated that Nowell suffered from a stiff finger.]

By virtue of ye annexed Commission, the Commissioner therein named proceeded to ta[page torn here and at *] the Evidence offer'd by Mr. James Nowell, wh[*] appeared Doct'r. Thomas Parran who after being duly sworn, deposes and sayeth that he recollects perfectly well James Nowell was a Soldier in ye Revolutionary War, he acti[*] as a Fifer to Capt. Truemans Company of ye 6th Maryland Regiment, and that he did receive an Accidental wound in one of his Legs from a Bayonet in ye encampment of ye Regiment, and that he as Surgeon to said Regiment [several illegible words] and did dress a[*] attend to ye case, he knew Nowell well, and during his continuance with ye Regiment behaved himself as an orderly good Soldier

There being no further evidence to offer do accordingly close ye Commission. given under my Hand and Seal this 5th day of April 1811. Rich'd. Grahams

Te deposition of John Eager Howard who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Maryland line in the Revolutionary War, who deposeth and sayeth that he well remembers giving a certificate many years ago of the said James Nowel having served in the Maryland line of the army and of his having been wounded. That when the said certificate was given the circumstances of the war were fresh in his memory. That at this time many of those circumstances have so far escaped his recollection that he does not remember at what action or in what part the said Nowel was wounded; he can only recollect that the said Nowel was a good soldier and was wounded, and he believes he served with the Maryland line in Carolina. John E. Howard

Sworn to before me the subscriber this twenty fourth day of December 1811

F. Tilghman

State of Maryland, Prince Georges County SS

On the twenty eighth day of March 1815 came Capt. James Somervill [or Somerville], late of the 6th Maryland Regiment, before me a Justice of the peace for said County, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that James Nowell served in the Revolutionary War, in Capt. Truemans Company of the 6th Maryland Regiment, that he went to the Southward with the Maryland Troops in 1780, that he understood & verily believes that the said Nowell served to the end of the War. This deponent being badly wounded, having lost an Arm near Camden the 16th August 1780 [Battle of Camden SC], he returned home and never rejoin'd the Southern Army afterwards. He now draws half pay as Captain. Sworn before John Naylor

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled, the petition of James Nowell of Washington County Maryland, an invalid soldier of the Revolutionary Army respectfully sheweth - That your petitioner was drafted for nine months service in the Maryland Militia in the year 1777. That in the year 1778 he enlisted as a regular soldier in Captain Trueman's Company, 6th Maryland Regiment and served in the Army until the end of the War, and was honourably discharged in the year 1783. That he was accidentally wounded in the leg at Elizabeth Town New Jersey, That afterwards he was in service to the Southward, was at the battle of the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781], and was again wounded in the leg at Guildford Court House [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. That he was at the second battle of Camden [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC, 25 Apr 1781] under General [Nathanael] Greene and was wounded in the wrist, and was also at the engagement at the Eutaw Springs [SC, 8 Sep 1781] under the said officer, and was engaged almost constantly in service until the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. That your petitioner has never received any pension from the United States, and only a few months past received a warrant for his land. That since the expiration of the War he has endeavoured to support his family by honest industry, although disabled by wounds received in the service of his Country, and he has no doubt, but that he would long ago have been placed on the pension list, had he applied in a proper manner. That he would not now apply, but age and poverty and a large family all urge him, to claim what others in a similar situation have been allowed. That your petitioner would refer your Honourable Body among other papers hereto annexed, to the letter from Doctor Richard Pindell to Col'l. John E. Howard - to Col'l. Howards deposition, and to the depositions of Doctor Thomas Parron, and Doctor Pindell. That it is unknown to your petitioner where Doctor Warfield (who dressed his wounds when in service to the Southward) resides, or whether he is alive or not, but your petitioner can shew his wounds if required, and he can give such plain and circumstantial accounts of the Campaigns in which he served as would satisfy the most incredulous; and although at this late period he may not be able to comply with every precise form of law, his claim he affirms upon his honour is honest and just. He therefore prays that he may be placed on the pension list as a Musician in which capacity he served for a considerable time during the War, and that his pension may be paid to him from the close of the War, or from such time as your Honourable Body may consider just and proper; and your petitioner will ever pray.

[signed] James Nowell

Febr. 22^d. 1816