

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Reuben Nail S31877

f37GA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 1/23/09: rev'd 9/6/17 & 1/24/23

[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 'indcipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 3]

State of Georgia Tattnall County }

On this Sixth day of May 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Inferior Court of said County when sitting for Ordinary purposes Reuben Nail a resident of the County of Tattnall and State of Georgia who was born in the State of Virginia Amherst County in the year 1761 age seventy-two years the record of which he has in his family Bible at his residence in Tattnall County 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He enlisted as a volunteer under Capt. John Pullum in the Spring of 1775 in the County of Wilkes in the State of Georgia and was first stationed at Petersburg on the Savannah River for the space of two months at the expiration of which we marched up Broad River about twenty five miles from thence and built the garrisons called Nailes Fort, and was stationed under Capt. Joseph Nail where we had frequent skirmishes with the Indians, and remained there under the orders of Col. John Dooley [John Dooly] until the capture of Charleston by the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] when we were compelled to leave Fort Nail and we fled to South Carolina and joined Col. Elijah Clarke at Ninety Six district of said State and after a period of two months we joined the General Morgan [Daniel Morgan] at Grindal Shoals on Pacolet River, we then marched to the Cowpens where we had an engagement [Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781]<sup>1</sup> with Col. Talton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] and defeated him and his Army. We then were ordered by General Morgan to march as a guard over some prisoners to Island Ford on the Catawba River in the State of North Carolina we were then ordered down to Batey's Ford [sic, Beatties Ford]<sup>2</sup> on the same River and put under the command of Major James Jackson at which place we engaged Lord Cornwallis for the space of two hours when we were defeated -- we fled and attempted to join General Morgan but were prevented by the British and we succeeded in joining Col. Clarke and marched back to

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

<sup>2</sup> Beatties Ford on the Catawba River was the site of skirmishes with elements of Cornwallis' forces on February 1, 1781. The main engagement was at Cowan's Ford with main forces of Cornwallis.  
[https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cowans\\_ford.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html)

South Carolina where we had an engagement at Mapers Mill [? Masses Mill?] <sup>3</sup> with Major Dunlap [James Dunlap] <sup>4</sup> and succeeded in killing him and defeating his Army. We then marched with the prisoners back to North Carolina to the County of Rutherford we staid there four or five days and then marched back to Georgia and rendezvoused at Rightsborough [sic, Wrightsborough] in the County of Richmond (now Columbia County) and marched to Augusta and joined Col. Clarke again, where we had several skirmishes with the British, Indians and Tories after Augusta was taken from the British we marched against the Cherokee Indians under Col. Clarke and had an engagement with them at the long swamp Town on the High Souer River [sic, Hiwassee River?] <sup>5</sup> where we defeated them after which we made a Treaty with them and returned home and received a verbal discharge by Col. Clarke. He has resided since the Revolution in the State of Georgia and in the County of Tattnall where he now resides since the year 1800 and the following persons to wit John Coward a clergyman & Alan Johnson living in my neighborhood know me and Kansas testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. 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 the day and year aforesaid.

S/ H. A. Smith, JIC

S/ Reuben Nail, X his mark

S/ A. B. Strickland, JIC

S/ William Deloatch, JIC

[John Coward, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

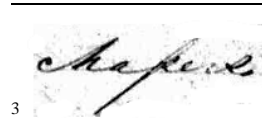
[p 32]

State of Georgia Tattnall County

On this 14th day of October 1833 personally appeared before the Inferior Court of said County Reuben Nail a resident of the County and State aforesaid, who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration made on the 6th day of May last in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer in the militia in the spring of 1775 and continued in service until the close of the war and that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a soldier of the Revolution for that William Kemp <sup>6</sup> and William Sulivan [William Sullivan] the only two persons who lived in his neighborhood who knew of your petitioner's

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3

<sup>4</sup> The circumstances of the capture and killing of James Dunlap are a matter of some controversy. See <http://www.overmountainvictory.org/Gtown.htm> for a detailed review of theories and facts relating to Dunlap and his demise. Search for "The Hated Major James Dunlap." [site viewed 9/5/17] Dunlap was taken prisoner at the engagement at Beatties Mill, March 21, 1781.

[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_beatties\\_mill.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_beatties_mill.html)



5

<sup>6</sup> Probably [William Kemp R5856](#)

services has removed without the State of Georgia.

He here makes oath as to the length of service which he performed as near as his memory serves him from the effects of old age.

Personally appeared before me Allen Johnson a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Tattnall and State of Georgia Reuben Nail who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served during the several campaigns which he was in service not less than 5 years as a private, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to before me the 14th of October 1833

S/ A. Johnson, JP

S/ Reuben Nail, X his mark

[p 30]

State of Georgia Tattnall County

On this 14th day of October 1834 personally appeared in open court before His Honor William W. Holt Judge of the Superior Court of the middle district of the State aforesaid Reuben Nail a resident of the County and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following amendment to his declaration made on the 6th day of May 1833 in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. He here makes oath as to the length of service which he performed as near as his memory serves him from the effect of old age.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the 43rd District for the County of Tattnall and State of Georgia Reuben Nail who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below. He entered the service of the United States as a volunteer under Capt. John Pullum in the spring of 1775 and was actively engaged for two months and then was stationed for the balance of the year at the place afterwards called Nails Fort which deponent assisted in making. Deponent was stationed at Nails Fort as a part of the Garrison until the surrender of Charleston, he was then compelled to leave Fort Nail and joined Col. Elijah Clarke at Ninety Six and after being actively engaged for the space of two months joined General Morgan and marched to the Cowpens and had an engagement with Col. Tarleton and defeated him, deponent was actively engaged during the summer of that campaign from the month of June, deponent was actively employed for several months each campaign and was continually on the alert in defending the frontiers and the balance of his service was in Garrison, adding the active services of deponent each campaign deponent according to his recollection served two years and the balance of the time in Garrison and for such service I claim a pension. And deponent further states that he was employed in no civil pursuit during his service.

Sworn to before me this 14th of October 1834.

S/ A. Johnson, JP

S/ Reuben Nail, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for one year in the Georgia militia.]