

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Neill S38256

f30NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 10/25/16

[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.]

State of Kentucky, County of Union: SS

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Union County, James Neill, a resident of said County and State aged Seventy Eight 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<sup>th</sup> 1832 – That in the latter part of the year 1779 or first of 1780, he was a citizen of Rowan County in the State of North Carolina when and where as a volunteer soldier he enlisted or joined the militia company commanded by his uncle, Captain Gilbreath Falls [sic, Galbraith Falls] of said County – that Joseph Byers was Lieutenant – by what authority he was called into service he cannot recollect, but it was and is believed by him that he was one of militia of North Carolina called into service in aid of the American Revolution – that in the month of June 1780, he thinks and believes it was, he marched in said militia company to the Catawba [River] in Lincoln County – that about 600 militia met there and were under the command of Colonel James Rutherford [sic, then Major James Rutherford] – that he was marched with the Regiment from the place of rendezvous against the Tories encamped at Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780]<sup>1</sup> where they attacked them in their camp and after a desperate and destructive action defeated them – this was the first fighting he had seen – the Tories were under the command of Colonel Moore [John Moore] and he thinks Welch & Brown also – in that affair Captain Falls and Captain Neill of the North Carolina militia were killed among others – that afterwards the militia returned home.

That in the same year (but the time he cannot state) Captain Alexander Davidson of Rowan County raised a militia company and he joined it as a soldier – Andrew Carr was Lieutenant and John Thompson – Ensign – that he marched with Captain Davidson's company from Rowan County to Salisbury where they were met by other companies and where General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] took command of the detachments and marched them through Anson County to near the Cheraw Hills where the British Army was encamped – the British retreated to Camden – General Rutherford then marched them to Lynches Creek where they were joined by other troops all under the command of General Gates [Horatio Gates], who marched them to Rugeley's Mill where they remained several days – General Gates then detached about 1800 man (of which this declarant was one) to march within six or 8 miles of Camden under the command of Colonel Porterfield [Lieutenant Colonel Charles Porterfield of the Virginia State Troops] and Major Harris [perhaps Thomas Harris, aide-de-camp for Griffith Rutherford] – they remained, he thinks, two days and nights at the plain where they were halted and commencing their march for Camden in the night, they were met by the British Army & there had a skirmish that night they were joined by the balance of Gates' Army -- fought the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html)

battle called the Battle of Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780]<sup>2</sup> -- in this action his Captain Davidson was killed and Colonel Porterfield was wounded and he believes died of the wound early in the action at night, Major Harris was also wounded – upon the defeat the Army of General Gates was dispersed and he returned home.

But a few days after his return, he again marched under the command of his Lieutenant Byers to Mecklenburg County near Charlotte and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Davy [William Richardson Davie] – Joseph Dickson was the Major – the British Army occupied Charlotte – Colonel Davie kept his Regiment on duty in watching and attacking the foraging parties of the British – this declarant aided in defeating four such parties – one of those times was at David McCreey's [?] farm where under the command of Major Dickson they defeated the foraging party and took, burned and destroyed nine of their wagons loaded principally with corn in the shuck – they were kept on duty by Colonel Davie in harassing parties of the British Army in their advance upon the Country after the Battle of Camden and afterwards upon the retreat of the British they were occupied in harassing and attacking at different places, and at the end of the year he returned home.

In January (he thinks) 1781 he volunteered as a private in the company raised by Captain Wilson [William Wilson] in Rowan County and went and joined the detachment under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], and was with him and engaged in the Battle at the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]<sup>3</sup> in which Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] was defeated, continued with the detachment on the retreat with the prisoners till they reached the Catawba where he with others was left under command of Col. Davidson [sic, General William Lee Davidson] to prevent the British Army from crossing at Cowan's Ford – the British forced their way across the Catawba and Genl Davidson was killed in the action [February 1, 1781]<sup>4</sup> and [the] American Detachment was disbursed – it was a wet day and on their retreat in small parties they were attacked by the British horse and driven into the swamps – he with some others at last reached Torrens's Tavern [sic, Tarrant's or Torrance's Tavern]<sup>5</sup> where they met Colonel Farmer [Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Farmer] with upwards of 300 militia -- they had been there at a short time when they were overtaken and attacked by the British horse and light troops and were defeated and cut to pieces and entirely disbursed, a great number of the militia were killed among others Major Grimes, he thinks the action took place late in the evening and that night he got to his home very sick with the small pox which confined him till the month of June and prevented him from assisting his Country in the at Battles of Guilford & Camden fought by Genl Greene [Nathanael Greene].

So soon as he recovered from the small pox, Captain Francis Cunningham of Lincoln County raised a company and this declarant joined it as a soldier – that we marched immediately and joined Genl Greene's Army engaged in carrying on the Siege of Ninety Six [May 21-June 19, 1781]<sup>6</sup> – sometime after he joined the Army before 96 the siege was raised in consequence of the approach of the British reinforcements – it was thought at the time that in twenty-four hours 96 could have been taken – he retreated with Greene's Army to the hills and continued with it, was in the Battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]<sup>7</sup> in which he received a flesh wound in the thigh from a bullet and had each arm slightly wounded with a bayonet – after that battle he was discharged – he received many discharges signed by his Captain and some signed by his Colonel some for 30 days, some for six weeks, some for three months and one for six months –

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_camden.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cowans\\_ford.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cowans_ford.html)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_tarrants\\_tavern.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_tarrants_tavern.html)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ninety\\_six.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ninety_six.html)

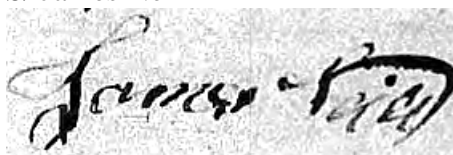
<sup>7</sup> [http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_eutaw\\_springs.html](http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_eutaw_springs.html)

all of them have been lost – he was in the Army and on duty with the exception of a few days at a time and excepting the time he lay sick with the small pox from June 1780 to December 1781 – he has no record of his age – he lived in Rowan County till the year 1796 when he moved to Logan County Kentucky where he lived until 1828 when he moved to Morgan County Illinois and moved from there to Union County Kentucky where [he] now resides in September 1832 – he is not acquainted with any Clergyman in the County having lately moved here and there are not more than three living in the County. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure you can testify to his service – Captain William Porter and James Forgy [?] who died some years since in Logan County Kentucky were the last of his acquaintances by whom he could have proved his services.

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 any agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Neill

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Neill", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[William Banks and Vardaman Taylor gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 18]

State of Kentucky Logan County: SS

The affidavit of Leonard Anderson<sup>8</sup> taken at the clerk's office in Russellville the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 1834. This affiant being now in the eightieth year of his age saith that he is well acquainted with James Neill, now of Union County Kentucky who is an applicant for a pension under the provisions of the Statute of the United States of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1832.

He further saith that he was acquainted with said Neill during the Revolutionary War – that said Neill was a Staunch Whig, as was all his family, he saw said Neill first in the service of the United States at Ramsour's Mills, he saw him at the Skirmish at Cheraw Hills, He saw him at the Battle of Gates defeat, He saw him at the battle of Eutaw Springs & also at the battle of the Cowpens and each of which fights said Neill acquitted himself like a good Soldier to the best of this affiant's recollection said Neill was in actual service in the Army of the United States three years during the War of the Revolution.

S/ Leonard Anderson, X his mark

[p 20]

State of Tennessee Robertson County:

I do hereby certify this 2 day of December 1833 personally appeared before me Bartley Pitts one of the acting Justices of the peace and enforce it County and State aforesaid Robert Neil and after being duly sworn &c according to law. Deposeth and saith as follows, that James Neill and James Neill [sic] one of my Brothers came to my father's during the Revolutionary war in America – and said that they was just from the American army, and sometime afterwards and I believe just after the battle of Ramsour's Mill, the said James Neill brought my brother William Neill's clothing to my father's and said that, he was killed in the Battle at Ramsour's Mill, which afterwards turned out to be the fact that the said William Neill was killed and at the time and place that the said James Neill had stated &c and further this Deponent Saith not this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of

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<sup>8</sup> [Leonard Anderson W8329](#)

December 1833

Test:

S/ Bartley Pitts, JP

S/ Robert Neill



[p 23: the images of the following documents are of very poor quality: use the following with more than the normal caution.]

State of Kentucky County of Union: SS

On this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 1836 personally appeared before the Union County Court Composed of the Honorable James M Higgins, [indecipherable name] & J S Chapman Justices of the said Court James Neill a resident of the County of Union and State of Kentucky aged eighty-three years of age the 24 day of March 1836 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<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served under them as is hereafter stated: General Rutherford, General Gates, General Davidson, Colonel Davey, Colonel Porterfield, General Morgan, Major Dixon, Major Harris, Major Gwin, Major Johnson Captain Falls, Captain Crawford, Captains Davie Ramsey, Captain Davidson Wilson Lieutenants Thompson, Byers and A. Carr

That he entered the service of the United States (the date not Recollected) as a volunteer in the militia in the State of North Carolina that he then resided in said State in the County of Rowan, he was mustered into service of Captain Gilbreth Falls and was attached to the regiment Commanded by Colonel James Rutherford and we were marched from Rowan County to Lincoln County in the State of North Carolina and at Ramsour's Mill in said state we met a strong force of the Tories commanded by a fellow by the name of Moore, and we had a warm and bloody engagement with them and after we sustained a severe loss of men we whipped them and took several prisoners. This battle was fought in the month of June, the year not recollected but he recollects it was the commencement of harvest. After the battle was over at Ramsour's Mill on the same day the Army commanded by General Rutherford the father of our Colonel came on and we were attached thereto and marched on to the mouth of Rock River [Rocky River] on the Pede [Pee Dee River] and in the [indecipherable word] we came up with an army of the enemy composed of British and Tories, we attacked them early in the morning wading Rock River to get to them, and after a Smart engagement<sup>9</sup> we whipped them and took a large number of prisoners we should have succeeded in taking a greater number if it had not of been for the failure of a detachment under Colonel Shepherd who was to have come up on the South side of the river to prevent the escape of the enemy in that quarter, he said his failure was owing to his getting lost on his route – this action took place a short time after the Battle of Ramsour's Mill the Tories was commanded by a fellow by the name of Forg's [?]<sup>10</sup> as well as he now recollects we was marched from the us to a place called the Cheraw Hills, and from there to Lynches Creek and after we had crossed the same we met with the American Army commanded by General Gates and was attached thereto and the whole American army was then marched to a place called Rugeley's Mill where we were stationed a few days and we was then marched along in the

<sup>9</sup> I believe the veteran is describing the engagement at Colson's Mill in Montgomery County, NC, July 21, 1780. [http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_colsons\\_mill.html](http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_colsons_mill.html)

direction of Camden and about six miles before we got Camden at the place called Gum Swamp Creek we met the British Army commanded by lords Rawdon or Cornwallis or perhaps both an early in the morning he believes in the month of August the year not recollected the Battle commenced after a long and severe Struggle we were forced to retreat back from South Carolina where the battle was fought to Mecklenburg County North Carolina his Captain Alexander Davidson was taken prisoner also General Rutherford I understood that his son Colonel Rutherford took a flag and went to see his father which [bottom portion of the paper damaged and text is missing]. Shortly after the battle of Camden the British Army was marched up to the Town of Charlotte in County of Mecklenburg & State of North Carolina where they [several indecipherable words] to which he was attached was stationed in the same county watching the motions of the enemy and suppressing and cutting off foraging parties, he states that he was not at the battle that was fought at Guilford owing to his then having the smallpox but he was before that in the battle of the Cowpens under General Morgan – he was in the company of Captain Wilson, the detachment to which he belonged before the battle of the Cowpens was joined by General Morgan's Brigade near the line between North & South Carolina and we was marched into South Carolina where the battle was fought in this battle we took upwards of 600 prisoners, the Dragoons under the command of Colonel Washington pursued the British some distance after the battle was over this battle was fought on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January the year not recollected we marched from the battle of the Cowpens up to Salisbury in Rowan County & State of North Carolina with the British pursuing and from thence they was sent to Albemarle barracks in the State of Virginia, he states that he [several indecipherable words] at the Catawba River near Cowans Ford in North Carolina and at Cowans Ford we met the British Army under Lord Cornwallis and we attempted to prevent to prevent [sic] them crossing but did not succeed in this encounter General Davidson fell, we retreated all that day before the British Army having occasional Skirmishes and later in the evening we was joined by Colonel Farmer who had 300 men under his command at Tarrant's Tavern we there made a stand & gave the British battle and we was defeated with great slaughter he was then under the command of Captain Crawford. This affiant states that he was in service in the State North Carolina as a guard on the frontier against the Indians & Tories under Colonel Hugh Brevard, Captain Nicholas Strupper for three months this affiant states that from old age & a severe spell of sickness is recollection is greatly impaired but he has no hesitation in saying that he was in the actual service of the United States four years or more as heretofore [stated], he does hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the one claimed in this & former Declarations & he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State &c Sworn & Subscribed the day & year for said

S/ James Neill

[William Morison, a clergyman, and Peter Wooding gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]