

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Neal S38257

f43VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/7/13

[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. 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 fails 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

On the 3rd day of June 1818 before the County Court of Wood County in the Commonwealth of Virginia personally came James Neal aged eighty-one years a resident of said County who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late Act of Congress entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" – That he the said James Neal entered the service of the said United States in the revolutionary War as a Captain in the 13th Virginia Regiment which was afterwards reduced to the 9th and again to the 7th Regiment in General Muhlenberg's [Peter Muhlenberg's] Brigade and General Green's [Nathanael Greene's ?] division – but from his age and infirmities he cannot remember in what year that he continued to serve in said Corps and in the service of the United States for about the term of three years when he was under the necessity of resigning to provide for the support of a young and an helpless family living in and exposed situation on the frontiers of Virginia but in what year he resigned cannot recollect – neither can he recollect in what State he resigned – That his Commission has been lost or destroyed but how or when he is unable to say – That he was in the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and German Town [Germantown, October 4, 1777] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support, And that he has no other evidence now in his power of said services –

Whereupon the Court doth certify that it appears to its entire satisfaction that the said James Neal did serve as a Captain in the revolutionary war as stated in the preceding declaration against the Common Enemy for the Term of nearly three years upon the Continental establishment; And now transmit the proceedings and testimony taken and had to the Secretary of the war Department pursuant to the directions of the aforesaid Act of Congress –

In testimony that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the Records of said Court, I James H Neal clerk thereof have hereunto set my hand and applied the Seal of my office at the Court House of said County 13th day of June 1818

S/ J. H. Neal, CWC

Commonwealth of Virginia Wood County to wit

On this 4th day of September 1820 personally appeared in open Court in the County Court of Wood County being a court of record having unlimited Common Law Jurisdiction and an official seal James Neal aged eighty-three years resident in Wood County in the Commonwealth aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war as follows: That he was commissioned a Captain in the 13th Virginia Regiment upon the Continental establishment which Regiment afterwards reduced to the 9th and again to the 7th and General Muhlenberg's Brigade and General Green's division but cannot

recollect the year he received his Commission. That he continued to serve in said Poor or in the service of the United States for about the Term of three years when he was under the necessity of resigning to provide for the support of a young and helpless family living in and exposed Situation on the frontiers of Virginia but in what year or in what State he resigned cannot remember. That his Commission has been lost but how or when he is unable to say. And that he was in the Battles of Brandywine & Germantown. That he has received a certificate of pension from the 3rd day of June 1818 issued on the 8th day of June 1820 being numbered 17443. That by profession he is a farmer but is unable to pursue any business whatever to support himself, And that he has no other person living with him but one Domestic considerably Advanced in life and unhealthy and who is barely capable of attending to him in his old age without being of any assistance to obtain a Support –

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

Schedule of property above referred to –

One cow & calf, one Slave considerably advanced in age unhealthy and infirm, one kettle, one oven, about 10 bushels of wheat, about 25 bushels of corn, 2 milk pans & a basin water bucket & Pigin to 10 cups 2 bowls one coffee pot 5 plates part of a set of cups and saucers – part of a set of knives & forks one old chest 5 empty barrels 3 ½ acres of land cleared & of tolerable good-quality one 10 cattle a small quantity pickled pork & bacon one ax one plow one hoe

S/ James Neal

Sworn to & declared in open Court the 4th day of September 1820

[f p. 36]

Virginia Wood County: SS

Personally Came before the subscriber one of the Justices of the County Court of said County Colonel Hugh Phelps & Major James G Laidley who being duly sworn according to law deposed & say that they are well acquainted with James Neal a Captain in the revolutionary War and now an applicant for a Pension under the late Act of Congress – that they know him to be the same James Neal of Wood County Virginia as described & mentioned in an affidavit of David Steel & Jacob Springer and that he is in very reduced circumstances & stands in need of the assistance of his Country for a support. The Deponents further state that although they do not know the fact of their own knowledge yet they have always heard it stated as a thing of notoriety that the said James Neal did serve as a Captain in the Revolutionary War upon the Continental establishment for about the Term of 3 years – They further state that the said Neal is now very infirm, having almost entirely lost his [indecipherable word] – Scarcely recognizing his own children.

S/ Hugh Phelps

S/ James G. Laidley

Sworn to and subscribed the 26 day of January 1820

S/ W. Holliday, JP

[f p. 40]

Allegheny County Sc

David Steel & Jacob Springer the former a Captain in the latter a Lieutenant in the American War came before me and being sworn according to law depose and saith that James Neal now of Wood County in Virginia was a Captain in the 13th Virginia Regiment in the revolutionary War under his Excellency General George Washington that the said Neal's commission board date the 6th day of December 1776 to the best of their knowledge and belief and that the said James continued in said service until early in the year 1780

Sworn and Subscribed before me a justice of the peace the 24th of September 1806

Signed

A. Richardson

signed

S/ David Steel

S/ Jacob Springer

[f p. 40]

The Honorable the Governor & Executive Council of Virginia

The subscriber as attorney in fact for James Neal & David Steel late officers in the Virginia line & in the Army of the United States, begs leave to make a few remarks in favor of these old servants to the public – And he quickly that service is required by those who received military land warrants, certificates of those services are the only evidence attainable and I presume the most credible as such as are laid before your Honorable board to wit from their fellow servants: In the latter part of the year 1776 & immediately after the armies of the United States had been beaten in all quarters the grand or main Army completely defeated and scouted from New York, there were patriotic committees formed in many parts of the United States, and in that part now subject to the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania though 10 claimed by Virginia, one of these committees was formed by the citizens of the Counties of Yohoganly [Yohogania] and Monongalia. This committee resolved that a Regiment of men should be forth with raised for three years to reinforce our Army, this committee appointed captains, lieutenants &c, &c amongst whom were this Captain Neal & Captain Steel, who immediately on faith of said committee proceeded to recruit their companies without waiting for public money or further assurances as I verily believe these gentlemen immediately on raising their companies marched with them to the grand Where they continued during the year 1777. Then on account of the debilitated state of the Western Country occasioned by the laudable spirit of its inhabitants and the incursions of the Indians aided by the British these troops with some Pennsylvania troops were marched to Pittsburgh and more [indecipherable word] under the command of General McIntosh in which service they continued as appears from the evidence of Captain Neal continued until sometime in 1780 & Captain Steel until sometime in 1781 when the same spirit that induced them to engage in their countries service would naturally impel them to leave said service the expiration of three years entitled many soldiers to their discharge many of whom did not choose to reenlist. Two or three regiments in many instances were now consolidated into one, by this arrangement many officers became according to their phrase supernumerary, void of command, entitled to return to their respective homes and to draw half pay – Where is there a friend to his country in such distressing times that would not spurn at being an expense to the public without rendering a service equivalent! Captain Steel offers his resignation; the General refused to accept it, solicits his services as a mathematician as an aid to General D. C. Captain Steel enters into this laborious service in the year 1779 and continues in at until 1781 says Mister Springer. Captain Israel knows him to be in the service in 1780. The services rendered by these officers in these latter years was within the limits then claimed by Virginia, as Pittsburgh was

then claimed by Virginia & in the County of Yohogania, the most westerly Garrison Fort Lawrence [Fort Laurens] on Muskingum River, now in Ohio State which said Steel laid out and between these 2 last named post (and at them) he, said Steel, rendered his latter services all within the limits of Virginia according to her former claims. It appears that Messrs. U. Springer & J. Springer have both received their bounty of L. warrants all in the same Regiment, being first commanded by General McIntosh then by General Broadhead – but Captain Steel left his company and acted as an aid to General D. C. as appears by the evidence wise shall this debar him of his wages any more than if he had been an aid to General McIntosh – since the good of the public & his commanding officers required it = Immediately on the close of the war with Great Britain, Virginia abandons her claim to all of the County of Yohogany & to part of Ohio and Monongalia counties. Monongalia Courthouse first stood several miles north of the present western boundary line of Pennsylvania and abandons her friends at the same time to the Scoff of the Pennsylvanians reserving to them the land titles only, as many had obtained Virginia titles to their lands within the present limits of Pennsylvania. Virginia and then cedes to the United States all them valuable lands northwest of Ohio River for the consideration of 00 a few trifling reservations only accepted – Under these circumstances the principal part of the most active Virginians leaves Pennsylvania and sacrifice a great deal of their property – Captain Neal goes to L. Kanawha erects a Fort which serves as a redoubt to the frontiers of Virginia during the Indian war. Captain Steel settles in a small tract to which he had a Virginia title near of Ohio River below Pittsburg in a frontier also, still these men are viewed by Pennsylvania as in surgeons – I have witnessed some abuses offered this class of Virginians on account of their zeal for their mother State. I trust that these men will without hesitation have their Land warrants granted to them – why should Virginia in the first instance be excessive liberal to the United States & then deny the old patriot & one out soldier is harder earnings and bestow it on a thankless community –

I am Gentlemen in haste, with great respect your Obedient Servant

S/ John Stokely

[Note: The above doesn't appear to have a date, but it is included with other documents dated in 1806.]

[f p. 10: letter dated December 23, 1850 in which reference is made to a Mrs. Mary Foley of Wood County Virginia who states that she was formerly miss Mary Neal the sole devisee of her father James Neal. There is a statement in this letter that James Neal died in Wood County Virginia in 1821 while a pensioner of the United States.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing June 3, 1818, for service as a Captain in the Virginia Continental line for 3 years.]

[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Parkersburg October 28 1819

Sir,

My father James Neal a Captain in the Revolution applied some time sense for a pension under the late Act of Congress but which was suspended until evidence of his Services could be procured. I have understood that such evidence is filed in your Office upon an application for a

Land Warrant for Military Services in the Virginia line. I would consider myself as greatly obliged if you will have the goodness to copy such documents as will be proved such Services and forward them to me at this place. It will naturally occur to you that they must be properly authenticated. Please forward the Copies as early as practicable and [indecipherable word or words] with your other official duties. I am ignorant of your fees or words enclose them. But I pledge myself to forward them by our Representatives or by mail. If you feel unwilling to take [one or more indecipherable words] call upon the clerk of the General Court who can inform you of my standing in the County.

Yours, &c
S/ James H. Neal