

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Newsum (Newsam) S4612

f28VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/13/13

[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.]

State of Tennessee Maury County – Circuit Court October Term 1832

On this 23rd day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before me William E Kennedy Judge of the Circuit Court of Maury County now sitting William Newsum a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged about seventy-two 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 act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as hereinafter stated –

Applicant was born on the 28th day of August 1761 in South-Hampton [Southampton] County State of Virginia his father had died before this event, & his mother a few days after – he was raised among his relations in different parts of the state. In 1779 he was living in Greenville County, applicant turned out as a volunteer under the command of Captain William Nelson, a son of General Nelson, Captain Nelson & most of his company were high Young Virginians who did not either need or care for pay – furnished themselves, & held for themselves in readiness to fight in defense of their own and other Countries invaded rights & honors whenever they were called on by circumstances to do so and were what was called minute man – In the spring of 1779 – we went down to Hampton on the coast, to prevent the British from landing, we remained here some 7 or 8 weeks, from Hampton we returned home & were disbanded until further orders and occasioned 3 or 4 months, ready to turn out & march at a moments warning; the British however had left Hampton Rhodes [Hampton Roads] in the meantime – In the fall of the same year we understood they were about to return; Captain Nelson & his company of which applicant was still a member were among the first to march against them – we again went down to Hampton for the same purpose as before – & remained about 6 or 8 weeks, were again disbanded and went home, there were no regular troops here & applicant, does not now recollect who had the principal command of the Militia – Applicant with a few of his young companions went down to the City of Williamsburg where Colonel Ennis [possibly Colonel James Innis], a militia officer was stationed with some 7 or 800 men, he was there attached to Captain Armistead's Company – he remained here about a month – when the British came on us with a force of some 4000 troops & drove us from our posts – The British troops were under the command of Generals Arnold [Benedict Arnold] and Phillips [William Phillips], Colonel Tarlton [Banastre Tarleton], also landed with his Light horse troops (about 80). Applicant was among those who under the bold Captain Armistead made the, daring & dangerous attempt to surprise & take the British Generals in quarters the night they landed at Williamsburg – We were discovered however & fired on by the guard. They killed applicant's friend & constant companion & young Mr. Bullett son of Judge Bullett by his side – after an escape here, applicant returned home – and

remained at home until after the British left Williamsburg & next to Petersburg, where they took their stand; General Lafayette with his troops took his stand, on the opposite side of the River to hold them there in check not being able to fight them – The British troops were here no doubt according to previous arrangement waiting the arrival of Cornwallis from the South – General Lafayette being anxious to hear from Wallis &c ordered a Major Minor a regular officer to raise a Company of volunteers in the Country to go out & reconnoiter General Cornwallis' Army & movements & send him information – &c applicant volunteered to go on this service, we were under the command of Major Minor – but were only out a few weeks in this tour the British took one of our men (a Mr. Butts) who had been started to Lafayette with dispatches a prisoner who died of the small pox on board a British prison ship on this tour the British took & robbed from applicant a very fine horse, caused him \$180 – He heard of again – Applicant afterwards volunteered under a Captain Short to go to the Siege of York – but did not reach there until the evening the British Surrendered – we were here only 2 or 3 weeks.

Here applicant was finally discharged – he received no written discharge & has no documentary evidence of his services, he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services as a revolutionary Soldier –

Applicant lived in Norfolk in the State of Virginia after the revolutionary War until the year 1820 when he removed to & settled in the State of Tennessee Maury County where he now resides – He is known to Hugh Shaw a minister of the gospel and Robert Wortham Esquire who are well acquainted with him and can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution –

Applicant 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 or Territory

S/ William Newsum

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Newsum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W". There is a small mark above the first "W" that looks like a "5".

[Hugh Shaw, a clergyman, and Robert Wortham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department – together with the answers of the Applicant –
Question 1st Where and in what year were you born? – Answer – I was born in South Hampton County State of Virginia on the 28th day of August 1761

Quest 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? Ans: I have no record of my age, but have always been informed & believe I was born as above stated –

Q. 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? Ansr: I lived in the County of Greenville State of Virginia when called into service, after the Revolutionary War I lived in Norfolk Virginia until the year 1820 when I removed to & settled in the County of Maury & State of Tennessee where I now reside –

Que. 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom? Answer – I was a volunteer always – & Hill myself subject to service whenever my services were wanting

Ques. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general

circumstances of your service.

Ans'd: I never was with any regular officer but Major Minor – & the regular Troops & officers at York when Cornwallis surrendered & was not then attached to any command – I refer to the foregoing declaration for my knowledge of the Militia Officers & my general services –

Ques. 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it? – Answer – I never received a written discharge –

Ques. 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans'd: Hugh Shaw a preacher of the gospel and Robert Wortham Esquire all well acquainted with applicant and can testify as to his character for veracity &c

S/ William Newsum

State of Tennessee Maury County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions June Term 1833

This day being the 11th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court William Newsum and after being duly sworn makes the following amended declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision of the act of Congress of 7th of June 1832 – to wit, – in his previous declaration he stated the length of his service under the command of Captain Nelson in the year 1779, to be about seven or eight weeks; – but upon further reflection he is now satisfied that he must have served upon that tour about three months –; Upon his second expedition under the command of the same officer Captain Nelson to Hampton in the fall of the same year, he stated in his previous declaration the length of his service to be about six or eight weeks; – He is now satisfied in his own mind that his said second tour was for a longer period, – and he thinks for at least three months more; his third tour to Williamsburg is stated in his former declaration to have been about one month. He is satisfied that the said third tour was at least a month in duration & is correctly stated in his declaration. Upon his fourth tour, under the command of Major Minor, – it is stated in his former declaration to have been for a few weeks – He now states – that the length of service on his said fourth tour was at least three weeks & perhaps four; it was between three and four weeks. – His fifth tour under the command of Captain Short to go to the siege of York – stated in his previous declaration, – is correctly stated in his former declaration to have been for between two and three weeks. – Declarant states that he is now perfectly satisfied that his service during these various tours was at least eight months. He kept no written memorandum of his services or the length of service – but on reflecting on the subject and reviving his recollection – he knows he was in actual service at least eight months. –

S/ William Newsum

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the Virginia militia.]