

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Nelson S4615

f14NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/23/13

[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, Hawkins County

On this 29th day of May 1834 personally appeared William Nelson resident of the County of Hawkins and state of Tennessee aged 87 years before me James Willis one of the Justices of the Peace for said County and being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832:

That he entered the service of the united States in the year 1779 and served under the following named officers—I entered the service of the United States the first of July 1779 under the command of General Christy [probably a mistaken reference to William Christian of the Virginia militia] Colo. Williams [Joseph Williams], Major Winston [Joseph Winston] and Capt. Cox in the State of North Carolina Surrey [sic, Surry] County. We met at the Court house in said County and marched from their against the Cherokee Indians on Tennessee river. We march across the blue ridge [Blue Ridge Mountains] on to the Long Islands of Holston River where there had been a battle fought some time before between the Indians and whites. We went down said river in to the Indian nation where we destroyed their corn. They sued for peace and we treated with them and returned home about the first of November in the same year being gone four months. I was drafted in the service as a private and received my discharge from Major Winston which I have long since lost.

In the year 1779 as well as I now recollect the date of the year General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] lay stationed below Salisbury in the State of North Carolina; the County I don't recollect. He sent out an express for some Dragoons to join him at head quarters. I volunteered myself the first of July under the command of Capt. Joseph Claud [Joseph Cloud]. We marched on through Salisbury to join Rutherford which we did. After we arrived there, Capt. Claud and his dragoons were ordered by Rutherford to go in to some County the name I have forgotten in pursuit of some Tories. When we arrived at the place of destination, the Tories fired on us from a barn. Capt. Claud threatened to fire the barn and they surrendered. We took them back to Rutherford's Camp where some enlisted in the service of the United States and some ward [were ?] not at liberty. I then was dismissed and returned home first of September being gone two months.

I volunteered myself again under the command of Captain Claud. The date of the year I do not recollect it was some time in the fall of they year. We went in pursuit of Tories in Surry County State of North Carolina. We had a skirmish with them commanded by Capt. Horton. We killed Horton and two of his men and returned home being gone twelve or fourteen days.

The Tories were very troublesome where I lived in North Carolina and I volunteered myself frequently under Capt. Claud to go after Tories when we could hear of their doing mischief in the country. The dates and time of the small trips I cannot recollect. I was gone under Capt. Claud at another time three weeks ranging after Tories through the county where I lived. I never was out any more excepting some short trips after Tories in the county where I lived, the duration of which I cannot recollect. This declarant says he cannot prove his service by any and has no documentary evidence of his service.

He hereby relinquishes any claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above written, before me

S/ Rev. William Nelson, X his mark

S/ James Willis, J.P.

This declarant cannot procure a clergyman as he is not sufficiently acquainted with any in the neighborhood where he lives.

Questions proposed to William Nelson by the war department:

1st Question

Ans I was born in the state of Virginia Prince Edward County in the year 1747.

2nd Question

Ans I was living in the State of North Carolina Surry County; from there I removed in to Hawkins County, Tennessee, where I now live.

4th Question

Ans I was drafted the first time and the balance of my service I volunteered myself.

5th Question

Ans General Christy, Col Williams, Maj. Winston, General Rutherford, Capt. Claud, Capt. Cox.

6th Question

Ans I received a discharge and by Maj. Winston but have lost it

7th Question

Ans Swampfield Anderson, Thomas Martin, Larkin Willis Esq., Col James Willis, Willis Garrison, John Nash, Henry Begley and fifty other good men if required

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Personally appeared Reverend William Nelson before me James this one of the Justices of the peace for said County and after 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 and in the following grades, for 4 months I served under Captain Cox as a private. For 3 months I served as a private under Captain Claud for which service I claim a pension. Sworn the 29th May 1834

S/ James Willis, JP

S/ Rev. William Nelson, X his mark

[George Rogers and Larkin Willis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]