

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joel Nichels (Nichols) S5120

f15NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/25/17

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

State of North Carolina, County of Johnston: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 27 day of August personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Joel Nichols a resident of the County of Wayne and State of North Carolina aged about 80 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 7, 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein Stated. That he volunteered under the command of Captain Nathaniel Moore for a service of three months. That he rendezvoused at Kinston North Carolina. That he was then placed under command of Captain Williams and marched to Fayetteville – then called Cross Creek. He was under General Caswell [Richard Caswell], Colonel William Caswell & Colonel Benjamin Exum. From Fayetteville he was marched to the Pedee [Pee Dee River] at the Cheraw Hills. He was thence marched to Great Lynches Creek S. C., thence to Little Lynches Creek waiting for the Arrival of General Gates [Horatio Gates] and his Army. That he was with General Gates at the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780] where he was defeated. His term of three months had expired a few days before the battle of Camden – but in consequence of the weakness of General Gates and his expectation of reinforcements he was prevailed on to remain with the Army. He was placed under command of General Sumner [Jethro Sumner] -- & Col. Jarvis [Samuel Jarvis] & Col. Seawell [Benjamin Seawell]. After the expiration of his three months service, he remained in the Army a little more than three months longer – making in all a term of something more than six months. He received a regular discharge signed by Colonel Jarvis. His discharge was on the same piece of paper with that of two other soldiers – one of whom had a pocket book into which it was placed for safe keeping – who died, this Declarant believes with it in possession – so that this declarant does not know where it is – and does not believe it can be found. But he avers truly and sincerely that he served the full term of six months – and was honorably discharged. At the time of entering the service he resided in Pitt County N. C. and continued to reside in said County of Pitt until about 35 years ago when he removed to the County of Johnston where he has ever since resided. In answer to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department the Declarant affirms that he believes himself to be of the age of 80 years. That he knows of no record of his age. In addition to the names already spoken of, he remembers as officers of the Army Colonel Armstrong [probably James Armstrong] – Major Porterfield [perhaps Lieutenant Colonel Charles Porterfield of the Virginia State Troops] & Sergeant Wilkinson. He states the following respectable persons – who he believes will vouch for his character for veracity and affirm their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution – Reverend Jesse Adams – Barna Ingram, Noel West Esq. & John Owens.

He has no documentary evidence on the subject of his Services – and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure on the subject except Ephraim Powers,¹ living, this Declarant believes, somewhere on New River in the lower part of this State.

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 State except it's agency.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joel Nichels

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel Nichels". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ Joel Nichels".

[Barna Ingram and Noel West gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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