

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Nelson S5809

f7VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/8/13

[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 Virginia and County of Orange: SS

On this 9th day of February in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared before Richard Richards, Jr., a Justice of the County Court of Orange County aforesaid James Nelson a resident of said County of Orange and State aforesaid aged seventy-four 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 was drafted in the Militia in the year 1775 under Captain Charles Washington and was ordered to Williamsburg, this was about the time that Lord Dunmore the Governor of Virginia [last Royal Governor of Virginia] had deserted his post as governor and taken refuge on board a British vessel lying in James River, and before he left the Capes, upon that occasion he served a tour of four weeks –

Afterwards in April 1777 he entered the Continental service as a volunteer under the command of Major Dawson of General Nash's Brigade¹, and continued in that service until a few days before the battle of Brandywine (which took place on the 11th September in 1777) when he was taken sick and discharged at Trenton by General Nash, – He joined Nash's Brigade at Fredericksburg and marched thence to George Town where they encamped for a while until they were inoculated for the small pox, – Thence they marched to Trenton New Jersey and occupied that place as headquarters until he received his discharge –

Afterwards in the fall of 1780 he was drafted in the militia and served what was called the Cabin Point tour of six weeks under Captain John Henderson of Albemarle as orderly Sergeant – Cabin Point is situated on the Appomattox River, some distance below Petersburg. He was discharged at Petersburg, he never received any written discharges and if he did they are long since lost; – He was a resident of Spotsylvania [County], when he was drafted for his first tour to Williamsburg, and when he entered the Continental service in 1777 under Major Dawson, but when he served the Cabin Point tour he was a resident of Albemarle County, he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person now living who can testify as to his Services except John Smith a resident of the County of Orange. 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 the agency of any State

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Nelson

¹ This MAY be a reference to B. G. Francis Nash of NC who was killed in battle at Germantown October 4, 1777. Nash may have recruited Virginians to join his Brigade as he passed through that state on his way to the North.

James Nelson

[Jeremiah Chandler, a clergyman, and Richard Richards Senior gave the standards supporting affidavit.]

Ques. 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ansr. I was born in the County of Spotsylvania on the 27th day of January 1759 –

Ques. 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ansr. I have the register of my age taken from an old family Bible –

Ques. 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 was living in the County of Spotsylvania, when I served my first tour to Williamsburg in the militia, and when I entered the Continental service as a volunteer in 1777 under Major Dawson, and I was living in Albemarle when I was drafted for the Cabin Point tour. Since the Revolutionary war I have resided in Orange County in which County I now reside –

Ques. 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a Substitute, and if a Substitute for whom? –

Ansr. In the first and last tour that I served I was drafted, in the 2nd I entered as a volunteer. I never served as a substitute –

Ques. 5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia Regiments age you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service –

Ansr. All the Officers I recollect I have already named in my declaration with the exception of Captain Darnold who commanded one of the Companies in General Nash's Brigade, I never served with any other Continental troops but those in Nash's Brigade. In both my militia tours I was in the 3rd Virginia Regiment and have no recollection of the other militia regiments, the general circumstances of my services are stated in my declaration –

Ques. 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? –

Ansr. I do not recollect that I ever received a written discharge, if I ever did they are long since lost.

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

Ansr. I am known to Jeremiah Chandler, John Penny SR, Hezekiah Richards, Richard Richards Senior, William M Daniel and many others all of whom I confidently believe would testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service in the Revolutionary War –

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$21.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line and militia.]