

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Charles Nelms S7262

f28VA

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 County of Bedford SS

On this 24th day of September 1832 personally appeared before Samuel Hancock, Samuel Mitchell, Robert Campbell and George Steptoe the Court of Bedford County now sitting Charles Nelms a resident of the parish of Russell in the County of Bedford and State of Virginia aged eighty 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1777 on the 10th of March as he thinks with Jesse Drury, Joseph Sock, Thomas Carter &c about the same time in the County of Northumberland in Virginia and served in the Regiment of Artillery of the Continental line then under the command of Colonel Charles Harrison and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington under the following named officers to wit Samuel Drury was Captain Captain of the Company in which he served at the time he enlisted [in] the service and then in a short time he resigned when Captain John Dandridge was appointed in his place and in addition to those before named as officers of the Regiment to which he belonged one homes was Major of the same Regiment. After John Dandridge was appointed Captain of the Company He this Deponent was appointed to the office of an orderly Sergeant and continued in that office in the same Company till he was discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment of three years: That in about a month after his enlistment in the County of Northumberland in Virginia where he resided at the time he entered the service he marched from the County aforesaid or rather was carried by water down the Bay to Yorktown in Virginia where he remained he thinks near eleven months or perhaps twelve where he with part of the Regiment was inoculated for the small box and from thence they went with the disease to a place called Seleys on James River which had been the house of a private gentleman and there they remained till well, From that place they were marched to Portsmouth where they stayed till the fall from thence they were ordered again, and marched to Yorktown where they remained till the next March and then were ordered to the North and joined the Army under General Washington at Valley Forge and on their way thither passed Harpers Ferry, Hagerstown, Fredericktown and other places not now recollected when he joined the Army at Valley Forge as before stated he thinks the British were in possession of Philadelphia from thence they (the British) retreated into the Jerseys and were pursued by the American Army which had been joined by the Company and Regiment to which this deponent was attached and they (the British) were overtaken by the Americans at Monmouth [June 28, 1778] where a battle ensued and ended in the defeat of the British Army: He was not immediately in the engagement but was stationed with part of the Regiment on a hill near the scene of action and would himself together with those who were there stationed there with him have been also engaged but as his

was an artillery company could not beat the time for want of the proper arms. Captain James Pendleton as he understood having drawn for his use the only remaining piece of artillery on the field and they had no small arms of any kind at the time. After the Battle of Monmouth they marched to Smiths Clove where they remained a time thence they went to New Windsor on the 15th of August 1779 as it appears from the orderly book of this Deponent who as aforesaid was an orderly Sergeant in Captain Dandridge's Company which now is in his possession from New Windsor they marched to a place called Jockey Holley one mile from Morris town and from there on the 5th of December 1779 soon after that he can't remember through how long the Regiment to which he belonged was marched South though in a short time his term of three years expired and he was discharged and returned home in the spring of 1780 he thinks in the month of March he received as he well recollects an Honorable discharge from the service of his Country in which he had been constantly engaged for three years but by some means he lost it not thinking he should ever need it. He has no documentary evidence of his services except the orderly book before referred to prove his services which is now exhibited¹ to the Court containing the regular orders signed by him as orderly Sergeant of the Company aforesaid from the 28th of June 1779 until the 11th of December of the same year in which was merely preserved by accident being the one he had last used at the time he was discharged the others previous thereto no doubt were left among the rubbish of the baggage wagon – He remembers the names and has often seen many of the general officers a list of which is prefixed to his orderly book from the general in chief commanding throughout the list of active subordinate Officers with the dates of commissions &c. That in addition to the services mentioned above living near the Chesapeake Bay he was frequently called out and served as a minute man for twelve months at intervals the British often infesting that part of the Country in which he resided previous to the tour of this enlistment and making this kind of service essential to the safety of the Country.

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 agency in any State.

Sworn to and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid
S/ Charles Nelms²

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Sir, Pleas to deliver my land Warrant to Captain Samuel Denney and in so doing you'll Oblige
Your Humble Servant
To Colonel Meriwether

S/ Charles Nelms, Sergt.
of Artillery

¹ Unfortunately, the orderly book referred to by the veteran is not included in the materials in this file.

² I did not copy the signature of the veteran because I do not believe it is his actual signature – the handwriting is identical to the handwriting in the application itself. I guess it is possible that he wrote the application in his own handwriting, but that seems unlikely

Sir please to Deliver the above
 Warrant to Capt James Denney
 and in Testimony You'll Obey
 My humble Serv^t
 Chas. Nelms
 of Artillery

Isaac Welch private James Swillivane private Joseph Robertson do [private] Chs. Nelms
 Sergeant
 Received Certificate for the above mentioned Soldiers land warrants.
 March 1, 1784 S/ Samuel Denney

Samuel Denney

Charles Nelms late Sergeant Captain Dandridge's Company of the first Regiment of artillery
 commanded by Colonel Charles Harrison having served the term for which he stood engaged is
 hereby discharged the service of the United States, his conduct as a Soldier justly entitled Sam to
 the respect & esteemed of all his Country men.
 Given under my hand at the Park near Morris Town on this 10th day of March 1780
 [signature illegible]

Sargt. Nelms served
 three years
 Sam Denney

Charles Nelms late Sergeant Captain Dandridge's
 Company of the first Regt of Artillery commanded
 by Col^l Charles Harrison having served the term
 for which he stood engaged is hereby discharged
 the service of the United States, his conduct
 as a Soldier justly entitled him to the respect
 & esteem of all his Country men
 Given under my hand at the Park
 near Morris Town on the 10th day of March 1780
 Sargt. Nelms
 This year Sam Denney