

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ned Streater¹ S7645

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/4/12: rev'd 12/7/21

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Virginia

County of Nansemond } S.S.

I Ned Streater, a free man of color, residing in the aforesaid County & State, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision may by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That I am now Seventy-Seven years of age, and have always lived in Nansemond County Virginia – that I entered the service of the United States at the age of twenty-four years, and according to the best of my recollection, in the year 1780, under the command of Captain Elvington Knott [Elvinton Knott], (commonly called Elvy Knott,) in the militia service in the aforesaid County & State, and served a term of twelve months before I was finally discharged; that I performed the service as a substitute for Willis Streater, who was then my master, agreeably to his direction and request; that General Ulenburg [Peter Muhlenberg?], Col. Kinchin Godwin [Kinchin Godwin], Col. Hampton and Major Dick where the different field officers who commanded during the term of my engagements; that my service was performed in the Counties of Nansemond and Norfolk, Virginia; that I was present at the battle of the "Great Bridge" [December 9, 1775] in Norfolk County when Fordice [Charles Fordyce] was killed; that I was in a skirmish with the enemy at a place called "Pip Pot Swamp"² in Nansemond County, Virginia, where I was wounded by a ball that passed through my leg, which deformed and very much disabled that leg; that I don't recollect ever to have received any written discharge, but was honorably discharged after having served out my full term of twelve months, as appears by a living evidence before the Court of Nansemond in 1814; that after the death of Willis Streater, my master, I sued for my freedom under the Act of Assembly passed October 1783, and recovered it in consideration of my Revolutionary Services; that I afterwards sued for the amount of my hire, for the time that I had been unjustly detained in bondage after the passage of the act of Assembly before alluded to, which I also recovered – all of which will fully & amply appear by the accompanying record of the Court, which I have obtained from the Clerk of Circuit Superior Court of Law & Chancery for the County of Nansemond. – That I thus obtained my freedom in consideration of my

¹ For an excellent article relating to this veteran, see Patrick H. Hannum, *Virginian Ned Streater, African American Minute Man*, Journal of the American Revolution, December 7, 2021. <https://allthingsliberty.com/2021/12/virginian-ned-streater-african-american-minute-man/> [viewed December 8, 2021]

² Hannum suggests that "Pip Pot Swamp" was likely a corruption or version of Pitchkettle Creek, a tributary of the Nansemond River

revolutionary services, and that now, by reason of old age & bodily infirmity I am unable to get to the Court House, a distance of fifteen or twenty miles, to make this declaration. – That I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the 2nd day of November 1833.

S/ Ned Streater, X his mark

[Jeremiah Jones and Henry Lassiter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Virginia,

In Nansemond Superior Court 17th May 1814

Ned who sues in forma pauperis	Plt. [Plaintiff]	}	
against		}	A Battery
William Wright	Deft. [Defendant]	}	

This day came the parties by their attorneys and thereupon came also a Jury to which, Aaron Williams, John Wyatt, Elihue Hedgpeh, Robert White, William Sears, Daniel Baker, John Shelton, William Shelton, James Vaughan, James B Arnold, William Godwin and William Jordan, who being elected tried and sworn the truth to speak upon the issue joined upon their oath returned their verdict in the following words "We the Jury find that the plaintiff is not a slave, but free, having by the appointment and direction of his owner Willis Streater then enlisted in a Corps raised within the State of Virginia on the State establishment in the year 1780 and received as a substitute for his owner Willis Streater, whose duty or lot it was to serve in said corps, having faithfully served during the term of his enlistment" And agreeably to the act of Congress in such case made and provided on the motion of the plaintiff a writ of inquiry is awarded and it is ordered that a jury be impanelled to assess the damages for his detention aforesaid, whereupon the same jury being sworn well and truly to inquire and assessed the damages for the detention of the plaintiff upon their oath do say that the plaintiff has sustained damages by occasion of his detention by the defendant from the time that he came to the possession of the present defendant to one hundred Sixty five dollars. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the plaintiff recover his freedom and be hereafter free from bondage and slavery and recover also against the said defendant his damages aforesaid in form aforesaid assessed, and his costs by him about his suit in this behalf expended, and the said defendant in mercy &c.

Costs \$15.26 Fifa 25th May 1814

A Copy

Nansemond Office

21st of October 1833

Teste: S/ John T. Kilby, Clk

Virginia,

In Nansemond Superior Court 29th of April 1824

Ned a free man of color	Plaintiff	}	In a case
against		}	sent from
James Wright and Augustus Saperouse	Defendants	}	the Chancery

District Court of Williamsburg for and issued to be made up and tried at the bar of this Court upon certain points therein contained.

This day came the parties by their attorneys and by consent without special pleas it was agreed that a Jury should be impaneled and sworn to inquire what was a reasonable hire for the

plaintiff, Ned between the different periods as mentioned in the decree of the said Chancery District Court of Williamsburg and thereupon came also immediately a Jury, to which, Samuel P. Saunders, Uriah Rawls, Jr., Marmaduke Jones, Charles Badger, Henry P. Gwinn, James Woodward, Henry Howell, John S Smith, Henry Norfleet, Fletcher Haslett, David Jordan, and Henry Riddick who being elected tried and sworn the truth to speak upon the issue aforesaid joined upon their oath returned the following verdict "We the Jury find that one hundred and five dollars is a reasonable hire for the plaintiff, Ned, from the time when the act of the Legislature mentioned in the above decree of the Court was passed until the death of Willis Streater, being from the 20th of October 1783 to the 20th of July 1792, and that two hundred and ten dollars is a reasonable hire of the plaintiff, Ned, from the death of Willis Streater to the death of Stephen Graham, to wit, from the 20th of July 1792 to the 20th of January 1810". Therefore it is considered by the Court that the same be certified to the Chancery District Court of Williamsburg. And be it remembered that "The Counsel for the defendants in this issue, on the trial thereof offered to prove to the Jury by the same witnesses whose depositions had been already taken in this cause for the defendants and used by them on the trial before the Chancellor that for a portion of the time during which the complainant was held in servitude by Stephen Graham he lived on the said Graham's farm and acted as a free man being permitted to manage his own affairs and to hold property & that for other portion of the said time he was treated with great humanity and unusually indulged. But the Court thought that under the issue directed by the Chancellor such testimony would be irrelevant and confined the parties to such evidence as tended to show what was a reasonable hire for the complainant taking into consideration his age, health, qualities &c and without reference to the manner in which he had been treated during the time of his being held in slavery and at the request of the defendant's counsel, certifies these facts to the Chancellor."

Costs \$6.79 Copied 4th May 1824

Nansemond Office

A copy

21st of October 1833

Teste: S/ John T Kilby, Clk

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 12 months in the Virginia militia. He was awarded arrears of pension from the 4th of Sept. 1833 to the 4th of March 1834 of \$120.00.]