

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Leaven Nichols (Nicholas, Nicholes) S9440

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS. On this 14th day of October 1833 personally appeared before me
Lewis County } James M Camp one of the Justices of the peace for the county of
Lewis in the said State of Virginia Leaven Nichols a resident of the said county of Lewis in the
said State of Virginia aged seventy seven 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 of the 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the
following named officers and served as herein stated. That in the year 1776 in Pennsylvania in
what is now Fayette County he was drafted to perform a tour of two months in the Pa. Militia
under Captain Hoglin was marched in March 1776 to where Brownsville now stands to a fort
called Redstone fort. Stationed in a regiment commanded by Col. Lynn. stayed there to guard
the fort and build boats to ascend the Ohio agst. the Indians in May 1776. The draft expired and
there being news that two large rafts of Indians had crossed the Ohio above Wheeling supposed
to be coming against the settlements on the Monongahela river created much alarm. The county
farmers generally collected at the fort with their families declarant volunteered [illegible word]
his militia Captain Hoglin to guard the fort and spie west of the Monongahela river for six
months more Col. Crawford took command of the fort and Col. Lynn of the Indian spies. These
were Captain Hoglins and Martins companies declarant and 9 others detected about six Indians
coming eastward they made a successful retreat passing up the river went on to a creek then
called Dunkard killed some people and took some horses and escaped. He continued as a spie
till in November 1776 when the Indians were discovered to have crossed the Ohio to the towns
[i.e. returned to the Indian towns in Ohio] when he was discharged having in all served eight
months as a private militia man and Indian spie. at Christmas 1776 He removed to what is now
Greenbriar [sic: Greenbrier] county in Va. and April 1777 He was drafted to go a tour of six
months under Captain Wilson Col. Sampson Matthews [Sampson Mathews] was marched to
Camp Union near where Lewisburg now stands. stationed there till July 1777 when the greater
part of Col Matthews Regiment (including Captain Wilsons company) were marched to Donnallys
fort on Great Kenhawa [sic: Fort Donnally near present Frankford WV near Greenbrier River] He
continued there acting as an Indian spie till Nov'r. 1777 when he was discharged by Captain
Wilson having served full six months this tour as a private militia man and Indian spie. Then
again In April 1778 it was ascertained that the Indians had crossed the Ohio on rafts coming
towards Virginia. The requisite number of men could not be procured by drafts there being at
this period a great number of Tories declarant volunteered in a company of Virginia militia
under Captain William Morris attached to a regiment or battallion commanded by Col. Vance
[possibly Samuel Vance] this regiment was stationed at Camp Union at or near the place
Lewisburg in Va. now stands. sometime in April 1778 continued there sometime and in or about
June 1778 Captain Morris's company were ordered to Clover Lick [Cloverlick] at Warricks fort
[Fort Warwick] and there continued to act as spies and guard the fort & in September the Indians
stole five horses from one McClung and Douglas 20 of Captn Morris men with a Lieutenant
Reuno[?] pursued them three days came to the horses late in the evening Hobbled on a creek a
branch of Gauly [sic: Gauley] river. The Indians had discovered our approach and we returned
with the horses in Nov'r 1778 he was discharged having six months this tour. Then in the
month of April 1779 He was drafted to perform a tour of six months as a militia under Captain
Thomson and Col. Samuel Lewis. He was first stationed at Camp Union (now Lewisburg) and in
June 1779 marched to Donally's fort on the Great Kenhawa stayed there acted as a spie till in
Sept'r. 1779 when Captain Thompsons company was marched to the garrison at point pleasant
mouth of Great Kenhawa and stationed there till Nov'r. 1779 and then discharged without any
material occurrences this year in this region He returned home to what is now Greenbrier
county Va. having served full six months this tour as a private soldier in the militia Then in
April 1780 He volunteered under Captain Guy Hamilton [possibly Gawen Hamilton]. Col Donnelly
to serve six months He was stationed at Donnelly's fort on Great Kenhawa and acted as an

Indian spie and guarded the fort alternately from April till Nov'r. 1780 in this year but little appearance of Indians in the that vicinity He was discharged by his captin Hamilton returned home Then in March 1781 He was drafted to go a tour of six months in the Va. M'a. marched under a captain Bowyer (he thinks Wm.) was marched to Albermarle [sic: Albemarle County] there joined a regiment He does not recollect the cols name state there some time was marched towards Richmond and when near there joined general called Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] soon after retreated from Richmond from a british general [Cornwallis] we met General Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun] with Pennsylvania troops went back towards Richmond the British then retreated down James river and turned off to the left. He was left at or in Kent county or new Kent sick he lay sick till october when he was discharged he thinks by the surgeon. returned home having been at least six months in service this tour then quit the service Having served in all more than three years. He has no documentary evidence he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services There are no Clergymen residing near him. There lives near him David S Cox and Benjamin Reynolds [pension application R8709] old men who have heard him recount often his services in the revolutionary war. He hereby relinquishes every claim 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. Leaven hisXmark Nichols
The seven several interrogatories prescribed by the war department were propounded to the applicant which he answered as follows viz

- 1st. That he was born in Kent county Maryland in 1756.
- 2nd. That he has no record of his age
- 3rd. That he was living in Pennsylvania in Fayette county from thence to Greenbriar. after the war to Randolph county in Va. thence to Harrison (now Lewis) in Va. where he still lives
- 4th. That he was first drafted two months then volunteered six months then again drafted for 6 months. Then again volunteered for 6 months. Then again in 1779 drafted for 6 months. in April 1780 volunteered for 6 months and lastly in March 1781 drafted for 6 months - in all served upwards of three years from 1776 till 1781.
- 5th. That he saw General Muhlenburg, General Wayne, Genl Lafayette, Genl. [George] Weedon & others many Cols & Majors whose names he has mostly forgotten except Cols. Crawford & Lynn in Pa. & Col. Matthews, Lewis & Donnally & others in Va. The general circumstances of his service is set forth above as well as a frail memory will now enable him to do.
- 6th. He rec'd. a written discharge from each of his captns Viz Captn Hoglin, Wilson, Morris, Thompson, Hamilton, and one from a surgeon at New Kent in 1781. They are all lost long since.
- 7th. He is known in his present neighborhood to David S. Cox and Benjamin Reynolds They can testify as to his character for veracity and their and the neighborhood belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution. There are no clergyman living near him but some itinerent preachers He is not acquainted with. Leaven hisXmark Nicholes

We David S Cox and Benjamin Reynolds residing in Lewis county Virginia hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Leaven Nichols who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration that we believe him to be 77 years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion. Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. David S. Cox Benjamin hisXmark Runnals

[The following is by W. G. Singleton, district attorney, who investigated many fraudulent pension applications from Lewis and Harrison counties. See the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details.]

Levin Nicholas, Pensioner. receives \$80— pr annum.

I the undersigned Levin Nicholas, in pursuance of of the requisition of the Secretary of war give the following narative of my Services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and Statement of my age — I dont know my age but think I am Seventy years old at the least - am a native of Maryland and at the age of eighteen years I moved to Red Stone Pennsylvania. volunteered under Capt. Hogelan & seved under him "nine or ten" years [sic]. was frequently out in scouts after the Indians, but never a greater distance than about twenty five miles - was never

in any engagements "nor never saw the enemy" in the year 1781 I moved to Jackson River and lived there three or four years and never rendered any service, as a soldier until after that time Thomas Bland engaged to get my Pension and by contract he was to have one half of the first draw. I draw eighty dollars a year, but have not received more than \$40 I was taken from Kenhawa county to Weston the county seat of Lewis and sworn to my Declaration before J. M. Camp - in taking down my services they included two or three years Services which were performed after 1783. I certify that the forgoing statement contains the whole truth & nothing but the truth Aug't. 20, 1834 Levin hisXmark Nicholas

Witness.

a Copy W. G Singleton.

B. Corke[?]

P. B. Byron.

Memo. Since the forgoing statement was given Nicholas has departed this life - he died in Nov'r. last. W. G Singleton Jany 13 1835

NOTE: Leaven Nicholas is listed in the 1830 federal census as a resident of Kanawha County. Benjamin Reynolds was another soldier fraudulently taken from Kanawha to Lewis County to claim a pension.