

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Roger Nelson W1310 Eliza Nelson MD [VA]

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 3 May 2013.

Land Office, Annapolis, 6th February, 1849

Among the Records and papers of the Revolution in this office there is a paper on file headed as follows, "Return of Officers in the 6th Maryland Regiment 15th Dec'r 1780," and near the end of said paper, there is also the following entry, Viz, "Volunteer Roger Nelson, who served in the ranks & was wounded & made prisoner 16 August last, has been recommended for a Commission, – he served from 1 June, 1780.

Signed, O. H. Williams [Otho Holland Williams], Col. Camp Charlotte [NC], 18 Dec'r, 1780"
I also further Certify, that by another paper, also remaining in this office, headed as follows, "Arrangement of the Maryland Line in 5 Regiments 1st Jan'y, 1781," That the name of Roger Nelson, appears upon said paper, to have been Commissioned a Lieutenant, in the 5th Regiment, the 15th of July, 1780, and by a Depreciation pay Roll, he appears to have received pay on the 8th of August, 1783, depreciation money issued to the Maryland quota of troops on Continental Establishment. He had also Bounty land awarded him by the State of Maryland for his Revolutionary services [see note below].

George G. Brewer, Reg'r. Land Off. Md.

Thomas Jefferson President of the United States of America, To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting,

Know Ye, That in consideration of Military Service performed by Roger Nelson a Lieutenant for the War to the United States in the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment, and in pursuance of an Act of the Congress of the United States passed on the 10th day of August in the year 1790 Entitled "An Act to enable the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Line on Continental Establishment to obtain Title to certain Lands lying Northwest of the River Ohio between the Little Miami and Scioto" and another Act of the said Congress passed on the 9th day of June in the year 1794 amendatory of the said Act, There is granted by the said United States unto the said Roger Nelson, a certain Tract of Land containing Two thousand six hundred sixty six & two thirds acres, situate between the Little Miami and Scioto Rivers, Northwest of the River Ohio, as by Survey bearing date the tenth day of October in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety two, and bounded and described as follows, to Wit. Surveyed for Roger Nelson Two thousand six hundred sixty six and two thirds acres of Land on two Military Patents to wit, On No. 2843 for one thousand Acres, in favor of the said Roger Nelson; And on No. 2844 for one thousand six hundred sixty six & two thirds Acres in favor of the said Roger Nelson, On the Waters of Todds fork a branch of the Little Miami, Beginning at... [survey details omitted here; Todd Fork joins the Little Miami River at Morrow, 20 miles NE of Cincinnati] To have and To hold the said Tract of land with the Appurtenances, unto the said Roger Nelson and his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, the said Thomas Jefferson President of the United States of America hath cause the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed and signed the same with his hand at the City of Washington the eleventh day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three and of the Independence of the United States of America the twenty eighth. Th Jefferson

By the President

James Madison

Secretary of State.

Frederick Sep 18 1848

D Sir,

Mrs Nelson has some difficulty in making out her case with regard to the time when General Nelson entered the army the service he rendered & the time of his leaving the service.

These parts known she is led to believe are fully shown by the records of the War Department, the muster rolls &c.

The Commission he held was – it is believed – that of a lieutenant of Cavalry under Col. Washington [Lt. Col. William Washington] in the Virginia line. He entered the army, when very young at an early period of the war, & continued in service, as is understood, till the end of the war.

In my first letter to you I requested of you such information touching these facts, as your office would afford.

He was at the time of his joining the army a citizen of Maryland.

His being in the Virginia line makes it the more difficult to establish his service[?] by being not in my [illegible word], & Mrs Nelson's memory – from age – does not enable her very distinctly to recollect what she learned of his service from himself.

I have prepared a statement or declaration which I would submit to you to say whether it will be sufficient.

I hope I am asking nothing of you which I am not authorized & which your duties of office will prohibit your promising.

Your with respect [illegible signature]

State of Maryland, Frederick County to wit: On this fifteenth day of January eighteen hundred & forty nine personally appeared in open Court before me the subscriber one of the Judges of The fifth Judicial District of the State of Maryland, Eliza Nelson, a resident of Frederick Town, in the County of Frederick in said state, aged sixty seven years who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July 15th, 1848, "That she is the Widow of Roger Nelson, who served in the Army of the Revolution.

She further declares that she was married to the said Roger Nelson on the second day of February in the year seventeen hundred & ninety seven; that her husband, the aforesaid Roger Nelson died on the seventh day of June eighteen hundred & fifteen; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place at the time above stated. She further swears that she is now widow, and that she has never before made any application for a pension.

[The following is from the [Revolutionary bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#).]

I do hereby certify that Lieut Roger Nelson was an arranged officer in the consolidated 1st & 3rd Regiment of Cavalry.

George Baylor late Colo.

Caroline Co'ty/ march the 20th 1784

NOTES:

It appears that the bounty land warrant referred to in the document from the Land Office in Annapolis is not the land warrant from Thomas Jefferson. On the file folder is written "BLWt1600-200 Lieut. Issued Dec. 23, 1799 No papers." This indicates that Lt. Roger Nelson from Maryland received 200 acres of bounty land on 23 Dec 1799, and that there were no relevant documents. (Most bounty land papers were destroyed by fire in 1800.

The file includes a letter from the Clerk of Frederick County MD stating that a licence was issued there on 2 Feb 1797 for the marriage of Roger Nelson to Miss Elizabeth Harrison. On 21 Nov 1848 in Prince Georges County MD two of her sisters, Sarah C. Waring and Grace C. Tyler, stated that they were

present at the wedding ceremony performed by Rev. Boivers, then Rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Frederick County. Like the 1848 letter, this document refers to Roger Nelson as "General."