

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lewis Nobles W13771

Zelpha Nobles

f52SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/21/09: rev'd 9/4/17

[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' 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.]

State of South Carolina Edgefield District} SS

On this the Sixth day of June of the year 1838, personally appeared before the Honorable A. P. Butler, an associate Justice of the court of Sessions and Common Pleas in and for the State of South Carolina, Zelpha Nobles, a resident of Edgefield District and State aforesaid, aged Eighty 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 acts of Congress passed July 4th in the year 1836: That she is the widow of Lewis Nobles, who was a first Lieut. of a volunteer company of South Carolina Militia commanded by Capt. John Ryan in the war of the revolution; that the said Lewis Nobles, enlisted the service of his Country at the Siege of Augusta,¹ in the capacity of first Lieut., as aforesaid, in the month of June in the year 1781 that the said volunteer company to which he was attached, formed a part of the Regiment of South Carolina Militia commanded by Col. Leroy Hammond, which Regiment constituted a part of the besieging Army at Augusta, commanded by General Pickens [Andrew Pickens]. She further declares that shortly after the siege of Augusta, at the instance and request of Capt. Ryan the aforesaid company of volunteer Militia, was detached from the Main Army commanded by General Pickens, as aforesaid, and formed into a Scouting party, and that capacity Capt. Ryan, with the aid and assistance of Lieut. Nobles, second in command of said Company, rendered important Service to this Country by intercepting and cutting off the foraging parties of the enemy, thus cutting off his supplies, and frequently harassing his patrols, and that Capt. Ryan continued this desultory warfare from the siege of Augusta until the close of the war, during all of which time Lieut. Nobles remained with him. That the said volunteer Company, as a Scouting party had various skirmishes with the British and Tories from the siege of Augusta to the close of the war, the most prominent of which was the defeating of a party of Tories shortly after being detached from the Army of General Pickens meeting with another party of Tories in Lexington District and defeating them, and engaging another party of Tories in Orangeburg District and also routing them. She further declares, that she has no documentary Evidence to support her claim other than the affidavits hereunto annexed: She further declares that she was married to the said Lewis Nobles, on the 30th day of April 1780, and that the said marriage took place before the last term of Service of her said husband expired, that the said Lewis Nobles, her husband, died on the 6th day of July 1827 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereunto annexed.

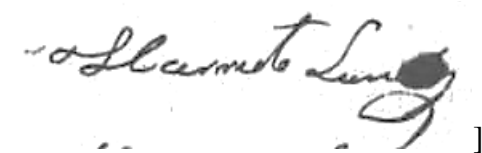
¹ May 22-June 1, 1781. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/fortcornwallis.htm>

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year before written before
S/ Zelpha Nobles, X her mark
[Attested by A. P. Butler]

[p 7, Francis O'Connor administered the estate of Zelpha Nobles; he appointed George H. Jones of Washington, DC as his attorney to pursue her claim. This document is dated May 19, 1850. O'Connor states that she died April 7, 1850 leaving 9 children by her husband Lewis Nobles, namely, Joseph, John, Lewis, Theodore, Martha, Mary, Julia, Ann, Harriet and Elizabeth (the wife of O'Connor).



[p 11: February 10, 1853, Harriett Lundy filed in Edgefield District, SC, stating that her mother was pensioned at the rate of \$120/annum and she seeks an investigation of whether pension funds may have been due her mother at the time of her death.



[p 13: A note dated Feb. 4, 1840, indicating that Zelpha Nobles was granted a pension under the 1836 Act of \$130.66/annum but the pension was stopped April 6, 1839—there is no explanation of why the pension was stopped.]

[p 27]
Gentlemen

The purpose of these few lines is to detect perjury and fraud.

You will see from your books that Zelpha Nobles has drawn a pension for her husband Lewis Nobles services in the revolutionary war and among the many lies she has sworn to, and caused to be sworn to, I will point you out some, the first is she has been living in this State and not out of it since her husband's death, she has been out of the State in 1833, 1834, 1835 and a part of 1836 and living in Alabama and for the evidence of this I will refer you to Benjamin R. Tillman, Goodwyn Roper & Francis O'Conner, all men of Wealth and Standing, and who will test the truth when brought to it, another fraud is she has been giving large sums of money to her witnesses to swear for her, I will point you to one Capt. John Randle a dissipated old man which she has given \$20 to, and I will refer you to Francis O'Conner for the evidence of this, Zelpha Nobles lives in Edgefield district is worth 12 Negroes with other property the witness is her next ~~door~~-neighbor I myself will follow perjury and fraud to the dying bed and there punish it if possible.

S/ Tom Justice

[p 39]
South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me, Peter Hilliard who, being duly sworn, saith that he was well acquainted with Lewis Nobles, a soldier in the war of the revolution. That he entered the

service of his country in the Florida expedition, which commenced in the month of ___ in the year of our Lord 17__ that the said Lewis Nobles, was a first Lieut., of Capt. John Simkins Company of Militia, attached to Col. Purvises [John Purvis'] Regiment, which constituted a part of General Williamson's Brigade, that this expedition marched within a few miles of St. Augustine, when it's offers as being informed by its spies that a British Castle was deserted, ordered a retreat; This deponent further saith, that the next place in which he saw Lieut. Nobles, was at the siege of Augusta, which occurred in the month of June in the year of our Lord 1781 That he was then attached to a volunteer company of Militia commanded by Capt. John Ryan, which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Leroy Hammond, forming a part of the besieging Army commanded by General Pickens, that the company of Capt. Ryan, to which was attached Lieut. Nobles, as aforesaid, after the siege of Augusta was, at the instance and request of Capt. Ryan, detached from the Main Army, as a scouting party, that in this capacity Capt. Ryan, with the aid and assistance of Lieut. Nobles, as second in command, rendered him important services to the Country, by intercepting and cutting off the foraging parties of the enemy, thus cutting off his supplies, and frequently harassing his Patrols, and that Capt. Ryan continued this desultory and partisan warfare from the siege of Augusta up to the termination of the revolutionary Struggle, during all which time Lieut. Nobles remained with him. This deponent further saith that he was a private in Capt. Ryan's company, and well recollects that the said company, as a scouting party, had many skirmishes, with the British and Tories, but mostly with the latter, the dates and places of which he cannot distinctly recollect, from the great lapse of time, which has intervened, but will give the following statement, in which he is satisfied he is not mistaken, viz., that after being detachment from General Pickens Army at the Siege of Augusta, as aforesaid, Capt. Ryan and Lieut. Nobles met a party of Royalists, and routed them, secondly, they afterwards met a party of Tories in Lexington District and defeated them, and thirdly, they then met a party of Tories in Orangeburg District, about 110 strong, commanded by Col. Lawrence & Capt. Lane [?], as deponent thinks, and defeated them. This deponent further, saith, that Lieut. Nobles, is dead, and that he hath just cause to believe and does believe that he died on the 6th day of July 1827, leaving a widow, Zelpha Nobles, who is still alive & unmarried.

Sworn to before me this 5th June 1838.

S/ M. Gray, Qu.

S/ Peter Hilliard, X his mark

[p 48]

South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me Capt. John Randal, who being duly sworn as the law directs, saith on his oath, that he was well acquainted with Lewis Nobles, a Soldier, in the war of the revolution, that he was a first Lieut. of Capt. John Ryan's Company of volunteer militia, in the war of the revolution, that said company of volunteer Militia was attached to a Regiment of militia commanded by Col. Leroy Hammond, which constituted a part of a Brigade commanded by General Pickens. This deponent further saith, he first knew Lieut. Nobles in the service of his country at the Siege of Augusta, which occurred in the month of June in the year 1781. That he remained there during the siege, that afterwards, at the special insistence and request of Capt. Ryan, the said volunteer militia, commanded by him, as aforesaid, to which was attached Lieut. Nobles, as aforesaid, was detached from the Main Army (commanded by General Pickens) as a scouting party, and in that capacity, annoyed the British and Tories much, cutting off their supplies and harassing their Patrols, frequently cutting off their men, that Capt. Ryan, with Lieut.

Nobles, continued this desultory and partisan warfare from the Siege of Augusta to the termination of the war, say until the 30th day of November in the year of our Lord 1783. This deponent further saith that he was a private of Capt. Ryan's Company and served therein, from the Siege of Augusta in the end of the war, and consequently he well recollects the services of Lieut. Nobles, but cannot recollect distinctly, the dates and places of the many skirmishes, he was engaged in, but will give the following statement on which he thinks he can safely rely, viz., that after the company of Capt. Ryan was detached from the Army of General Pickens as aforesaid they met a party of Royalists, and completely routed them, secondly, that they then met a party of Tories in Lexington District and defeated them, killing some and taking others prisoners, and thirdly met another party of Tories, in Orangeburg District, supposed to be 110 strong, commanded by Col. Lawrence and Capt. Lane as deponent thinks and defeated them. This deponent further saith that Lieut. Nobles, was a native of Edgefield District & State aforesaid, that he departed this life on the 6th day of July 1827, leaving a widow, Zelpha Nobles, who is still alive & unmarried and that the said Lieut. Nobles, was about 78 years of age when he died, as deponent verily thinks and believes.

Sworn to before made this the 5 June 1838.

S/ M. Gray, Qu.

S/ John Randol, X his mark

[p 36]

South Carolina Edgefield District

Personally appeared before me M. Gray a Justice of the Quorum in and for the District aforesaid, Peter Hilliard² who being duly sworn saith, that he was well acquainted with the late Lewis Nobles. That he was a first Lieut. in a company of volunteer militia commanded by Capt. John Ryan in the war of the revolution, and that said company was attached to a Regiment of South Carolina Militia commanded by Col. Leroy Hammond. This deponent upon mature reflection, and after having read to him a memoir of the revolutionary Services of Capt. John Ryan as made out by Col. Samuel Hammond,³ and by which his memory has been very much assisted, saith and does believe that the said Lewis Nobles entered the company of the said Capt. Ryan sometime in the year 1778 instead of the year 1781, as alleged in his former affidavit, at which time the company of Capt. Ryan under the command of Col. Leroy Hammond, with a detachment of Georgia militia commanded by Col. Walton at Spirit Creek below the Augusta met the British Army commanded by Lieut. Col. Campbell [Archibald Campbell]. The bridges across the Creek and Henderson's Mills were at the same place and time entirely destroyed and the passes stopped up in the face of a heavy fire from the enemy and their approach thereby delayed to Augusta for days, Capt. Ryan and Lieut. Nobles were conspicuous in this service and with their company entered Augusta in view of the approaching foe. While Col. Campbell remained in Augusta General A. Williamson [Andrew Williamson] collected a formidable force of South Carolina Militia on the heights opposite Augusta, on the North side of the Savannah River, Col. Leroy Hammond's Regiment made a respectable proportion of that force, while thus a call was made on Col. Hammond, for an officer and smaller detachment, to be dispatched crossed the River to reconnoiter the enemy and obtain all the information he could obtain to their force, positions &c, Capt. Ryan volunteered on that occasion and with Lieut. Nobles and his company passed over the River at night viewed the enemies encampment, obtained useful

² Sic, [Peter Hilvard S10802](#)

³ [Samuel Hammond S21807](#)

information, and on their return surprised a small outpost of the enemy and made them prisoners. Some time after the British retreated from Augusta, Col. Hammond was detached with part of his Regiment, Col. Mawby [?] of the Georgia continental horse and some Georgia militia commanded by Col. Walton to harass the retreating enemy in this Capt. Ryan & Carter's Companies were placed in advance -- no action took place -- on the return of this detachment to the General's headquarters information was received that a body of Creek and Cherokee Indians joined by some Tories, were on their march to gain the British Army passing South of Ogeechee River in Georgia. Col. L. Hammond was again ordered out with volunteers from the different regiments then encamped & marched with from 4 to 500 men & attacked and defeated the enemy near Williams Swamp [?], brought in a number of prisoners. It was a hard fought action, the enemy's force was nearly double the colonel's number, in this engagement Lieut. Nobles behaved with coolness and bravery. This deponent further saith, that Lieut. Nobles after this affair entered into the Stono expedition and served throughout that campaign, which ended with the Siege of Savannah in November 1779, after this expedition Capt. Ryan's Company returned home, and were frequently out on Scouting parties until the Siege of Augusta in 1781, when he entered the service again under Col. Leroy Hammond and was at the last Siege of Augusta, when Col. Brown [Thomas "Burnt Foot" Brown] surrendered after the Siege of Augusta and Capt. Ryan's Company with Lieut. Nobles had a skirmish with a body of Tories at Rodgers plantation in Edgefield District, shortly after the evacuation of Ninety Six by the British, after this affair Capt. Ryan and Lieut. Nobles remained with their company off and on, and on Scouting duty until the close of the war in 1783. This deponent would not wish to be understood that the service above mentioned was a Continental service, but that he simply means, that the company of Capt. Ryan to which was attached Lieut. Nobles as aforesaid formed as it were an independent company, though frequently attached to the command of Col. Leroy Hammond and in the battles aforesaid, yet even more frequently engaged in scouting expeditions, reconnoitering the enemy's positions, getting information of the same, cutting off small parties of the enemy, and intercepting his supplies. This deponent further saith that this desultory warfare was common by Capt. Ryan's Company from 1778 as aforesaid until the end of the war in 1783, that the principal theatre of Capt. Ryan's operation, in all of which he was attended by Lieut. Nobles, was between Savannah, Edisto and Saluda Rivers, where important service was rendered. This deponent further saith that he cannot state a continuous service of Lieut. Nobles, as the company to which he was attached being always in readiness to march upon request, were out sometimes a month, 2 months &c, but he is certain that he served at least 2 years, which he thinks is the lowest estimate.

Sworn to and subscribed by making his Mark before me this 18th of July 1838.
S/ M. Gray, Qu.

S/ Peter Hillard, X his mark

[Veteran's widow was initially pensioned at the rate of \$130.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 based on her husband service as a Lieutenant in the South Carolina militia for 9 months and 24 days. Thereafter she was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum commencing March 4, 1831 and ending at her death on April 7, 1850. The amount of her pension was based upon his service as a Lieutenant for 2 years in the South Carolina militia.]