

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Neil W19918                      Martha Neil    VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 5 Dec 2020.

State of Virginia  
Bedford County SS.

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1839, before me G Steptoe a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mrs. Martha Neil aged 88 years, a respectable resident of said County, 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 7, 1838, Entitled, "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of John Neil dec'd. of said County who was a private in the Revolutionary War. That from what she could learn from her dec'd. husband Jno. Neil, he must have been two or three years in the service, at different stages of war – that she heard him say that he enlisted in the early part of the Revolutionary War to go out against the Indians on the Kentucky frontiers – and that he served 18 or 19 months or more on said occasion – that after he had returned from said Service, he the said Jno. Neil served one tour for his Father Zachariah Neil – and one tour for her brother Alexander Gibbs – but the precise time and occasion, she does not now recollect – that in March 1781 he the said Jno. Neil her dec'd husband, was called into service to go to the battle of Guilford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] with the Bedford Militia – that Jno Neil and Sam'l. Beard [Samuel Beard W4131] went into service at the same time on said occasion to go to Guilford – that she recollects distinctly, that they went together on said occasion to serve said tour which she thinks was to be for six weeks duration and she the deponent further declares, that she was to the aforesaid Jno. Neil by the Rev'd. Jno Holt in said county married on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1782 – That her husband the aforesaid Jno. Neil died on the [blank] day of March 1818 – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 viz, at the time above mentioned – as will more fully appear by the proof annexed – that she the said Martha Neil (whose maiden name was Gibbs) has remained unmarried ever since the death of her husband the aforesaid Jno. Neil, to the present time – and now claims a pension at the hands of the Gen'l. Government as the widow of said Neil in consideration of said Services —  
Martha herXmark Neal

State of Virginia                      Bedford County. S.S.

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 1840, before me John W. Holt a Justice of the peace in and for said county, personally appeared Mr. David Gibbs, a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say;

That he is 76 years old – that he was well acquainted with John Neil of said County who married Martha Gibbs (now Martha Neil his present widow, ever since he was a boy – that he recollects distinctly the time that said Jno. Neil enlisted under Captain [Henry] Paulding of the regular state line service to go out on the frontiers against the Indians and that on said occasion he must have served at least twelve months – and a part, if not all of which time he thinks he was at Point Pleasant – and in the year 1777 and 1778 he recollects when he Neil left home, and when he returned – and that his cousin Zaph Neil [Zephaniah Neal S1863] went with him. That after the said Neil had returned from said service, he served one tour for his Father Zachariah Neil in the lower part of the State – and one tour for Alex'r. Gibbs [Alexander Gibbs] – on each of which three last occasions, deponent thinks that said Neil served three months each time. and that he recollects distinctly when Neil left home and when he returned from said tour to Guilford in N. Carolina in March 1781. That deponent was well acquainted with Maj [John] Slaughter named in the certificate of Balance of pay issued to said Jno. Neil in April 1782 – that he lived near New London in (then) said County and that he frequently had business in Richmond – and deponent has no doubt on his mind, but that the aforesaid Jno. Neil of whose services he has been speaking is the same person named in the above certificate, that is issued in his name, (and delivered to Maj. Slaughter in

April 1782) for £49.11.8 – for, said Neil was well acquainted with said Slaughter. And deponant further says that the aforesaid Jno. Neil of whose services he has been speaking after he came out of said service, was married to Martha Gibbs (now Martha Neil his present widow) in said County, by the Rev'd. Jno. Holt on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1782 – deponant himself being present at the wedding, and saw them married with his own eyes – that they continued to live together as man and wife, untill the death of said Jno. Neil her husband which was about 21 years ago or more – that the said Martha Neil has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband as aforesaid to the present time – and is the Identical person who is now claiming a pension, as the widow of said Jno. Neil dec'd. in consideration of his Neils services.

David hisXmark Gibbs

[Mason Robinson, 75, also stated that she had been present when John and Martha Neil were married by Rev. Holt of the Episcopal Church, and that John Neil had been in service on the frontier “so long that his Father Zachariah Neil became very uneasy about him – supposing that he was dead – and that his cousins Charles and Zaph Neil went with him on said occasion.”]

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 1840, before me Wm A White a Justice of the peace, in and for said county, personally appeared Mrs. Fanny Austin a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth oh her oath say – That she is 76 years old or more – that she recollects distinctly, when Jno. Neil of said County who married Martha Gibbs (now Martha Neil) enlist[ed] in the old revolutionary war in said county, to go out against the Indians towards the Kentucky Frontiers; That the said Neil left home in the latter part of winter, or early part of spring: that she thinks his captain was named Paulding – that Jno. Neil's enlisting and leaving home for so long, and dangerous a tour of service caused great greif in his Family That news came to Bedford of his death, but it proved not to be so; that Zaph. Neil, and Chas. Neil, cousins of Jno. Neil, also enlisted, and went into service; but she is inclined to think they were not in the same company – for Zaph Neil told deponant that he was in service three years – and that during his service he was at the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and that Chas. Neil died while in service; deponant can not say with any certainty how long Jno. Neil was in sevice out against the Indians – which must have been in the early part of the war – but would not be surprised if was Two years, as he was gone a long time – but her mind is vague as to the exact time. That in the latter part of the old war – after Jno Neil had returned from the frontiers against the Indians – he went again into sevice towards the south – thinks he went to Guilford – but did not stay more than 2 or 3 months. and further that the said Jno. Neil one or two years after the close of the old war, was married to his present widow Martha Neil in said county – that deponant herself has been married 46 or 47 years – and that said Jno. Neil and his present widow Martha Neil was married at least 12 years before deponant was – and that said Martha Neil has remained a widow ever since the death of her husband the said Jno. Neil – which was about 20 years ago – to the present time. That Jno. Neil and Maj. Slaughter lived near neighbours in Campbell Co. Near New London – and was well acquainted, and Slaughter having frequent business in Richmond it was quite natural that Jno. Neil should get him to receive his certificate of Bal of pay due him at the end of the war.

Fanny herXmark Austin

State of Virginia Bedford County S.S.

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 1840, before me Wm A White a Justice of the peace in and for said county personally appeared Mr. Richard Austin a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 83 years old – that he became acquainted with Jno. Neil who married Martha Gibbs (now Martha Neil his present widow) in the year 1785 or 6 – that Neil and wife was considered legally married and lived together untill his death about 20 years ago – and that Martha Neil has remained a widow ever since. That deponant has frequently heard Jno Neil aforesaid speak of his going into service against the Indians, out on the Frontiers of Virginia under the command (he thinks) of Capt. Paulding under whom he enlisted – how long Neil seved he can not say but understood he was gone a good long time – and in all rendered a good deal of sevice – he heard Neils Family relations

say that news came home that Neil was dead (there being a great deal of sickness in Pauldings company) but it proved not true. Deponant says further that Jno. Neil could not have been in the same sevice (company) with Zaph and Chas. Neil as Zaph Neil told deponant that he was at the Battle of B.wine, which was in 1777 and that Jno. Neil about the same time must have been out on the Frontiers against the Indians and that Chas. Neil he understood died in the service. That Jno Neil and Maj. Slaughter lived near neighbours together in Campbell Co. near New London – that Slaughter had frequent business in Richmond and it was quite natural that Jno. Neil should get him to receive his certificate of Bal. of pay due him at the close of the war.

Richard hisXmark Austin

[From [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia](#). The file also includes a power of attorney by Martha Neil to Robert H. Gray and correspondence with the U.S. Pension Office about the identity of John Neil and whether he was in the State or Continental service.]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session, 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 8th day of April 1782, in the name of John Neil as a Soldier of Infantry for £49.11.8, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Major Slaughter and was given for services prior to the 1st January, 1782.

Given under my hand at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 17th day of Dec'r 1841.

Jas E. Heath AUDITOR.

1842 Jan'y 27 Rejected