

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Nelson W21838

Mary

f82VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/9/13

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia – Westmoreland County to wit

On this 30th day of November 1838, personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace for the said County, Mary Nelson, a resident of said County & State aforesaid, aged 72 years and upwards, 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 June 7th 1832 entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" – That she is the widow of William Nelson who was a Captain of an independent company & Major of Militia as she has heard and believes, in the War of the Revolution – that she has frequently heard her said husband speak of the many privations and distressing hardships he had to encounter whilst he was in service – that she cannot state the particulars of the service of said Officer, but she has heard him speak of being in command at the Siege of York when Cornwallis was taken [October 19, 1781] – from all she has ever heard she thinks her said husband commence service at the commencement of hostilities, and continued in service with his said company for the period of three years or more – and after that was frequently out in service – She cannot say whether the services of said officer were confined to Virginia. He was a citizen of Westmoreland County when he entered service – It is impossible for her to speak more particularly of her said husband's services – His regimentals and sword he had at the time of his death – She knows of no other officer that new her said husband in service than William Storke Jett¹ of this County – She formerly knew some of his men, but believes they are dead or beyond her reach – She thinks she has heard him speak of Colonel Thomas Gaskins and of engagements he was in but cannot recollect them – that she wants head knowledge of many circumstances which have escaped her recollection – And has no documentary proof that she knows of, all of his papers were taken from her possession immediately after his death, and she has never seen them.

She further declares that she was married to the said William Nelson on the ___ day of September in the year 1791 – That her husband the aforesaid William Nelson died on the 7th day of April 1796 – that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 – to wit, at the time above stated.

S/ Mary Nelson, X her Mark

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written before me, the justice as aforesaid. She the declarant being unable on account of bodily infirmity to attend Court in person to make her declaration above written

S/ Benjamin F Stewart, JP

¹ FPA S5614

[f p. 9: Very faint image of a marriage bond dated August 31, 1791 issued to William Nelson and John Wood in Westmoreland County Virginia conditioned upon the marriage of William Nelson and Mary Harrison, spinster.]

[f p. 58]

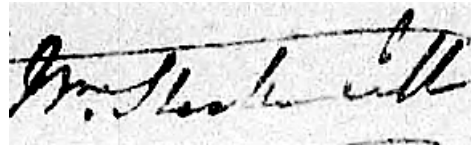
State of Virginia Westmoreland County: SS

On this 28th day of November 1838 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace in & for said County, William Storke Jett, a respectable citizen of said County, and made oath in due form of law that he knew the late Colonel William Nelson of said County in the War of the Revolution – He was a Captain of an independent Company, as it [paper damaged, text missing] and commenced service very early [paper damaged, text missing]. He was one of the first officers that [paper damaged, text missing] after the commencement of the War he is under the impression his service commenced the beginning of the year 1776 – Said officer was actively engaged in said service commanding said Company which was afterwards called Militia, for several years, & for two or three years constantly engaged – He was at the siege of York, & having been promoted to the majority, this affiant became an officer in the same Regiment & marched with him to Gloucester – He retained his commission until the War closed, and was afterwards promoted to the grade of Colonel. He died in said County many years since & left a widow living at this time in this County. The said Captain Nelson was considered the best militia officer in the County – was an active & meritorious officer –

Subscribed and sworn to before me a justice as aforesaid

S/ Benj. F. Stewart, JP

S/ Wm Storke Jett

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Storke Jett", written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

[f p. 60]

State of Virginia Westmoreland County to wit

Samuel Templeman² a respectable Citizen of the said County, this day personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said County, and made oath that he knew the late Colonel William Nelson of said County during the Revolution. He served as a Captain in said War, and this affiant acting as Muster Master in said War, mustered said Nelson's Company after the Battle of Long Bridge, which he thinks was November 1776 [sic, December 9, 1775]. Said Nelson was then in command as Captain. During this time the Enemy were constantly in the River between the Narrows and the mouth of Potomac and he believes that Captain Nelson was constantly out in said service. The exact period of his service he cannot state, but he was in actual service at that time at least a year – This affiant removed to the State of North Carolina in 1779 and knew but little of said Nelson after that date. Subscribed and sworn to this 20th day of March 1840.

S/ Samuel Templeman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Templeman", written in dark ink on a light-colored paper.

² [Samuel Templeman S6204](#)

[f p. 64-65: There is a 2-page letter addressed to the Sec. of War sent by Elizabeth M. Sutton from "Oakegrove" and dated Nov. 5 1848 in which she appears to claim to be the daughter of the veteran's widow; she makes reference to an unnamed sister who was dead (but survived by children) and to half-sisters and a half-brother (all unnamed).]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$480 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband's service as a Captain for 2 years in the Virginia Continental line.]