

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

Pension application of James Russell W5167

Nancy

fn197NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/25/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 167]

State of North Carolina Secretary's Office of December 1819

I William Hill Secretary of State in & for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears from the musterroll of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war that James Russell a Sergeant in Captain Blounts Company of the 10th Regiment was mustered first May 1779 for 2 1/2 years. The date of his discharge is not mentioned.

Given under my hand this 7th December 1819

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary

[fn p. 168]

The district of North Carolina

On this first day of January A.D. 1820 before me, the Subscriber, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of law & Courts of Equity for the said District, personally appeared James Russell aged sixty-five years or thereabouts, resident in the County of Orange in North Carolina who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following Declaration in order to obtain the Provision made by the late Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide for certain Persons engaged in the Land & Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War:" That he the said James Russell enlisted for the Term of 2 1/2 years on the 1st day of May A.D. 1779 in Hillsboro in North Carolina in the company commanded by Captain Reding Blount of the Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Mebane in the Line of the State of North Carolina on the Continental Establishment: that he received the Appointment of Sergeant upon his enlistment; That the Regiment was then the 10th but some time afterwards an alteration took place in the Regiments and the one commanded by Colonel Robert Mebane became the 3rd. That he continued in the Service until the Surrender of Charleston, at which time he was taken Prisoner, and was in the Battles of Bryer Creek [sic, Brier Creek] & Stono -- that he is in reduced Circumstances and stands in need of the Assistance of his Country for support. He attaches to this his Declaration a Certificate of the Secretary of State for North Carolina, showing that he was mustered into the Service as a Sergeant on the first May 1779 for 2 1/2 years, in Captain blunts Company of the 10th Regiment.

Sworn to & declared before me, the day & year aforesaid

S/ A. D. Murphey

Richard Christmas<sup>1</sup> maketh oath that he was in the Militia at the Siege of Charleston and was taken a Prisoner upon the surrender of that City. That he was well acquainted with James Russell

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<sup>1</sup> [Richard Christmas S8196](#)

the above named applicant both before and ever since that time. That he well knows that said Russell was in action and brave soldier on the Continental line,, and he was in service at the Siege of Charleston and there taken prisoner. He believes he served faithfully for more than nine months before he was taken Prisoner, and he was and active man in the War until its Close, and received several wounds -- That said Russell is in reduced Circumstances, and stands in need of the Assistance of his Country for Support.

S/ R. Christmas

[fn p. 13]

North Carolina Orange County

On this first day of September 1820 -- personally appeared in open Court (this being the Court of Record for said County) James Russell of said County, who after having been sworn according to law, doth declare and say on his oath that he served in the War of the Revolution, and the Regiment commanded by Colonel Robert Mebane, which was the 3rd Regiment in the North Carolina line; in the company commanded by Captain Reading Blount -- that he served for the term of 2 years & one half -- that he was at the Battles of Guilford & at the Siege of Charlestown [Charleston], and many other skirmishes, & was discharged at Hillsboro North Carolina. That he was placed on the pension roll of the United States under the Act of 1818 and on the 2nd day of May 1820, and that the number of his Original discharge he is 16,812.

S/ Jas. Russell

James Russell's Schedule of property as a pensioner

1 Blind Mare 17 years old	\$15
1 Set of Blacksmith's tools	50
1 Rifle Gun	5
1 old Saddle	<u>5</u>
	\$75

he is aged about 66 years -- a Blacksmith by occupation & is infirm. He has no family.

S/ Jas. Russell

[fn p. 182: N/A document entitled "Supplemental Declaration" dated June 4, 1855 filed in Claiborne County Tennessee, Nancy Russell, a resident of Claiborne County, aged 52 filed for a widow's pension under the 1848 and 1853 acts stating that she is the widow of James Russell; that she married him and Orange County North Carolina May 1, 1825; that her name prior to her marriage was Nancy Brower; that her husband died February one, 1829 and Orange County North Carolina and that she remains his widow.]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: On this 15th day of September A.D. 1855 personally appeared before me the undersigned an acting justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid James Brewer aged about 56 years and Mary Brewer aged about 84 years who being duly sworn according to law Deposeth and saith that they know of no family record of James Russell and wife nor know of no record of the child of James Russell & Nancy Russell but saith that they was married about May 1822 and that Nancy Russell is the identical wife of James Russell deceased as we was present and saw them married in North Carolina

and both of us Testify that we was both well acquainted with Nancy Russell from her birth till the present time about the year 1800 and we knew Russell from about the year 1815 until his death and Nancy had one child Andrew J. Russell now aged 26 years by the aforesaid

James Russell Deceased and we only speak from the best recollection we have on the subject as there is no family nor private Record as we know of Russell's family neither of himself nor his child nor his wife Nancy Russell.

S/ James Brewer, X his mark

S/ Mary Brewer, X her mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 15th day of September 1855 and I further certify that said witness is credible witnesses on oath.

S/ Jacob Meyers, JP

[fn 156-160: affidavits give on September 22, 1856 in Claiborne County, Tennessee, by James Brewer, 57 and Mary Brewer 85 in which they state, among other things, that James Brewer was born about 1799 in Orange County, NC; that he has known Nancy Brewer Russell, all her life, he being 4 or 5 years old when she was born; that she was born 'about 1800 or a few years afterwards"; that he first knew James Russell in 1815; that Nancy married James in 1822 'or perhaps some two or three years afterwards; that he was present at their wedding; that Nancy had a child named Andrew J. Russell, now about 26 years old; that James Russell died in Orange County NC about 1830 or perhaps a year or two before or afterwards; that he was present when James Russell died; that James Russell was a pensioner of the US for his revolutionary war services at the rate of \$8/month; that Nancy Russell moved from NC to Claiborne County, Tennessee about the year 1834; Mary Brewer says she was born in Orange County, NC about 1771; that she is the mother of Nancy Brewer; Mary restates the same facts as stated by James Brewer in his affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: SS

On this 24th day of February A.D. 1857 Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Nancy Russell aged 60 years & resident Claiborne County in the State of Tennessee who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the widow of James Russell Deceased who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain Reading Blount & Colonel Mebane in the Revolutionary War and that her said husband was in actual service 2 1/2 years and was honorably discharged at the Expiration of said Service it is not supposed that the widow could give the precise day he entered the service nor neither the time he left the same. She further states that she was married to the said James Russell on or about the 15th of April 1825, as well as she now recollects and her name before her said marriage was Nancy Brewer. That her said husband died in Orange County North Carolina but she cannot now recollect the precise time but with references had to prove on file in the Pension Office the precise time may be ascertained of the death of her deceased husband James Russell and that she is now a widow. She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining Bounty Land to which she may be entitled under act approved March the 3rd 1855.

S/ Nancy Russell, X her mark

The Government versus Nancy Russell

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: On this day Polly Brewer a witness of lawful age personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County and after being duly sworn states that Nancy Russell widow of James Russell was a gain [sic, again] Married [married] to a man by the name of Jacob Shewk [?] By one John Hurst a Justice of the peace for Claiborne County since the death of the said James Russell. That I was present and

saw them married by said Justice at my father's own house in Claiborne County and they lived together some 2 or 3 months and then she left him and I do not know what became of the said Jacob Sherk [?] -- whether he is aliving [living] yet or not and Nancy had a daughter and Nancy said that Shurk [?] was her father and she always has went by that name till the date of her marriage. The said John Hurst the Justice that married them is dead and also Father and the Mother that was present at the marriage is both dead the said Nancy is the same Nancy Russell that was Drawing a pension as the widow of James Russell and that myself and the said Nancy Russell ar [are] sisters. Taken before me the 24th day of May 1860  
S/ Levi Goin, JP  
S/ Polly Brewer, X her mark

[fn p. 19]

Application for restoration a pension By Pensioner dropped from Pension Roll under Act of February 4, 1862.

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: SS

On this 23rd day of May A.D. 1866, before me Clerk of the County Court in and for the County and State above named, the same being a Court of Record, personally appeared Nancy Russell aged [figures obliterated and illegible] years, a resident of Claiborne County in the State of Tennessee who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is the identical Nancy Russell who was a pensioner on the roll of the agency at Knoxville Tennessee and whose Pension Certificate ~~is~~ was in the hands of one William Strickland who went into the rebel Army and was killed and she does not know what he did with it, that she has resided since the first day of January, 1861, as follows: with her friends in Claiborne County and State of Tennessee that during this period her means of subsistence have been by her labor spinning washing etc. and that she has not borne arms against the government of the United States, or in any manner encouraged the rebels, or manifested a sympathy with their cause: and she was last paid her pension on the 4th day of September A.D. 1860.

This application is made for the purpose of securing a restoration of her name to the pension rolls, and obtaining a new pension certificate, such as she may be entitled to under existing law, reference being made to the evidence heretofore filed in the Pension Office to substantiate her original claim, and hereby constitutes and appoints Tucker & Sells, of Washington, DC, her Attorneys to prosecute the claim and procure a certificate, with power of substitution, and revokes and counter man's all former authority that may have been given for the above specified purpose.

S/ Nancy Russell

[This file contains a large amount of documentation relating to the claim filed by the widow of the veteran. She was accused of having filed a fraudulent claim in that she was a married woman at the time she filed her claim, having been married to a man with whom she lived only a short time before leaving him, allegedly because he was already married at the time she married him. One of the people who assisted her in filing for her pension, Vincent Meyers or Moyers, got himself appointed as her guardian on the basis of her allegedly being incompetent. She filed suit against him claiming he wrongly had her declared incompetent in order to deprive her of her pension for his own use. Meyers/Moyers then notified the War Department of the alleged fraud. The widow successfully applied to Congress (fn pp. 108-123) to have her pension reinstated. She survived the Civil War and filed to have her pension again reinstated at its conclusion.]