

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Nelson [Nielson] W53

Lucy Nelson

f68NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 6/23/17

[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.]

[p 4]

State of Tennessee, Warren County

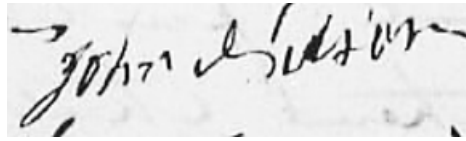
On this first day of October A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County of Warren, now in session John Nelson a Resident in the South Western part of Warren County on the Barren Fork of Duck River (Tennessee) – aged 78 years next July, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 (viz.) That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers Enlisted under Colonel James Thaxton [sic, James Thackston] April 78. The precise day not recollected. He then enlisted 120 men in Cumberland County, Wake, [county name missing], Moore, Richmond & Anson Counties in North Carolina. After that he joined the service under General Caswell [Richard Caswell] at Shepherd's old field in Cumberland – stayed with him 2 days. He was Captain of a company sent by General Caswell to join General Morgan [Daniel Morgan]. He fell in with General Gates [Horatio Gates] on his route to join Morgan & he ordered him (Declarant) to march & join DeKalb's Brigade. He did so about 5 days before the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780], in which Gates was defeated. He was in that battle, but received no wounds. After the battle of Camden he went to Big Pedee [River] & fell in with General Harrington & Colonel Donelson & whilst under him he had a skirmish with a parcel of British & Tories at a place called The Junipers in South Carolina. In which he received a bayonet wound in his right side. After he got well he joined Marion on Snow Island. Whilst under him he was engaged in divers skirmishes with the Tories. He went from Snow Island to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where he joined General Harrington. He was sent thence with \$500 [sic] British Prisoners. His company guarded them to New Bern in North Carolina – from thence to Halifax – thence to Prince Edward in Virginia – thence to Amelia. Thence to Albemarle Barracks. Thence to Winchester. Thence to Harrisburg. Thence to Little York. They were delivered up to General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] to be exchanged. Thence he was ordered back to South Carolina & joined Marion again & General Harrington. On the 12 of October following 1782, he received his discharge in print after having been in the Service three years & a half. He is not able to produce any documentary evidence for the reason that his house was burnt in Moore County North Carolina & his papers with it. Nor does he know of any living person who can testify to his Services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

The Court aforesaid then proceeded to propound the following interrogatories to the above named Declarant, the answers only are here set down. I was born in '55 in Cumberland County North Carolina. I have a record of my age now in Court. When called into service I lived in North Carolina: since the War I have lived in North Carolina, South Carolina –

Kentucky, Indiana & now in Warren County North Carolina I enlisted under James Thackston (Colonel). I received a Discharge signed by Generals Washington, Greene & Morgan which was burnt as before stated. The following persons in my neighborhood will testify to my character for veracity & their belief of my services as a revolutionary Soldier, to wit, Hugh O'Neil, Alexander Grant, William Brown, Justice of the Peace, John Graham & others.

S/ John Nelson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Nelson", written over a light-colored background.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ Jos Colville, Clk

By S/ L. Colville, DC

[Hugh O'Neil, a clergyman, and Alexander Grant gave the standard supporting affidavit. Hugh O'Neil signed his name "Hugh O'Neill, L. D."]

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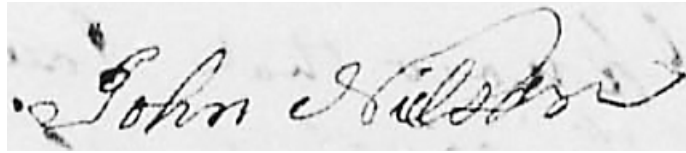
An Amendment to the Declaration of John Nelson, made in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

State of Tennessee, Warren County,

On this 1st day of July in the year 1833, personally appeared in open Court in the court of pleas & quarter sessions John Nelson a Resident in the County of Warren as stated in his declaration, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his Oath make the following additional declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832, Viz.: That he entered the regular service of the United States, having enlisted as a Captain, under the officers named in his original declaration, namely Colonel James Thackston, in the month of April in the year 1778, but he cannot recollect the day of the month. He was regularly commissioned as a Captain in a few days after he enlisted as aforesaid by General George Washington, General Nathanael Greene and General Daniel Morgan and countersigned by Colonel James Thackston and James Emmett. Said ~~discharge~~ Commission was destroyed in the manner stated in his original declaration. He then proceeded to enlist men, as stated in his original declaration. This Declarant continued in the service as a Captain every day from the time he was commissioned until he was discharged as stated in his original declaration, on the 12th day of October in the year 1782. About two or three months after he enlisted, having raised a company of 120 men by enlistment, He joined the Army of the United States, at Shepherd's old field in Cumberland County North Carolina, commanded by General Richard Caswell, where he remained a few days, when General Caswell sent him to join General Morgan who was then marching to meet the British Army at Camden. This declarant was never stationed at any place longer than a few days at a time during the whole time he was in the Service of his Country, but he was in active service all the time pursuing the British or Tories, and some times retreating. He was always under the command of higher officers as stated in his original declaration but often times he was sent on reconnoitering tours when he was the highest officer in command. He does not recollect any particular or memorable occurrences now, which are not mentioned in his first Declaration. This declarant does not know of any person by whom he can prove that he was commissioned as a Captain and acted as such, nor can he make any more proof on the Subject than he has already done, except he could if necessary brain many more of his neighbors to prove his character for truth and their belief of his having served as stated.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court July 1, 1833.

S/ John Nielson [sic]



S/ Jos Colville, Clk

By S/ L. Colville, DC

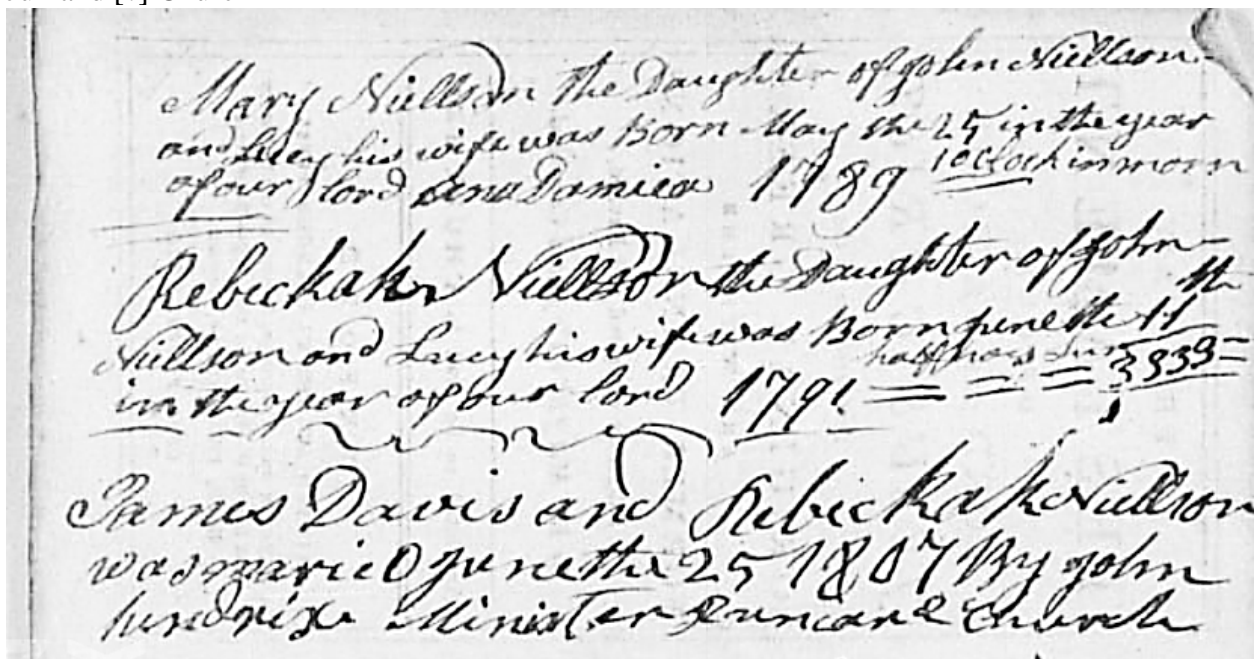
[p 11: On October 23, 1843, Lucy Nelson, 71, a resident of Coffee County Tennessee filed for a widow's pension stating that she was married to John Nelson by the Reverend Sherwood White in Chatham County North Carolina on the 12th day of October 1786; that John Nelson died in Coffee County Tennessee on the 19th of August 1843; that her husband was a pensioner at the rate of eighty dollars per annum at the time of his death. She signed her application with her mark.

[p 16: The following Bible record appears in the file:

Mary Niellson the Daughter of John Niellson and Lucy his wife was Born May the 25 in the year of our Lord Ano Domica 1789 10 O'Clock in morn

Rebeckah Niellson the Daughter of John Niellson and Lucy his wife was Born June the 11th in the year of our lord 1791

James Davis and Rebickak Niellson was married June the 25 1807 By John hendrix Minister Juniaud [?] Church



Mary Niellson the Daughter of John Niellson
and Lucy his wife was Born May the 25 in the year
of our Lord Anno Domica 1789 ^{10 O'Clock in morn}

Rebeckah Niellson the Daughter of John
Niellson and Lucy his wife was Born June the 11th
in the year of our Lord 1791 ^{half past 11}

James Davis and Rebeckah Niellson
was married June the 25 1807 By John
hendrix Minister Juniaud Church

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John Nallson was Born 175:5 July the Ninth

Lucy Hartt was Born the 11th of December 1772

John Nallson and Lucy hart was married the twilf of October 1786 By Sherwood White a baptist Preacher.

John Nelson was born 1755
July the ninth
Lucy Hart was born the 11th of December
1772.
John Nelson and Lucy Hart was married
the twill of October 1786 By Shurwood
White baptist preacher

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State of North Carolina, Office of Secretary of Statements

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the Book of settlements of the accounts of the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State, that John Nelson a Sergeant in the said line in the revolutionary War, was allowed for his services by a Board of Commissioners who sat at Warrenton in this State in the year 1786, the sum of 62 pounds 12 shillings and 11 pence (£62.12.11).

Given under my hand this eighth day of March 1844

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 63—there is a reference to James Hart, brother of Lucy Hart Nelson, widow of John Nelson.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]