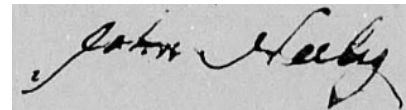


Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Neely W5408 Margaret Neely NY
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

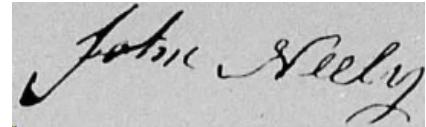
State of Virginia } ss.
Lewis County }

On this seventh day of August 1832 Personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of Lewis county now setting John Neely a resident on the line which seperates the counties of Lewis and Harrison in the state of Virginia aged seventy four years, 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 day of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the service as a militia man in the state of New York in the year 1776 in the first of the year under captain William Telford, Major Dennison, Col. McClagherty and General George Clinton Helped build Fort Montgomery [near Bear Mountain in Orange County NY] and was stationed there until last of November 1776 when he was discharged. That he again entered into the service in the month of March 1777 under Captain Feltner. The same field officers was stationed at Fort Clinton [near Fort Montgomery] on North river in New York State untill the fort was taken in October 1777 [the 6th] Then he was marched to a place called Sopes or Esopes [Esopus, now Kingston] to resist the landing of the enemy. The enemy however succeeded in burning the place [13 Oct 1777] Affiant was again discharged at Christmas at a place called Windsor or New Windsor in New York state. He again entered the army as a volunteer and marched to oppose the landing of the enemy at a place in New York or New Jersey called Ramapough [sic: Ramapo]. again returned to New York and built in March 1778 a Fort at West point and continued there three months. Thence he was ordered to the frontier to oppose the Indians had a skirmish with them, was repulsed by them with the loss of three men. Next day we pursued a company of the English and tories who had come to pack of wheat &c from the head of Delaware, we overtook them and took from them 40 horses, and destroyed what grain we could not use He was again discharged at Christmas in 1779 Affiant was born in the city of New York in the year 1758. He left the service in 1779 having served not less than three years as a private. he knew the following officers in the army Viz. Major General James Clinton and his brother Brigadier Gen'l. George Clinton my own Gen'l. I have often seen General George Washington. He has no documentary proof that he knows of and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services. He relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

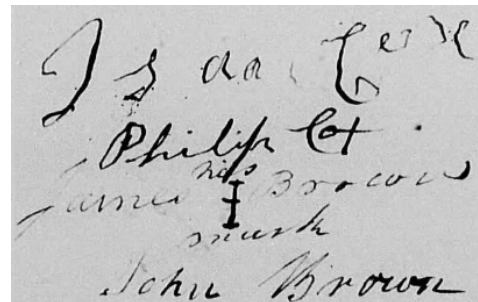


- To the interrogatories propounded by the War department I answer as follows. Viz. To the first
- 1st I was born in the City of New York in the year 1758 according to the accounts of my parents.
 2. I have no record of my age
 3. I lived when I was called into the service in the State and City of New York after the termination of the war I removed to Virginia to Harrison then now on the line between the counties of Lewis and Harrison about 14 miles from the courthouse of the former and about 10 miles from the courthouse of the latter Lewis County was detached from Harrison by a law of 1816 or 1817.
 - 4 I was drafted when I first went into the army the two first Tours were for six months each but each lasted longer The residue, I was a volunteer and did not serve less than three years in all as a private soldier.

- 5 I remember General, Major General James Clinton and Brigadier General George Clinton my own commander who I have since voted for as Vice President of the U. States (1805-1812). I have often seen General George Washington. I knew Col. [William] Malcolm. I knew Gen'l. [Israel] Putnam I at that time was personally acquainted with many other officers who I have forgot the name off.
- 6 I received three discharges The first signed by captain Wm. Telford, countersigned by Col. McClaugherty and General George Clinton The second was signed by captain Feltner & Gen'l. Clinton my last was signed by Captain ... Byrns and Genl Geo. Clinton
- 7 I am well (and have long been) known by Isaac Cox [pension application S9215] a very old man his son Philip [Philip Cox S18360] also an old man. James Brown [S6718] and his brother John [John Brown S6720] both old men we have lived near neighbours for many years and still do we have often in years past talked of our revolutionary services They can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services. There are no Clergymen living near me The pastor of the church which I have visited for about 30 years (occasionally) resides about thirty miles from me and is an old man a Baptist. There are no other resident Clergymen but Itenerant preachers with whom I form but little acquaintance. I confide as much in honest Laymen around me as in church Prelates



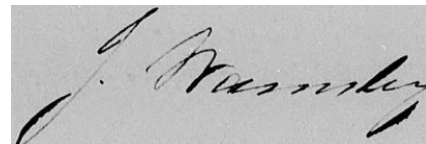
We Isaac Cox and Philip Cox living on the line which separates the counties of Lewis and Harrison nearest the courthouse of the former and we James Brown and John Brown residing in the County of Lewis hereby certify that we are (and for very many years been acquainted with John Neely who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration That we believe him to be 74 years of age. That he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, And that we concur in that opinion. Subscribed and sworn to this 7th day of Aug't. 1832.



Sir [Lewis Cass, Secretary of War] I here send the declaration of Mr. Neely Please pass on his case and communicate the result to me. he is a very frail old man. I have known him a long time, he is an honest man I can safely affirm. If he is allowed please forward his certificate to me That John Talbott is the clerk of Lewis County court see the certificate of the honorable Lewis Maxwell appended to the declaration of John Rains sent by a former mail.

Respectfully/ Your obt. ser't.

[Jonathan Wamsley]



[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton, who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. Singleton found that Jonathan Wamsley, among others, had fraudulently altered or entirely fabricated claims for pensions, but he apparently was unaware at the time of the report that Wamsley was responsible for Neely's application. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. Singleton wrote on this report, "Entitled."]
John Neeley aged 74, Serv'd. 20 mo.

Saw this Pensioner June 27, 1834 and then received from him the following narrative of his age and services a soldier in the war of the Revolution – to Wit. is 76 years old next November – a native of New York. moved to Uniontown Pennsylvania in December 1779. previous to his removal to Pennsylvania to Wit in March 1776 was drafted as a Militia man and Marched to Fort Montgomery under the command of Col. McLaugherty remained at the Fort and was employed in building the same until the succeeding November, both inclusive – say nine months, returned from there and in two weeks thereafter the whole Regt. to which he belonged were again called into service under the same Colonel and marched to Ramapo in the state of New Jersey. remained in service until the succeeding March at least three months.

In the succeeding Spring in the Month of March a part of the same Regt. including himself were again called into service. they then engaged in building Fort Clinton & he thinks Fort defiance was in this service four and a half months.

In the succeeding summer, a part of the same Regt. was again called into service at West Point. he was in service on this occasion four months. Genl. George Clinton commanded his brigade in this tour. in the same Summer was out against the Indians 3 weeks.

Note this is a man of character and I should infer without seeing his declaration for comparison that he is entitled to all he draws. W. G. Singleton/ Nov. 12 1834

War Department/ Pension Office/ March 16 1835

Sir As your statement made to Mr. Singleton in relation to your revolutionary services differs in point materially from the known course of the Militia Service during the periods named by you, you will be required to furnish additional explanations. You alleged nine month service in 1777 by draft: – five months was the extent to which any one was required to serve in that year.

You further allege to have served in 1777 under Capt. Tilford: – 3 months under Capt. Fetler – also in building Fort Clinton 4½ months, and 4 [sic] months more stationed at West Point.

In your original declaration, you alleged to have been drafted in 1776 and 1777 two terms of 6 months each but that you served much longer, and that you again served in 1778 a tour of 3 months and was then ordered to the frontier to oppose the indians, and was discharged about Christmas 1779. that you served in all not less than 3 years. Upon a recurrence to the Company roll of Capt. Fidler in 1778 I do not find you a member of it, your name not appearing upon the roll; but I find by the pay rolls of Capt. Telfords Company, that you was allowed for 2 days service in December 1778 – for ten days at West Point in May 1779, and in the month of October 1780 for six days since in guarding the frontier – in all 18 days.

It is indeed extremely doubtful whether all your service could have amounted to six months.

I am Respectfull/ Your ob't. Servant

J L Edwards [Commissioner of Pensions]

[The reply below is written on the same paper.]

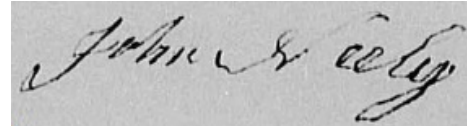
Harrison County Ss }
Virginia }

John Neely of Lewis County Va this day personally appeared before me James Reed a justice of the peace for said County of Harrison, and doth declare on his oath, that he never told J. Wamsly his agent who got him his pension, that he served 3 years during the R. War, – That he told said Wamsly the same Statement that he gave Singleton & [Nathan] Goff Last summer, – and when he was sworn he thought he was swearing to the statement as he had gave it to Wamsly, – he further states on oath in relation to the

9 months Tower done in 1776 – that he was a substitute for his Father one half of that time which fact he did not know it was necessary to mention when he gave his statement to Goff & Singleton, state the way that the 9 months service was performed was as follows, – that he and his Father had to serve twice about Commencing in the Spring. That he stayed in the army 9 months, serving for him self and Father he further states that he Cannot now give a more full statement of the balance of his service than he gave to Singleton & Goff he alleges that he [illegible word] do full full 20 months serves during the R War, he further states that he never done any service in the year 1780, – that he had a Brother in Law of the same name, (John Neely) who belonged to the Militia of New York and served in the State of New York in 1780 – and supposes it must be his Brother in Law's name found by the department – that he himself had moved to the State of Pennsylvania in 1780 – Therefore it cannot be his name found on the pay roll, –

Sworn to & subscribed before me

Jas Reed J.P.



Clarksburg May 20th 1835

[To James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] Day by day & hour by hour am I called on & troubled by the pensions of this County and the surrounding Counties, – those that I think have no Claim to a pension I get clear of by sending them home, and telling them that they are not entitiled, – But the other class who Singleton & my Self thought wer entitiled, I cannot get clear of them in any other way but in, attending to their businss, – The enclosed is a statement made & swon to before James Reed justice of the peace by John Neelly –, whent Mr Singleton & myself examined him, we thought him entitiled to all he was drawing and still I think he is, he bares the Character of a correct and hones man

yours in haste [signed] Nathan Goff

The following summary from payrolls provided by the Comptroller of New York applies to a different John Neely, possibly the brother-in-law of the present applicant, as explained above.]

1782	December	31	John Neely	Fife Major	£ 14. 8. 0
1780	May	26	John Neally	Private	0. 9. 7½
1779	Nov	2	Do	“	0.10. 8
1780	August	6	Do	“	0.14.11½
1779	June	10	Do	“	0.17. 9

State of New-York./ comptroller's Office, Albany, March 10 1851

I hereby certify the above to be true extracts from Books No. 1 – 7 & 8 now remaining in this office, and that the service for which the certificates above named were issued, were performed under the following officers, viz:

1st	under Capt.	Job Wright	in Col.	Marinus Willett's Regiment.
2d	“	David McMaster	“	Frederick Fisher's “ Montg[?]
3d	“	Do	“	Do “
4th	“	Lieut Jas. [James] McMaster	“	Do “
5th	“	Capt. Jas. Houston	“	Jacob Lansing Jr. “

NOTES:

On 25 March 1833 John Neely was issued a certificate for a pension of \$66.66 for 20 months of service. A note on one copy of the certificate states that the pension was suspended (like all from Harrison and Lewis counties during Singleton's investigation), and he died before the pension was restored.

Although Neely appears to have been guiltless in his own pension application, he certified the claims of Isaac Cox and Philip Cox that were found to have been fraudulent.

On 29 Oct 1843 Margaret Neely, said to be 77, of Harrison County, successfully applied for a pension stating that she married John Neely in Fayette County PA in March 1787, and he died on 22 June 1835. She signed twice, as Margaret and as Margret Neely. A court document certifies that John Neely died on 21 June 1835. On 26 Jan 1854 Margaret Neely stated that her name before marriage was Margaret Neely.

The file contains the family record in the handwriting of John Neely on the back of the title page of a New Testament dated 1791, transcribed below. The record was certified by Mathew Neely of Doddridge County VA, the son of John and Margaret Neely.

John Neely was Born November 24 17[??] [last digits probably 58]

Marget Neely was Born May 11th 1768

William Neely was Born December 30 1787

Mary Neely was Born February 13 1790

Matthew Neely was Born December 5 1791

Thomas Neely was Born June [illegible] 1794

Floyd Neely

[first name illegible, possibly Floyd] Neely was born May [illegible] 1796

~~John Neely~~

John hopkins Neely was Born october 5th 1798

George Neely [the rest illegible]