

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Neely W5410

Jane Neely

f47SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p5]

Virginia, Washington County} Sc

On this 27th day of January 1835, personally appeared in open Court, before the justices of the County Court of the County aforesaid, being a court of record, Robert Neely a citizen of the said County and State, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

The said Robert Neely states that he is now in the 74th year of his age, as he believes. He has, however no record of his age, and his recollection of any thing, that he may have heard either of his parents or any other person say upon the subject does not enable him to state it with certainty. He supposes it to be possible that he may be some 2 or 3 years younger than he believes himself to be. He states further in reference to this subject that his father's family Bible in which his age was recorded, together with a good deal of other property belonging to his father and his uncle Robert Smith was taken by a party of British during the war of the Revolution, from the house of said Smith, who then lived near Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, and carried off or destroyed. At the time of this occurrence his father with his family was residing temporarily at the house of said Smith with a view to avoid the depredations of the British. The said Smith afterwards removed to Tennessee and has since died.

The said Neely states that he was born on Marsh Creek in the State of Pennsylvania. He does not remember the name of the County.

The said Neely removed with his parents, at a very early age, to the Stony fork of Fishing Creek in South Carolina, about 80 miles above Camden, and within about 8 miles of the Catawba nation. The name of the District to which he removed is not remembered by him. He was living, at this place when he first entered the service, and also when he afterwards entered it as a substitute for his father.

The said Neely states that by reason of the failure of his memory consequent upon his advanced age, and his never having been in the habit of observing dates, he cannot now say with certainty in what year he entered the service. He was drafted, however as a private soldier for 3 months, in Captain William Hanna's company of militia which was attached to a Regiment or Party under the command of Colonel William Bratton. In this company Joseph Steele was a Lieutenant, \_\_\_ Freewitz, Ensign and Aaron Boggs, Orderly Sergeant. The company was marched to Orangeburg, on Edisto River, South Carolina. Sometime after this he was one of a company, composed of about 60 men, who were directed by General Sumpter [sic, Thomas

Sumter] to make an attack upon certain Tories that had assembled at "Crackers Neck" on salt Ketcher River [sic, Salkehatchee River] which is according to his recollection about 8 miles from a place then known as the "Saw Mills" on Edisto River. While engaged in this service he received a wound in the side of his head. With the exception of a few days that he was absent on this expedition he served at Orangeburg until the expiration of the term for which he was drafted. He then received his discharge signed by Captain Hanna, and returned home. This discharge has been lost.

In about a month after this time the said Neely undertook to serve, and did serve as a substitute in the room of his father, Hugh Neely, who was drafted as he thinks for 4 months in Captain Adams [Samuel Adams'] company which belonged to a Regiment or Party under the command of Captain Lacey [sic, probably Col. Edward Lacey]. In this company William McLane was the first Lieutenant, and Henry Fauquier [?] was the orderly Sergeant. The company was marched to the Cowpens where they remained until the expiration of the 4 months, during this time the said Neely was engaged principally in far-reaching excursions. He then received his discharge, signed by Captain Adams. This discharge also has been lost. For this service he has never received from his father any compensation whatever.

The said Neely, and his parents also removed to this County (Washington Virginia) about 5 years after the last mentioned service, where he has since resided.

The Declarant states further that he does not know that there are any persons now living, in this section of the country, or in any part of the United States, by whom he could prove these facts: unless it be his brother Charles Neely who has resided for some time heretofore in Overton County Tennessee, and by whom, if living, he might probably be able to prove the fact of his having been drafted on the occasion first above mentioned, and that he left the then residence of his Father for the time of going into the service; and that there is no clergyman residing in his immediate neighborhood. The Declarant states further that there is no clergyman residing in any part of the County of Washington, who, as he believes knows anything of his said services, or of his being reputed & believed, in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a Soldier of the Revolution.

The said Neely hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid.

The following questions were propounded by the justices of the County Court of Washington to the Declarant, Robert Neely, in pursuance of the rules and regulations prescribed by the War Department with the answers thereto, severally annexed (Viz.:

Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: I was born on Marsh Creek in the State of Pennsylvania. I cannot say with certainty in what year I was born.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have no record of my age the record of my age was destroyed during the Revolution.

Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: When I was first called into service, and afterwards went I again entered the service as a substitute in the room of my father I was living on the Stony fork of Fishing Creek in South Carolina. I do not remember the name of the District. I continued to reside there for some time after the war and removed to the County of Washington Virginia where I have resided ever since.

How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: When I first entered the service, I was drafted. When I entered it the 2nd time, I did so as a substitute for my father, Hugh Neely.

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I refer to my Declaration; besides the Officers therein mentioned, I recollect to have seen General Sumter with the troops at Orangeburg. General Henderson [William Henderson] was with them frequently during my 2nd tour.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: At the expiration of my first term of service, I received a discharge signed by Captain William Hanna. At the expiration of my 2nd term of service, as a Substitute in the room of my father, I received a discharge signed by Captain Adams. Both discharges have been lost. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: In answer to this question I will mention the names of Matthew Brown and Richard Sharp reside in my neighborhood, to all of whom I am well known, and who can, as I believe, certify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution.

S/ Robert Neely, X his mark

[Matthew Brown and Richard Sharp gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14: Certificate of the clerk of court of Washington County Virginia in which he states that an extract of the records in his office regarding returns of marriages, there is on file a return by the Reverend Charles Cummings dated 1791 in which he states that he celebrated the marriage between Robert Neeley [sic] and Jenny Berry on November 8, 1791 in Washington County Virginia.]

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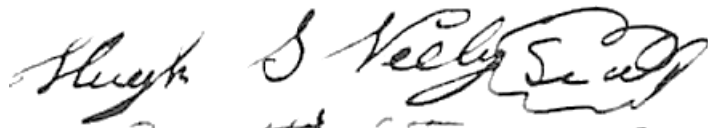
State of Virginia County of Washington } SS

On this day personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace, for the County aforesaid, Hugh S Neely, who in due and solemn form of law doth on his oath declare that the following are the dates of death of his Father Robert Neely and his mother Jane Neely as recorded in the Family Bible

Robert Neely departed this life October 28, 1836

Jane Neely departed this life March 3, 1845

S/ Hugh S. Neely {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh S. Neely" followed by a circular seal or stamp.

[Acknowledged by a JP Oct. 6, 1854]

[Facts in the file: p 11: Hugh S. Neely, son of Robert Neely, pensioner, stated that his father died in Washington County, Va., in 1837; and his widow, Jane Neely, died there in 1845; they married

in 1791. They were survived by children: William B. Neely, Robert Neely, Susan Neely wife of Robert Neely (a cousin); Mary Neely, wife of John Richardson, dec'd leaving unknown issue; Margaret Neely wife of James Richardson, dec'd leaving one child; Patsy Neely, wife of John G. Montgomery and Hugh S. Neely.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the South Carolina militia. His widow was granted a posthumous pension in the same amount ending March 3, 1845, presumably the date of her death.]