

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Nelson Brooks W5912

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }
Campbell county }

On this the 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the court of Campbell county now sitting, Nelson Brooks a resident of the county of Campbell and state aforesaid, aged 73 years on the 5th day of July last, 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 the 7th day of June 1832. That in the year 1779 and towards the last of July he met at Capt. Cock's on Fallen River [sic: Falling River] in the county of Campbell (then Bedford) and volunteered his services under Captain James Adams, Henry Eidson Lieutenant, and John McGee Ensign and marched the same day for the Lead mines in Montgomery County [sic: at Fort Chiswell then in Montgomery County VA, now in Wythe County] where he served two months Colonel [Charles] Lynch having the command of the troops at the Lead mines at the time and that he was discharged some time in October of the same year and that he received a discharge but have since lost the same

That about the first of January 1781 he again met at Holts store in the aforesaid county of Campbell (then Bedford) and was drafted and sent into service under Captain Thomas McReynolds, who marched the company to Cabin point on James River [in Surry County], where he was put under the command of Captain John Otey, William Dooly [William Dooley] Lieutenant, ensign not recollected they then marched to Portsmouth Va in and near which place, they served out their three months tour and was discharged and that about the last of September of the same year he again met at John Bryan's and was drafted and sent in the service under Captain James Bullock, he thinks the names of the Lieutenant and Ensign were Parker and [Joseph] Stith. We were then marched direct to Yorktown and joined General [Robert] Lawson's Brigade where we remained until after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], a few days after which we were marched to Williamsburg and discharged. This tour was three months long. He saw while at Yorktown General Washington and Lafayette. He does not recollect the name of the Colo of his regt. at Yorktown. That he still lives in the County of Campbell and about fifteen miles from the place where was born and raised. He has no documentary evidence, that James Brooks [pension application S10418] and Charles Glass [W3410] are the only witnesses known or recollected by him, now living by whom he can prove his services.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever 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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid Nelson hisXmark Brooks

[John Wooldridge (W6582) stated that he had served with Brooks.]

Question the 1st by the court: Where and in what place [sic] were you born

Ans'er I was born the year 1760 in the month of July in Bedford County now Campbell County Va.

Question the 2nd by the court. Have you any record of your and if so where is it? Ans'er I have the record of my age at home in my bible?

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live? Ans'er. I lived in Bedford County, Va now campbell county on falling river when called into service; since the war I have lived a part of my time in Prince Edward county and a part of my time in Buckingham county but live at this time in the county of Campbell Va. I have lived only six years out of the county of Campbell Va since the revolutionary war?

Question the 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute?

Ans'er. the 1st tour I volunteerd, the 2nd tour I was drafted, and the 3rd tour I was drafted?

Question the 5th. State the name of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service?

Ans'er Maj'r [Thomas] Long & Colo. [Alexander] Dick at Portsmouth, and Colo. Lynch and Capt. James Adams at the lead mines, I do not know the No. of the rigiment I belong to nor the no. of any other regiments, and as to the general circumstances of my service they are set down in my declaration'

Question the 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans'er. I received a discharge from Capt. James Bullock at yorktown and one from Capt. Otey & the other from Capt James Adams but have since lost them all?

Question the 7th? State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution?

Ans'er. William Rosser, Adlar Arrington, Jesse Wood, and Capt Thos. Harvey?

Nelson Brooks amends his declaration by making the following affidavit viz. [5 Jun 1833]

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace for Campbell County in the State of Virginia, Nelson Brooks who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served as a private not less than eight months, which constitutes the whole of his revolutionary services; that during any one of these tours he was not employed in any civil pursuit –

NOTE: On 2 Nov 1838 Frances Brooks, over 74 years old, applied for a pension stating that she married Nelson Brooks in Campbell County around 1782, and he died 10 Oct 1833. Barnet Finch, Sr. stated that Frances Brooks married Nelson Brooks about ten years after he, himself, married in 1772 Mina Trent, the sister of Frances Brooks. Mina Finch stated that she was about ten years older than Frances Brooks. On 26 Oct 1844 Frances Brooks was said to be 82.