

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Nathaniel Snelson W6135

Sarah

f84VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/12/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia in Louisa [County] Sc:

On this 10th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the justices of the County Court of Louisa now sitting Nathaniel Snelson a resident of said County of Louisa and State of Virginia aged sixty-nine or seventy 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 June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated a tour of Militia duty of two months at Albemarle Barracks in Virginia in the fall of the year 1779 as a substitute for John Smith BH under Captain James Watson and Colonel Taylor a second tour in the Carolinas for six months under Captain John Byars [also spelled John Byers] and Colonels George Stubblefield & Spencer [Joseph Spencer] and was at the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780]. From the first of January till after the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army on the 19th October 1781 amounting to ten months he was constantly in service and part of that time he was a substitute for John Spencer of Hanover County. He was at Cabin Point, Hickory Neck Church, Bottoms Bridge, Malvern Hills, Richmond, Siege of Yorktown and other places. His captains in 1781 were John White, John Byars, Samuel O. Pettis – __ Stubbs and George Lumsden Colonels Thomas Mathews, James Innis and __ Mercer. That he knew none of the officers of the regular Army. He was born in the County of Hanover & removed to Louisa when a small boy where he resided ever since except 3 years in Spotsylvania & now resides in the County of Louisa. That [he] received no written discharge but was dismissed as relief came. He was dismissed at York on the Gloucester side of York River November 1781 or about the time as near as he can recollect.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of any State. That he can prove his service by the depositions [of] Thomas Badget, James hall & John Smith – Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Nathaniel Snelson, X his mark

[Timothy T. Swift, a clergyman, and William Nelson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 77]

State of Virginia Louisa County to wit:

The deposition of James Hall, 75 years old, taken at Long Creek in said County and State the 11th of August 1832: This deponent being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that he has been well acquainted with Nathaniel Snelson of Louisa, a soldier in the revolutionary war, for nearly seventy years and has always thought him a man of respectability and strict veracity: This

deponent well recollects that the said Snelson served a two months tour of military duty at Albemarle barracks in the fall of the year 1779: This deponent also verily believes that the said Snelson served a six months tour of duty at Camden and in the two Carolinas in the year 1780 when Gates was defeated: This deponent also verily believes that said Snelson was in service either in his own place or as a substitute for John Spencer of Hanover from the 1st of January 1781 till after the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his Army on the 19th of October 1781. And further this deponent sayeth not.

S/ James Hall

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hall". The letters are dark and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Hall".

[f p. 79]

State of Virginia Louisa County to wit

The deposition of John Smith now in the 70th year of his age, taken at Long Creek in said County and State this 9th day of August 1832: This Deponent being first duly sworn deposeth and saith, that he has been well acquainted with Nathaniel Snelson of said County from his boyhood, and that he has always considered the said Snelson a man of respectability and strict veracity. This deponent well recollects having served one tour of duty in the militia in company with the said Snelson in the spring of the year 1781, this Deponent and said Snelson were in service, and at the city of Richmond in the month of April 1781 when the warehouses in Manchester on the opposite side of the James River were burnt by the British before the eyes of this Deponent. This deponent verily believes that the said Snelson served another tour of duty in the Fall of the year 1781 at the Siege of Yorktown in Virginia when Lord Cornwallis and his Army were captured, where this deponent was then in service attached to a company of Grenadiers. From that time to this the said Snelson and this deponent had generally lived near each other and for the last thirty years within two miles of each other: they have again and again talk over into social chat there war like exploits and military adventures, and the said Snelson has related to this Deponent as many facts and occurrences that came within the personal knowledge of this Deponent that this deponent entertains no doubt that the said Snelson actually performed those services which are set forth in the declaration of the said Snelson and which the deponent from the lapse of more than fifty years cannot now particularly testify to. And further this Deponent sayeth not.

S/ John Smith

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Smith". The signature is written in dark ink with a clear, flowing style. The name "John" is written above "Smith", and both are underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

[f p. 81]

State of Virginia Louisa County to wit

The deposition of Thomas Badget, seventy years of age, taken at Long Creek in the County of Louisa the 9th day of August 1832. This deponent being 1st duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he has known Nathaniel Snelson of said County, ever since the 19th day of June 1780, when the said Snelson and this deponent, left the said County of Louisa under Captain John Byars, and in a Regiment of Virginia militia commanded by Colonel George Stubblefield and ___Spencer, on their march to join the Southern Army commanded by General Gates. The said Snelson was present with this deponent at the Battle of Camden on the 16th of August 1780 and

served six months. This deponent well recollects that the said Snelson was in service with this deponent in the spring of the year 1781 under Captain John White and Colonels Mathews and Innis on James River and near Williamsburg and at Richmond in April 1781 when the Tobacco Warehouses in Manchester were burnt by the British before our eyes. The deponent has lived within three miles of said Snelson's residence for the last thirty years has often conversed with him relative to his military services and has no doubt that the said Snelson performed six tours of military duty, two of them as a substitute for other persons and three of them in company with this deponent the last at the Siege of Yorktown when Lord Cornwallis was captured with his Army.

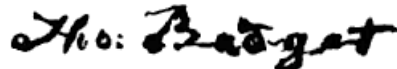
S/ Th: Badget, X his mark

[f p. 29]

State of Virginia Louisa County to wit:

The deposition of Thomas Badget¹ aged 84 years made this 5th day of June 1843: This Deponent saith that in May 1780 he marched from the County of Louisa with Nathaniel Snelson late a pensioner of the United States to Hillsboro and North Carolina and from thence to Camden in South Carolina where they arrived about the middle of August 1780 a day or two before the battle of Camden and were put under the command of General Edward Stephens [Edward Stevens] of Virginia: that at the battle of Camden the company of militia to which said Snelson belonged was disbursed, and that the said Snelson returned to his residence in Louisa County Virginia without rejoining Gates's Army after the battle was over, that for so doing he was considered a deserter, and compelled to return to Gates's Army and served eight months, as a penalty for his misconduct aforesaid and further this Deponent saith not.

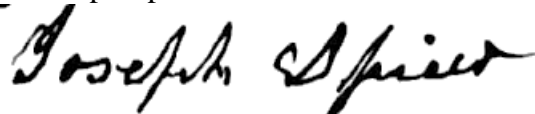
S/ Tho: Badget



State of Virginia in Louisa County to wit:

The deposition of Joseph Spicer² aged 82 years, made this 5th day of June 1843: This Deponent saith that he knew Nathaniel Snelson (named in the annexed deposition of Thomas Badget) from his boyhood; that said Snelson was at the battle of Camden in August 1780: that said Snelson after the said battle of Camden and the dispersion of his company returned to his residence in Louisa, and was afterwards sent back to Carolina but how long he served afterwards he does not recollect: but he perfectly remembers that to others who deserted when said Snelson dead, were compelled to serve eight months longer.

S/ Joseph Spicer



[f p. 18: On April 18, 1843 in Louisa County Virginia, Sarah Snelson, 84, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Nathaniel Snelson, a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$60 per annum for his service in the revolution; that she married him January 9th, 1786; that her husband died June 22, 1842.

¹ [Thomas Badget S6593](#)

² [Joseph Spicer S14554](#)

Sarah Snelson]

[f p. 8: certificate from the clerk of the Louisa County court stating that his records reflect the marriage of January 7, 1786 of "Nathaniel Snelson & Sally Spicer [by] John Waller, M"]

[f p. 38]

The deposition of Austin Hancock,³ a United States pensioner, aged eighty-seven years, who testifies that he was well acquainted with Nathaniel Snelson, also a United States pensioner, and states that he was a schoolmate of his and has been well acquainted with him ever since, in Louisa County in the State of Virginia, and has never heard the slightest rumor of said Snelson's being a deserter from the Army at any time during the Revolutionary war; believes that he served out all his engagement faithfully in said war.

He, said Hancock, further states that his brother John Hancock, served in the company commanded by Captain Byars in the Revolutionary War, from said County and was at Gates's defeat in the 6 months tour to the South, with said Snelson, he states that his brother afterwards came home from Gates's defeat and never returned again to the Army, being at that time a married man; but sent a younger brother in his place, who was not a married man at that time; and even his brother, never returned to the Army, was not returned as a deserter, and never considered as a deserter from said Army, said Snelson and several others of his acquaintance who were soldiers in the Army in the said tour, under said Captain Byars, came home from Gates's defeat aforesaid but all returned immediately to their duty, and served out the said tour and were never reputed or believed to be deserters, but on the contrary reputed and believed to have been faithful soldiers and respected as such.

S/ Austin Hancock

[f p. 2: Court order dated June 14th, 1847 issued in Louisa County Virginia granting administration of the estate of Sarah Snelson to Edmund Wash. Also a finding by the court dated November 13, 1848 that Sarah Snelson, a pensioner of the United States as the widow of Nathaniel Snelson, died on April 21, 1847 leaving the following named children, viz.: Nancy Wash, Elizabeth Hooper, Mary Baughn, Martha Snelson, Sarah Sharp and John Snelson.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$36.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836.]

³ FPA S5499