

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Bransford West W6447

Nancy

fn40VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/30/11

[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 County of Nelson: SS

On this 28th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of the County of Nelson now sitting Bransford West a resident of the County of Nelson and State of Virginia aged seventy-eight 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 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

1st He enlisted in the County of Amherst now Nelson as a militia man under Captain Nicholas Cabell (James Lamplin Lieutenant and William Spencer Ensign) in 1775, was called into service on the 14th June 1776, marched to Manchester, then to Richmond, then to Williamsburg, from thence to James Town and then back to Richmond where he was discharged. Colonel Davis commanded in Williamsburg; at James Town Edward Carrington commanded but does not recollect his rank, during his stay at James Town, the 6th Regiment of the United States Infantry arrived in its route to South Carolina, but was there countermanded, this tour was about two months.

2nd Volunteered under Captain Joseph Cabell in 1777 (Nicholas Cabell Lieutenant) and marched with another company commanded by Captain James Higginbotham to Manchester, thence to Richmond, thence to Williamsburg, where he was discharged; after they got to Williamsburg, his Captain Joseph Cabell was promoted to the command of the Regiment and Nicholas Cabell Lieutenant was made Captain – he thinks Colonel Davis commanded but is not very certain, – in this tour he was in service two months –

3rd He was drafted and marched in a company commanded by Captain James Barnett (Tilmon Walton Lieutenant) to Richmond where he was made a Sergeant, five captains there at that time, with their companies Samuel Higginbotham was one and William Harris another but does not recollect the name of any others, nor of the field Officers or the year in which he served in the Company was stationed at Richmond where he was discharged – this tour was three months.

4th He was again drafted and served a tour under Captain James Barnett he marched with the company to New Kent Courthouse and then to Williamsburg where he was discharged, he does not recollect the names of any of the Officers or the year in which she served, the tour was two months. Captain Barnett drew the pay for his company but did not pay them it was said he went to Kentucky and purchased land with it, and on his return the Government sued him for the money.

5th He was again drafted in 1781, was made a Sergeant and marched in a company

commanded by Captain Richard Taliaferro to Hanover Courthouse from thence to New Castle then to the Burnt Ordinary, where they joined a brigade commanded by General Stevens [Edward Stevens] – the field officers of his Regiment were Colonel Meriwether and Colonel Hardiman – they were at the Burnt Ordinary at the time of the battle of James Town, there was also a brigade there commanded by General Lawson – the night before the battle General Lafayette lay near their brigade. Some short time after the battle, they were marched to Malvern Hills where he was discharged, this tour was about six weeks. His first tour was two months, his second two months, his third three months, his fourth two months and his fifth one and a half months – in all 10 1/2 months: That he has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his service and knows of no person whose can testify to it except Hezekiah Hargrove who was with him in his first tour and Joseph Matthews who was with him in the second tour and their certificates are hereto annexed.

He also makes the following answers to the following interrogatories propounded to him by the Court, viz.:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in the County of Chesterfield on the 26th August 1754

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer – I had my Father's record of my age but it is now lost.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer – I was living in the County of Amherst, now Nelson and continued to live in the County of Amherst until it was divided and still live in the County of Nelson.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer – As already stated in my first tour I enlisted as a militia man, in the second I volunteered, and in the other three I was drafted.

5th 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.

Answer – I have already stated the names of all the Officers that I now recollect, as well as the regiments Continental and militia and also the general circumstances of my service –

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

Answer – in some of my tours I got a discharge from my Captain, but they are now lost.

7th 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.

Answer. Hezekiah Hargrove and Joseph Matthews whose certificates are hereto annexed would testify as to my character and their belief of my services as a soldier of the revolution.

He 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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Bransford West¹

[Nelson Anderson and Robert Rives gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Nelson County to wit

This day Hezekiah Hargrove personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he marched from the County of Amherst (now Nelson) on

¹ The handwriting of the signature is identical to the handwriting of the document itself so I do not believe it is the actual signature of the veteran.

the 14th day of June 1776 under Captain Nicholas Cabell to Williamsburg and from thence to James Town, that after remaining there some time he was sent to the South with others to guard some ammunition & that on his return the company were sent by water to Richmond, where they were discharged, and that Bransford West marched at the same time in the same company with him, that he, the said West, remained at James Town (during his absence) and that he was also discharged in Richmond.

Given under my hand this 24th day of September 1832

S/ Alexr. Brown, JP

Nelson County to wit

This day Joseph Matthews personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid and made oath that he was in the service during the revolutionary war and that he knows that Bransford West served two of the tours as stated in his Bransford West's declaration viz.: the [tours] under Captain Nicholas Cabell and Captain Joseph Cabell, as he the said Joseph Matthews was in service at the same time. Given under my hand this 27th day of November 1832.

S/ Alexr. Brown, JP

[fn p. 14: on November 3, 1844 in Nelson County Virginia, Nancy West, 80, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Bransford West, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him in 1792; that her husband died January 27th, 1843; and that she remains his widow.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy West". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$35 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831 for 10 1/2 months service as a private and Sergeant in the Virginia militia. Veteran's widow was pensioned for a like amount commencing March 4th, 1843.]