

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Nelson W9588

Margaret Nelson

f51SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/20/09: rev'd 6/23/17

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

[pp 44 et.seq.]

State of South Carolina District of Fairfield

On this 2nd day of November in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court before William D. Martin Esquire one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the State of South Carolina now sitting at Fairfield Court House, in the District in State aforesaid, James Nelson Sr a resident of the District and State aforesaid aged 84 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 deponent was born in the (now) State of North Carolina, Orange County, on the 6th day of August 1748. That his age was recorded in his father's family Bible, which Bible fell into the possession of one of Deponents oldest brother's. That Deponent does not now know where the Bible is, as his brothers removed long since to the North Western part of the State and are now dead as informed.

The Deponent lived on the same plantation where he now lives, when called into service, has lived there ever since, and now lives there about 4 miles from Winnsborough, in Millbuck. Deponent was drafted every time he was called into service. And never received a discharge in writing, was always informed by his Capt. that orders for their discharge had been received. Served always as herein stated.

1st That he served as a private soldier in the Florida expedition, in the year as he believes 1778. Capt. John Woodward commanded the Company in Col. John Winn commanded the Regiment. Capt. Woodward and his Company joined the expedition at Augusta, was stationed there some time and then marched on to the Ogeechee [River] at Gov. Wright's plantation, Georgia. There an eclipse of the sun took place, nearly total at that place. Thence marched to St. Mary's, the British Fort on the St. Mary's then burning. General Williamson [Andrew Williamson] was one of the Militia commanders. Was out in this tour 3 months, and until discharged by his Capt.

2nd Was in a tour of duty when Major Maxfield commanded the Fort at Congaree, was drafted to join Capt. John Taylor, did join his Company at the Fort, and kept the British there until a detachment of artillery from General Greene's Army arrived when the Fort surrendered. Capt. Thomas Taylor (still alive now known as Col. Taylor) was present at the surrender. Was about 3 weeks and this term.

3rd Was in a tour of duty under Capt. John Woodward destined for Orangeburg was stopped in the three runs in Orangeburg District by orders received. The enemy had been dispersed or

driven back by the Militia thinks the British were commanded by Col. Cruger [John Harris Cruger] was out 3 weeks in this tour.

4th Was in a tour of duty under Capt. Kemp Straher¹ Capt. James Craig commanded one company and Col. Henry Hunter was commander of the whole detachment. Took Capt. Dick Smith a Tory Capt. and his men prisoners on Crane Creek [sic, Cane Creek?] Richland District. Deponent served in a number of other tours of duty all under Capt. John Woodward, but does [not] now recollect the dates nor particulars

5th Was in one tour against the Cherokee Indians on the Enoree [River], where Major McCarty² of the American Militia was mortally wounded, and 9 Indians killed, and the remainder dispersed Col. McCarty was shot by a wounded Indian. The Indian was lying on the ground and as Col. McCarty passed he raised partly from the ground and shot him.

6th Was out 3 weeks in this tour was in a tour to Augusta 3 months. General Williamson commanded. Deponent never expecting to make an application of this nature, has taken no memorandum of the length of time he served in all, but is pretty satisfied and believes he served in the different terms he performed 12 months and such is the impression resting in his mind, perhaps he served some longer but is satisfied it was not less.

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 in open Court.

S/ J. Elliott, Clk

S/ James Nelson, Sr., X his mark

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South Carolina Fairfield District

Before me appeared Major Henry Moore³ and being duly sworn makes oath that he is the same person who now is receiving a pension from the United States, as Capt. Lieut. of Artillery, 4th Regiment, Col. Roberts. That he became acquainted with the above named applicant James Nelson in the year 1775, that said James Nelson was then living where he now resides, and excepting the time Deponent was in the Army has known him to reside there even from the time of their acquaintance in 1775 when the revolution was over the Deponent and said Nelson renewed their acquaintance and said Nelson then and ever since has had the reputation in his neighborhood of having been a soldier in the militia in the United States service during the Revolutionary War and of having acted his part faithfully That he is a man of respectability and standing in Society, and has no doubt of the truth of everything he has stated. His character as a gentleman, and a man of veracity the deponent is willing to vouch for.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 20th of August 1832.

S/ Henry Moore

S/ J. Elliott, CCP

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South Carolina Fairfield District

¹ Bobby Moss identifies this man as Kemp T. Strother in his *SC Patriots Roster*.

² In his summary of this veteran's application, Bobby Moss does not list this officer or discuss this incident. I also was unable to identify any of the patriots listed in Dr. Moss's *SC Patriots* as a likely candidate to be the officer described as being killed by the Indian.

³ [Henry Moore S46010](#)

Before me personally appeared Jeremiah Taylor⁴ and being duly sworn makes oath that he will be 70 years of age next January and has resided in Fairfield District ever since the beginning of the Revolutionary War. He became acquainted with James Nelson the applicant, at the Florida expedition mentioned by him in his Declaration. This Deponent was with him in the expedition and Col. Goodwyn's Regiment and knows that he served in that expedition under the officers as he has stated. Deponent thinks he then served 4 months instead of 3 as he has stated and that the Col. Williamson mentioned by him was a Brig. General in the said expedition. This deponent was with the said James Nelson at the Fort Congaree and the surrender and knows he served as he has stated there but thinks it was much longer.

The expedition under Capt. Strother and Col. Henry Hunter in taking the Tory Dick Smith Deponent did not see but recollects the report of the circumstance at the time & then understood that the said James Nelson was one of that number.

The said James Nelson is a man of high respectability and this Deponent has no doubt but he served at least is long as he has stated and he believes longer. Also served with him the tour to Augusta, General Williamson commanded. Col. Goodwin commanded the Regiment.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ J. Elliott, CCP

S/ Jeremiah Taylor, B his mark

[p 42]

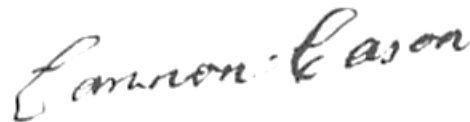
I Cannon Cason⁵ of the District of Fairfield in the State aforesaid aged 78 years, hereby testify on oath that I am well acquainted with James Nelson who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration. That I have known him ever since the Florida expedition in 1778 or 9. That said Nelson was a soldier in the Militia in that expedition under Capt. John Woodward. Deponent was along and well remembers to have formed an acquaintance with said Nelson at that time, and has known him ever since: term lasted 3 months over age lacking 16 days as deponent believes.

Said Nelson is a man of respectable standing in society and thinks he was with deponent and some other tours of duty. It was always understood at the close of the Revolutionary War and has never been contradicted; that said Nelson performed his duty as a good Whig whenever called upon, and that he had performed other tours of duty besides the one to Florida. Deponent has no doubt that he served more than 12 months in all in the militia. And that would give every credit to his Declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

S/ J. Elliott, CCP

S/ Cannon Cason



[p 4]

State of South Carolina Fairfield District

Before me personally appeared James Nelson Senior of the District of Fairfield in the

⁴ [Jeremiah Taylor S21527](#)

⁵ [Cannon Cason S21103](#)

State aforesaid (being the identical James Nelson Senior who made his declaration in open Court before the Honorable William D. Martin Esquire Judge of the court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of State of South Carolina, on the 2nd day of November A.D. 1832 in order to obtain a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, which declaration and the proceedings had there on are contained in 2 1/2 sheets of paper) and being duly sworn, on oath says That

1st in the first tour of duty (the Florida expedition) mentioned in deponent's declaration he neglected to mention that a Brown known as Burntfoot Brown [Thomas Brown] commanded the British Fort burnt on the St. Mary's River Col. Goodwyn [Robert Goodwin] a militia Col. and Col. Pinckney [Charles Cotesworth Pinckney] were commanding regiments in militia in this expedition. It was said at the time that there were 1500 militia from South Carolina and Georgia in this expedition Col. [indecipherable name, begins with "F" and consists of 2 or 3 other letters] from neighborhood of the hanging rock South Carolina along. It was supposed that the object of the expedition was to take St. Augustine. A few of the Army followed Brown beyond the St. Mary's a short distance and on their return the Army had orders to return home was in actual service as stated in the declaration 3 months fully commencing in June and ending in September.

2nd In the second tour to the Congaree Fort Capt. (now Col.) Thomas Taylor commanded the Militia until the detachment of artillery from General Greene's Army arrived. Thinks this tour was performed in the Spring of the year, and before the battle of the Eutaw [Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781]. Deponent has been informed by some of his fellow soldiers in this tour since his Declaration was made that he served one and a half months instead of 3 weeks as stated in the declaration and in reflecting on the circumstances and thus called to mind deponent recollects that the troops lay 3 weeks around the Fort before its surrendered and is satisfied that the other services rendered before and after the surrender must necessarily have taken up 3 or 4 weeks more. He now believes that the information received as above is correct and that he served in this tour one and a half months. No officer in command above the commission of Capt.

3rd In the third tour to the three Runs in Orangeburg Col. John Winn commanded. Out in service as stated in the declaration 3 weeks and this tour.

4th Term. In the 4th term of duty mentioned in the Declaration the declarant served between 2 and than 3 weeks and as much as 15 days.

5th In the 5th tour Col. John Winn commanded the Regiment to which the deponent was attached. The Indian battle mentioned in this tour was on Long Cane deponent understands now in Abbeville District South Carolina. The 5th tour mentioned is part of the tour to Augusta mentioned as the 6th in the Declaration. General Lincoln's [Benjamin Lincoln's] suite visited the Militia during this tour. Deponent recollects seeing him. The Army fired a salute of 13 guns on his arrival. One of the gunners received a wound in his breast and lost the fingers of one hand from one of the guns firing off in ramming down the cartridge. Was but in service in this tour to Augusta 4 months in all including the time he served against the Indians on the Enoree [River] mentioned in the 5th tour. Deponent in his declaration has stated the time under the true time as he believes and then believed, as his memory is bad as to dates, he is now advised that the best of his recollections is all that is expected and he endeavors to give them.

That deponent in every tour of duty served in the field, and was called into service by orders from his Capt. under orders from the Col. of the Regiment, and was attached to a Corps regularly organized and embodied and called into service by competent authority as he believed and still believes, and that during the time the above and other services were performed he was

entirely occupied with his military duties and was not employed in any civil pursuit. That he was not in service at any time in which the Regulars were in company with the Militia, and has therefore named none of the Regular Officers. Understood that some regular troops were encamped on the St. Mary's some distance below the Militia, in the Florida expedition but deponent never saw them and does not at this time recollect the names of any of their Officers.

The Deponent served other tours of duty not mentioned in the declaration or in this deposition. He was on a tour of duty to the Four Holds in Orangeburg District South Carolina John Woodward Capt. of the Company & along and Col. John Winn commanded the Regiment or Col. Goodwyn. Both were there and is uncertain which commanded. Was out a long trip this time.

Was in a tour to Saltketcher South Carolina not long before the Eutaw battle. John Woodward commanded the company. Thinks Col. John Winn commanded the Regiment but cannot speak with certainty. Was gone a long tour this time. On this and the tour to the four holes deponent believes he served fully 6 months.

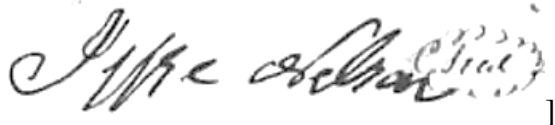
Deponent served some other tours not now recollected he was out a great deal in the Revolutionary War as a soldier, and these 2 last tours have been recalled to his recollection by conversation and incidents mentioned whilst making this deposition. That by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory which has failed greatly within a few years, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, nor to the dates but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods above, in the grade of a private to wit in all 15 months and 21 days, and for such service deponent claims a pension and believes he served a longer..

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 26th of June 1832 [sic, 1833?].

S/ W. K. Davis, Q. U.

S/ James Nelson, Senior, X his mark

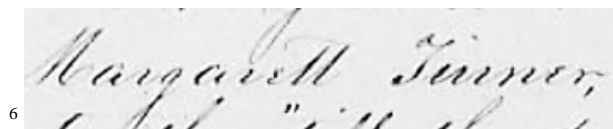
[p 8: On March 28, 1846 in Fairfield District South Carolina, Jesse Nelson, son of James Nelson applied for a pension by right of his mother as the widow of a revolutionary war pensioner; he states that he is 55 years of age; that James Nelson married Margaret Tinner [could be Margaret Turner]⁶ in 1788; that James Nelson died May 28, 1835; that his widow Margaret died on the 23rd or 24th day of July 1845 having remained a widow.



Jesse Nelson

[p 49: On March 28, 1846 in Fairfield District South Carolina, Jesse Nelson gave testimony that he is the 2nd son of James and Margaret Nelson; that he was born August 16, 1790; that the record of his birth he copied from his parents records which he believes or now in the state of Indiana.]

[p 9: Finding by the clerk of the Fairfield District court that Jesse Nelson and Daniel Nelson are



Margaret Tinner

the only surviving children of Margaret Nelson the widow of James Nelson.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$29.66 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and 27 days in the South Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]