

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Noel Battles S12960

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State of Alabama } Ss

St Clair County }

On this Seventh day of November [1832] personally appeared in open court before the Honorable the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County aforesaid now in Session Noel Battles a resident of Chandler's beat St. Clair County & State aforesaid 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 the seventh Eighteen hundred and thirty two – that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He was a Resident of Albermarle [sic: Albemarle] County 14 miles from Charlottesville Virginia at which last named town, he enlisted in the tenth Regiment of the Virginia Line in the fall of seventeen hundred and seventy six – under the following named officers – Cleph (or Klifford) Shelton [sic: Clough Shelton] captain Nicholas Taliafero [sic: Nicholas Taliaferro] Lieutenant (who resigned immediately afterwards at Alexandria) Samuel Cavil [sic: Samuel Jordan Cabell] Colonel [George] Weedon of Alexandria their General (though only for a short time – after lying at Charlottesville three weeks they marched through Albermarl Louisa &c to Alexandria the general place of Rendesvous where they remained something like four weeks for the purpose of drawing their Regimentals – Guns – Cartouch Boxes & other Equipment for the service – from Alexandria they marched and from thence to Whitehall to Baltimore – they remained about six weeks at Baltimore for the purpose of being Inoculated for small pox – from thence they marched to Pennsylvania on the Schuylkill and from thence he marched up the Delaware and from thence they went in December to Trenton which was the first Battle [26 Dec 1776] he thinks he was in. After the Battle they went back into Pennsylvania & shortly afterwards returned again. from thence he went to Princeton and was in that Battle [3 Jan 1777] under the same officers as before except the general who was Washington – after this they went into quarter – this Deponent was stationed with his Company in Pennsylvania, but does not recollect the name of the place. In the Spring they again joined the army in New Jersey & after remaining there some time they were ordered to march to Philadelphia & from thence to the head of Elk [now Elkton MD]. I afterwards to Chadds ford on the Brandywine where he was again in Battle [Battle of Brandywine PA, 11 Sep 1777] In this Battle he was wounded, (though slightly) in the arm. It being only a flesh wound – from thence he went to a place called the Warren Tavern – where they were again drawn up for Battle & a heavy rain came and prevented them. On this day their Captain did not command – But a Lieutenant by the name of Thomas Blackwell. After some time they received a reinforcement & then marched to attack the British in Germantown [4 Oct 1777] at which Battle this Deponent was again engaged – he was again slightly wounded by a musket ball in the knee – though it kept him lame only for a few days. & did not prevent his still continuing in the army. He was one of General Green's [sic: Nathanael Greene's] division in this battle. After this battle he went to Whitmarsh where another engagement was expected After this he went to Valley Forge where they remained during the Winter. After this they again crossed the Delaware he thinks (but is not certain) and previous to the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] he amongst others were permitted to volunteer under General [Anthony] Wayne – whose force he thinks was one thousand rank & file. He believes that Wayne had been beaten at a place called Paoli ["Paoli Massacre," 21 Sep 1777] & had got permission of Washington to take so many men & volunteers to beat up the British Line. As he recollects Wayne in his speech to them, told them whenever they made an attack to cry Paoli. He is not certain whether this took place then or afterwards – but believes it was at that time – General [Charles] Lee took the command of his Division at Monmouth when

a retreat was ordered. After this battle they went towards the North River. They lay at White plains for some time. And the marched to a place he thinks called Mill Brook or Middle Brook [Middlebrook] somewhere north or n. East of Princeton. After this he marched through New Jersey (but does not recollect the names of places, as he was a stranger & before the war had never been in the state) to the Hudson He was here under the command of General Wayne. Though directly under the command of [name scratched out]. He was one of the detachment who entered stony point at night [16 Jul 1779]. They surrounded the pickets & carried them, with them right into the fort. After taking the picket guard they threw away the scaling ladders – though before this, they had halted, taken off their knapsacks & put a guard over them. There were three roads leading to the fort. Their scaling ladders were thrown away he thinks on this account. having halted awhile until the British picket were relived to see where they were stationed – while the old picket were marching to the fort – they were ordered immediately to run & get to the fort with them which they did. by this means taking their picket into the fort with them. At this time in passing the abattis which was made of apple trees sharpened – the passage being narrow he was forced through and by this means had a sharp stick run through the fleshy part of his arm. His Captain Shelton staid with him a few minutes until it was removed. He remembers this, for his captain being deaf he had to catch him by the arm to let him know it. At this place Colonel [François de] Fleury undertook to cut the flag staff down with his sword. This deponent himself cut down the flag & gave it to Colonel Fleury – on the same staff they hung some tories. After this they marched down the Hudson & they were conveyed again in a surprise of the British at Powles Hook [sic: Paulus Hook NJ, 19 Aug 1779] this deponent himself was not there & he thinks his company were not. After this they were marched to Pennsylvania and were discharged at a place called york in Pennsylvania. An aid of General Washington gave the discharge He had it in writing. This discharge together with a Certificate for two hundred acres of land (He believes it was this amount) he left with Captain Shelton. Before he died Shelton sent him word that those papers were burnt in an office and this deponent never got any of his land having shortly after his return from Pennsylvania to Virginia (which was about four years) married & moved into Georgia. This deponent has never been back to Virginia since. This deponent enlisted for three years and served nearly all the time without interruption. He applied some years since for a pension & had proof of several soldiers who served with him three of whom are since dead & not being able to prove full service for three years never sent his papers to Washington. These papers were destroyed as he never expected to get a pension & thus his best testimony was lost. One of his witnesses was Charles Tuggle [pension application S32559] whose affidavits were taken & given to one Esquire Barker who is ready to swear to their contents & that they are lost or mislaid He was one of deponents own messmates. This deponent has no documentary evidence & knows of no person whose testimony he can procure except one Alexander Forbes [S2559] and one Joseph Garner [W7496] whose testimonies he expects to procure He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any state or (if any) only on that of the state of Virginia
Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid Noel hisXmark Battles

[John Ballenger, pension application S31543, stated that he had served with Battles. Joseph Garner stated that “at one period of the war he was in Company with Noel Battles that he was a dark skinned man.”]

NOTE: On 5 Sep 1842 William Whisenant, executor of the estate of Noel Battles, stated that Battles had lived in St. Clair County for 22 or 23 years, and before that in Clark County TN. It was further stated that Battles died on 14 Dec 1840.