

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Jesse Nicholson S5832

f22VA

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/17/13: rev'd 9/9/23

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

State of Virginia, County of Norfolk

On this 16th day of July 1832, personally appeared before the court of said County, Jesse Nicholson, a resident of Portsmouth County of Norfolk and State of Virginia, aged 72 years who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in the year 1776, with Binns Jones and served in the 15th Regiment of the Virginia Continental line under the following Officers: Captain James Mason, Colonel David Mason, General Woodford [William Woodford] brigade General: Stephen's [Edward Stevens'] division, Colonel Ennis [James Innis] & Colonel Beaufort [Abraham Buford]: This terminates my service in the North, South Service Captain Tarlton Payne, Colonel Richard Parker 1st Colonel: & Colonel Saml. Hopkins [Samuel Hopkins] 2nd Colonel.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Jesse Nicholson



Declaration at large of said Nicholson

I Jesse Nicholson, formerly of Brunswick County State of Virginia but now of Portsmouth County of Norfolk & State aforesaid,; do hereby certify that in the fall of 1776, I enlisted in the Army of the United States as a private soldier with Lieutenant Binns Jones, in the Company of Captain James Mason in the 15th Regiment of the Continental line, commanded by Colonel David Mason of Sussex County and attached to the Brigade of General Woodford, which Brigade with General Scott's, composed the Division of Major General Stephens: this enlistment was for three years. Colonel Mason resigned & Colonel Ennis of Williamsburg took command of the Regiment and continued until after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777]: he then resigned & the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Beaufort at Middlebrook in Jersey in winter quarters, and arrangement took place & the 11th & 15th regiments being much broken were blended together & called the 11th. I left Colonel Morgan [Daniel Morgan] in command (probably temporary) of said Regiments. As it is requested, that some mention should be made

of the engagements each applicant was then I state as follows. –

I joined the Army at Morristown in Jersey: the British in part left New York: we marched hither & thither, crossing the North River and then back to Jersey & encamped at a place, I think, called Crossed Roads: hear the news of the Enemy having landed at the head of Elk [River], reached us: we immediately marched to meet them, passing through Philadelphia and on the Heights, on this side the Schuylkill [River] 1 or 2000 men were called for, voluntarily to turn out of the Ranks (no otherwise were we compelled) Patriotism and love of Country prompted us to the act: I was one of those turnout Boys: we immediately under the command of General Masfield [?] found & hovered upon the lines of the Enemy until the Battle of Brandywine [September 11, 1777]: In this service, which was severe, we had many tolerable affairs of fighting, 2 or 3 of which were severe; say Iron Hill & Couches Mills [Battle of Cooch's Bridge, DE, Sept. 3, 1777]: At Brandywine it was our set to bring on the Battle: Colonel Richard Parker & Colonel Heath [William Heth] commanded Virginians of that Corps on the Heights South side of Chads Ford. The service of this Corps continued in the same way until the night before the Battle of Germantown, when we each joined our regiments & went to the combat – it was sore [?] to 2 regiments in our Brigade, 11th & 15th, as it was at Brandywine, being our lot to come in contact with the Enemy, thrown into Tues or Chews House: from this Time to the Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] C. House in Jersey, service severe. Here our fighting ceased while I was in the North: At Middlebrook we went into winter Quarters.

At this place, I, with many others enlisted a 2nd time during the War, under Captain David Mason Junior, had ninety days furlough, when returning to the North and arriving at Fredericksburg, orders met us and turned us to the South: at Petersburg two regiments were formed one commanded by Colonel Richard Parker & the other by a Colonel Lawrence: I was attached to Parker's Regiment, in Captain Tarlton Payne's Company: Payne was from Goochland Virginia – These are the names of each Captain of said Regiment Parker, Payne, Jones & Toliver: This Regiment never had any No. that I know of, and seems to be lost as well as Lawrence's: Our Regiment marched directly for Georgia fighting McGirt [Daniel McGirt] the 2nd day after we crossed the Savannah [River] at Augusta: our services in this state was hard & Serious – the plains of Savannah I can never forget after we were whipped we returned to Augusta where we wintered in Huts made by ourselves: The service of the next campaign for the southern troops was South Carolina & finally Charlestown was lost to us [May 12, 1780], here I had an only, own, Bro. [brother] Killed & 2 half Brothers by the name of Yarborough, captured, both officers: one of my half Brothers is well remembered by the Inhabitants of Salisbury North Carolina, & by our present Jackson too, no doubt. –

After the exchange of Prisoners taken at Charlestown, an invalid Encampment was formed in Chesterfield County, under the command of Colonel William Davies late a collector of customs at Norfolk, who discharged me, at the said encampment under the report of surgeons of my being unfit & ever would be unfit for the service: My father took me home to Brunswick County & after a confinement of a year or so, & passing through some severe operations, got as well as I am, but have ever been a cripple since. My discharge I believe was in the fall of 1781, but it is in Richmond as well as the best of my papers. The cause of my being a cripple is simply this: I was put guard of some guns on leaving the battleground at Germantown they were runned upon me and fractured my right ankle & thigh, part of the Bone of the latter was extracted. I continued in service until my discharge: The Arribility [sic, irritability?] of my wound so increased that I could not march – I hope I may be excused from any digression I may have made, and the length of my narrative:, I wished to be understood. I was in 11 Battles of all sorts,

& wish it had been 2 more.

S/ Jesse Nicholson

The foregoing declaration at large of Jesse Nicholson was also sworn in open Court on the 16 July 1832

S/ William H Wilson, CC

We the subscribers do hereby certify that Thomas Nicholson, Brother to Jesse Nicholson, the bearer here of, entered as a soldier in the United States Army in our revolutionary war, we think for 18 months service. We further certify that the said Thomas Nicholson never returned home to his Father's House, but that it was reported & we are perfectly certain he was captured with our Army in the surrender of Charlestown & that he died while a prisoner there. Further we certify that the Father of said Thomas Nicholson was a near neighbor to us, in the County of Brunswick, and state of Virginia – Witness our hand this first day of May 1809.

S/ Benjamin Davis

S/ Elizabeth Rose

State of North Carolina Rowan County: This day came Elizabeth Strange of this County formally of Brunswick County Virginia, before me, the subscriber Justice of the said County & made oath that a certain Jesse Nicholson the Bearer hereof, then of Brunswick County, was a soldier of the late American War & that he was discharged from the Army, on account of being crippled, that she saw part of his thigh bone extracted from his thigh, and that she believes that, to be the cause of his (the said Jesse Nicholson) being discharged from the Army: This was the situation of the said Jesse Nicholson a considerable time before the close of the war. The above certificate sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day December 1809

S/ Elizabeth Strange

This is to certify, that the Bearer hereof, Jesse Nicholson, enlisted a soldier in the 15th Virginia Regiment in the Continental Army in the fall of 1776 for 3 years & in the winter of 1779 the said Nicholson enlisted with me during the war at Middlebrook in New Jersey & then marched in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker to the South. Given under my hand 27th day of April 1809

S/ David Mason Captain

11th Virginia Regiment

Norfolk Borough Virginia

I do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with Jesse Nicholson the bearer here of I think ever since the year 1795, that I have attended him as surgeon in Lansing & dressing and old wounds received by said Nicholson during the American revolutionary War and believe he is much afflicted still, on account of said wounds. Witness my hand 25th of Jan. 1810

S/ Peter Nestell

[original of the above is in one of the files in the from [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#) which shows this man's signature as follows:

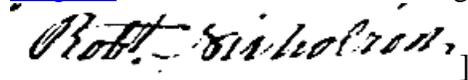
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Nestell", followed by a closing bracket symbol "]".

I do hereby certify that the Bearer hereof, Jesse Nicholson, was a soldier in the American War,

that he went out of Brunswick County of Virginia into the northern states either in the year 1775 or 76 I do not recollect which, as I was then young. He was first in the North in and then in the southern Army and returned home from the southern Army in the fall of 1780 he was then a cripple had a large rising in the inside of his thigh and was forced to apply to a Doctor and several scales of the bone came out towards the spring following which I think was the year in which Cornwallis surrendered. I was then but young not exceeding 11 years of age, but the circumstances I recollect perfectly well, and yet feel impressed with the idea that I then understood that he was clearly discharge from all service in the Army. Given under my hand this 18th December 1809

S/ Robert Nicholson
Norfolk 30th of January 1809

[original of the above is in one of the files in the from [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#) which shows this man's signature as follows:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Nicholson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

I do certify that Jesse Nicholson was a soldier in the Army of the United States in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Richard Parker of the southern Army.

S/ A. Parker, Captain 2nd Virginia Regiment

[f p. 13]

This day James Oast¹ who was a soldier in the revolutionary War belonging to the 15th Virginia Regiment of the Continental line, certify that he knew Jesse Nicholson of the said Regiment who, after serving three years in the said Regiment, enlisted with Captain David Mason of said Regiment during the war; the Army then lying at Middlebrook New Jersey; that the said Jesse Nicholson, after his furlough of ninety days was ordered to the South in a Regiment, as I understood, commanded by Colonel Richard Parker and was made prisoner at the capture of Charles town by the British: in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10th day of November 1830

S/ James Oast

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Oast". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The name is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

[f p. 14: letter dated April 1853 address to the Commissioner of pensions from William Knight in which the correspondent says that he is the administrator of the estate of Jesse Nicholson deceased late postmaster of Portsmouth Virginia and revolutionary patriot; that he, the correspondent, is connected to the veteran having married his niece; that the veteran died September 26, 1834 at which time he was owed the balance of his pension of 6 months and 22 days.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 5 years in the Virginia service.]

¹ [James Oast VAS322](#)

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]
—3 separate files under this veteran's name

I do Certify that Jesse Nicholson enlisted with me the 16th of January 1777 as a Continental soldier to serve 3 years

S/ Binns Jones, Lieutenant 15th Virginia Regiment

This is to certify that Jesse Nicholson reenlisted with me at Middlebrook for during the War the 19th of December 1778 to the best of my knowledge. Given under my hand the 15 November 1774 [sic, 1784?]

S/ David Mason, late Captain 11th Virginia Regiment

Jesse Nichols [sic] being unfit for service is hereby discharge from the Army. Given at Chesterfield the 22nd December 1780

S/ Wm Davies Col. Comdt.

[All of the above 3 documents are copies of the originals]

Portsmouth Virginia in 19th February 1812

Dear Sir

Since writing to you (which Letter and papers in 2 packages I sent off yesterday) I have discovered that there is a mistake in the Time of my discharge from the Army: it was in the Faul [Fall]; say October or November 1780 instead of 1781 – I know it was in the fall of the year in which the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781] was fought – When the British made their Excursion up Virginia to Richmond &c, I was then laid up at my Fathers in Brunswick County, whi [which] was I think in 1781; so, that from the fall 1780 to the discharge of the Virginians, I am behind hand. – From this information you may make any corrections needful, as you shall think proper –

I am Dr. Sir

Your Obdt Srt

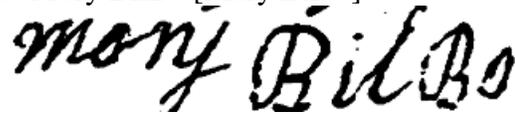
Jesse Nicholson

Dear Sir
Portsmouth, Va. 19th Feb 1812
Since writing to you (which Letter and papers in 2 packages I sent off yesterday) I have discovered that there is a mistake in the Time of my discharge from the Army: it was in the Faul; say October or November 1780 instead of 1781 – I know it was in the fall of the year in which the battle of Guilford was fought. – When the British made their Excursion up Virginia to Richmond &c, I was then laid up at my Fathers in Brunswick County, whi, was I think in 1781; so, that from the fall 1780 to the discharge of the Virginians, I am behindhand. – From this information, you may make any corrections needful, as you shall think proper –
I am Dr. Sir.
Your obdt Srt
Jesse Nicholson

I do hereby Certify that the bearer here of Jesse Nicholson formerly of Brunswick County was a

Soldier in the late American Revolutionary War, that after he had been in the Army some years, he returned home, upon furlough and then returned (after the expiration of the Furlough) to the Army again, having entered, as I understood during the War: – After 2 years or thereabouts, the said Jesse Nicholson returned home again, a perfect cripple, and that after he had been at his Father's house some time, part of his thigh bone came out, & he got better, but believe him to have been a cripple ever since though he has made out to live by his own Industry – I am certain he was discharged from the Army on account of his inability to serve longer, and that he lost his first discharge, with other papers, but what other papers don't pretend to say; and his Father, Henry Nicholson, traveled a considerable distance, to procure another discharge, which I believe was obtained: I further state that I am the mother in law of said Jesse Nicholson, and could state more; but need not, as the object is to prove that said Jesse Nicholson was discharged from the Army before the conclusion of the war, on account of his disability to serve always understood, that he got his hurt in a retreat from some battle, by the running of a wagon wheel on him. I think he was discharged in the year 1781 or 2 in the winter. Witness my hand this 15th day of January 1810

S/ Mory BilBo [Mary Bilbo]

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Bilbo". The letters are dark and fluid, with a prominent loop in the "y" and a large, sweeping "B" at the start of the last name.