

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Neill S38256

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Kentucky, County of Union

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Union County, James Neill, a resident of said County and State 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832 – That in the latter part of the year 1779 or first of 1780, he was a citizen of Rowan County in the State of North Carolina when and where as a volunteer soldier he enlisted or joined the militia company commanded by his uncle, Captain Gilbreath Falls [sic, Galbraith Falls] of said County – that Joseph Byers was Lieutenant – by what authority he was called into service he cannot recollect, but it was and is believed by him that he was one of militia of North Carolina called into service in aid of the American Revolution – that in the month of June 1780, he thinks and believes it was, he marched in said militia company to the Catawba [River] in Lincoln County – that about 600 militia met there and were under the command of Colonel James Rutherford – that he was marched with the Regiment from the place of rendezvous against the Tories encamped at Ramsour's Mill where they attacked them in their camp and after a desperate and destructive action defeated them – this was the first fighting he had seen – the Tories were under the command of Colonel Moore and he thinks Welsh & Brown also – in that affair Captain Falls and Captain Neill of the North Carolina militia were killed among others – that afterwards the militia returned home.

That in the same year (but the time he cannot state) Captain Alexander Davidson of Rowan County raised a militia company and he joined it as a soldier – Andrew Carr was Lieutenant and John Thompson – Ensign – that he marched with Captain Davidson's company from Rowan County to Salisbury where they were met by other companies and where General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] took command of the detachments and marched them through Anson County to near the Cheraw Hills where the British Army was encamped – the British retreated to Camden – General Rutherford then marched them to Lynches Creek where they were joined by other troops all under the command of General Gates [Horatio Gates], who marched them to Rugeley's Mill where they remained several days – General Gates then detached about 1800 man (of which this declarant was one) to march within six or 8 miles of Camden under the command of Colonel Porterfield and Major Harris – they remained, he thinks, two days and nights at the plain where they were halted and commencing their march for Camden in the night, they were met by the British Army & there had a skirmish that night they were joined by the balance of Gates' Army -- fought the battle called the Battle of Camden -- in this action his Captain Davidson was killed and Colonel Porterfield was wounded and he believes died of the wound early in the action at night, Major Harris was also wounded – upon the defeat the Army of General Gates was dispersed and he returned home.

But a few days after his return, he again marched under the command of his Lieutenant Byers to Mecklenburg County near Charlotte and joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Davy [sic, William Richardson Davie] – Joseph Dickson was the Major – the British Army occupied Charlotte – Colonel Davie kept his Regiment on duty in watching and attacking the foraging parties of the British – this declarant aided in defeating for such parties – one of those times was at David McCreedy's [?] farm where under the command of Major Dickson they defeated the foraging party and took, burned and destroyed nine of their wagons loaded principally with corn in the [illegible word] – they were kept on duty by Colonel Davie in harassing parties of the British Army in their advance upon the Country after the Battle of Camden and afterwards upon the retreat of the British they were occupied in harassing and attacking at different places, and at the end of the year he returned home.

In January (he thinks) 1781 he volunteered as a private in the company raised by Captain Wilson in Rowan County and went and joined the detachment under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], and was with him and engaged in the Battle at the Cowpens in which Colonel Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] was defeated, continued with the detachment on the retreat with the prisoners till they reached the Catawba where he with others was left under command of Col. Davidson [sic, General William Lee Davidson] to prevent the British Army from crossing at Cowan's Ford – the British forced their way across the Catawba and Genl Davidson was killed in the action and [the] American Detachment was disbursed – it was a wet day and on their retreat in small parties they were attacked by the British horse and driven into the swamps – he with some others at last reached Torrens's Tavern [sic, Tarrant's or Torrance's Tavern] where they met Colonel Farmer with upwards of 300 militia -- they had been there at a short time when they were overtaken and attacked by the British horse and light troops and were defeated and cut to pieces and entirely disbursed, a great number of the militia were killed among others Major Grimes, he thinks the action took place late in the evening and that night he got to his home very sick with the small pox which confined him till the month of June and prevented him from assisting his Country in the at Battles of Guilford & Camden fought by Genl Greene [Nathanael Greene].

So soon as he recovered from the small pox, Captain Francis Cunningham of Lincoln County raised a company and this declarant joined it as a soldier – that we marched immediately and joined Genl Greene's Army engaged in carrying on the siege of 96 – sometime after he joined the Army before 96 the siege was raised in consequence of the approach of the British reinforcements – it was thought at the time that in twenty-four hours 96 could have been taken – he retreated with Greene's Army to the hills and continued with it, was in the Battle of Eutaw Springs in which he received a flesh wound in the thigh from a bullet and had each arm slightly wounded with a bayonet – after that battle he was discharged – he received many discharges signed by his Captain and some signed by his Colonel some for 30 days, some for six weeks, some for three months and one for six months – all of them have been lost – he was in the Army and on duty with the exception of a few days at a time and excepting the time he lay sick with the small pox from June 1780 to December 1781 – he has no record of his age – he lived in Rowan County till the year 1796 when he moved to Logan County Kentucky where he lived until 1828 when he moved to Morgan County Illinois and moved from there to Union County Kentucky where [he] now resides in September 1832 – he is not acquainted with any Clergyman in the County having lately moved here and there are not more than three living in the County. He has no documentary evidence and he knows of no person now living whose testimony he can procure you can testify to his service – Captain William Porter and James Forgy [?] who died some years since in Logan County Kentucky were the last of his acquaintances by whom he could have proved his services.

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 any agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James Neill