

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of George Neely [Nealy] S4613

fn39SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Tennessee, Williamson County

On this 31st day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Hon. Thomas Stuart presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Williamson County State of Tennessee George Neely a resident of said County and State aged 71 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 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered as a volunteer while living in Camden district South Carolina in the year 1780 and in his 19th year of age. He thinks it was about the 20th of May, soon after Charleston was taken by the British. After that event the Tories began to hold musters and do great damage in Camden district, and the adjoining Counties. There being a call for men to put them down he entered as a volunteer in Captain John McClure's Company and marched with this company of fishing Creek 10 or 12 miles to a Mr. Bisop's [sic, Bishop's?] near the Cross Roads where the company was properly organized. He marched about some time, preventing the Tories from committing depredations. Then on hearing a body of Tories and British had collected at Bratton's or Williams' farm [sic, Williamson's farm or plantation], under Colonel Ferguson a Tory and Captain hook [sic, Huck] a British officer, a detachment including Captain McClure's Company under Major John Adair marched to rout them. We came upon them after marching the whole night, about day break and took them by surprise, killing Captain Huck and Colonel Ferguson with several others, some of whom were my acquaintances and men I had never suspected of Toryism, after we had routed them we then disbanded and joined in companies of seven or eight men each (the country being somewhat relieved of these Tories) and went about in the neighborhood still retaining our arms and guarding the property and lives [of] our countrymen, soon after the company collected under Captain McClure and joined Col. Lacey's Regiment & marched about from place to place until he was marched with this Regiment up to Mecklenburg County North Carolina and encamped on Steel Creek near one Knox's. In this route the Regiment suffered greatly for provisions. After laying here some time he was marched towards the upper end of South Carolina still continuing on the West side of the Catawba River. Here he was marched about against small bodies of Tories, until Colonel Lacey's hearing that the British and Tories had collected at the Rocky Mount down in South Carolina under a Colonel named Turnbull, he was marched there and the Regiment joined General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] who took the command of the men in the besieging that place, a very strong position. We were repulsed with considerable loss including Colonel Andrew Neal. We then marched to land's Ford and crossed the Catawba River at that place having lain on the West side some days. General Sumter here ordered several men of whom I was one, we being acquainted with the country, and the Whigs and the Tories, to procure Beaves [sic, beeves] for the Army. We did so, and while we were doing this, General Sumter marched for the Hanging Rock on the East side of the River where a considerable body of British and Tories were. He attacked them and was defeated, we having procured the beeves crossed the River and pursued on after General Sumter and met him retreating from the battle last mentioned and delivered the beeves and entered our ranks. We lay on Harper's farm on Cain [sic, Cane?] Creek for some days at the end of which time we were marched to a place I think called Nagler's Branch where we also remained some days Then we were marched back crossing Catawba at old Nations Ford I remained at home for a short time but still continued in scouting parties when General Sumter crossed the Catawba, and Col. Lacey Joined him. I had entered a company the whole company or as many as were alive under Captain Steel [sic, Steel or Steele?] this company joined Lacey's Regiment, and General Sumter marched us down the Catawba opposite Camden. General Gates had taken the command of the southern Army and marched against the British at Camden and was defeated completely. General Sumter on hearing this marched

us back up the River and encamped along side of an old field near fishing Creek. I had got permission to visit my father's a few miles distance, during which time a party of British dragoons attack Sumter and defeated him with the loss of two or 300 men. I got no discharge for any of this service. Some time in the winter of 1782 I was elected Captain of a militia company and served six months with commission of captaincy which was signed by Colonel Lacey. I marched this company from Camden district against a body of British and Tories collected at [word obliterated by an ink blot, it begins with the letters "Cong....."] on Congaree River, at Friday's ferry. The company I commanded was attached to Colonel Lacey's Regiment. John Adair was Major. We attacked this fort but having no field pieces we progressed very slowly. General Lee with his men soon after arrived with field pieces which were put in operation against the fort which soon after surrendered prisoners. After this Lacey's Regiment with my company marched back to Camden district. I continued in my command until my marriage guarding the Country. My marriage was on the 15th of November 1782, I have lost my commission. I have a record of my age which is in my father's family Bible [in] South Carolina. In 1784 I left Camden district South Carolina, and lived two years in Kentucky Lincoln County. I then in 1796 [sic, 1786?] moved to Williamson County Tennessee where I have been living ever since and now live. I would mention that Captain McClure was mortally wounded at the battle of the Hanging Rock of which he soon died. I hereby relinquish all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state. I was acquainted with Colonel Lacey, General Sumter, Major Adair. From first entering the service until I was elected Captain, I served at least six months. I know of no person in this country living except Robert Guthrie¹ who can certify to my service as stated in the above declaration. I have no documentary evidence of my service. This the day and year aforesaid. I am acquainted with Robert Davis, Thomas Hardemon &c who can testify to my reputation as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court 1st September 1832.

S/ George Neely

S/ Preston Hay, Clk &c.

[Robert Davis, a clergyman, and Thomas Hardeman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[On August 19, 1833, James Neely, gave an affidavit in Williamson County, Tenn., stating he was the only surviving son and heir [sic, heir] of the late George Neely who died in Williamson County on March 18, 1833.]

I Robert Guthrie do hereby certify that I have been acquainted with George Neely who has subscribed the above declaration for a great many years. That I have read his declaration and know of my own knowledge that the greater part of it is true and that part which I do not know of my own knowledge to be so, I believe is true. I have been in the same service with him at the Battle of Rocky Mount, and was under General Sumter at the Battle of the Hanging Rock but was not at that battle being very unwell I know he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he lives to have been a soldier of the revolution and that he is a man of veracity. This the day and year aforesaid.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court.

S/ Robert Guthrie

S/ P. Hay, Clk. &c