

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Joseph Neely S: 31879

Transcribed by Will Graves

State of Indiana Sullivan County

On this Tenth day of February A. D. eighteen hundred and Thirty four personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Probate in said County now sitting Joseph Neeley, a resident of Haddan Township in the County of Sullivan and State of Indiana, Aged 74 years past, who being 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 he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. 1. That in the Spring (as he believes) of 1776 this declarant volunteered for Three Months, under Captain Douglass and commanded by Colonel Folsom, Lieutenant Pain, In the State of North Carolina, Parson (sic, Person) County and was stationed at Cross Creek during three months except when we were occasionally scouting. 2. This applicant volunteered a second Three Months Tour under the officers above mentioned and the station of Cross Creek, In the State of North Carolina perhaps in Chatham County and as he believes in the Month of July 1776. And served Three Months, and remained at said Station except as before when out scouting occasionally, and some time in the Month of October 1776, he was discharged after having served six months for which he Received regular discharge. 3. That some time in the Month of March in the County of Parson also in the State of North Carolina, in 1777, this declarant enlisted for the Term of Three years under Captain Walker Recruiting Officer from Virginia to raise Continental light dragoons, to guard the frontier of Georgia, to be commanded by Colonel Marbery and some time in October 1777 (as this declarant believes) he was marched for head Quarters at Augusta in the State of Georgia through Hills Burrow (sic, Hillsborough) and Salisbury in North Carolina thence through South Carolina by ninety six thence to Augusta in Georgia on Savannah River, and there stationed and mustered under the command of Colonel Leonard Marbery, and some time in the fall of 1777 the said Captain Walker Resigned his Commission, and this declarant was placed under the command of Captain Cooper, who was commanded by the said Colonel Marbery, and while this declarant was stationed at Augusta they had frequently to reconnoiter the Country at perhaps some in the Winter then next ensuing this declarant with a number of others was ordered to march to the frontier of Georgia in the direction of Ogeechee River and the Indians were Troublesome there, and we were ordered to guard Fulsom Fort on Ogeechee River while we were there the Fort was attacked by a party of Indians, and after some firing the Indians dispersed with but little harm done on either side and after some two or three weeks we returned to head Quarters again. There [we] remained and occasionally scouting the Country, detachments several times to the Town of Savannah on Savannah River to notice that no breach was made in that direction by the British (they being plenty). In the mean time Capt. Cooper was promoted to Major and the vacancy filled by one Farrar¹ who was, or was raised to Captain. Some time perhaps in the Spring 1779, a Company of Regulars was marched for E. Florida under the command of General Howe by the way of Savannah thence to Altamano River this declarant was marched from Augusta under the command of Col. Marbery (as he

believes) to Savannah, thence to Sunbury thence Altamaha were we joined the regular Troops under Howe, thence all together to St. Mary's River in E. Florida, aiming to take the Garrison of St. Augustine, crossed St. Mary's River and marched down said River perhaps 4 miles to a Fort which was just burnt. It had been Inhabited by the enemy & they having had some notice of our coming, set it on fire and started as we supposed for St. Augustine. Here we stationed for some 3 or 4 weeks, thence down said River to Cumberland Island uninhabited by any person. Marched through said Island and for some cause unknown to this declarant, they abandoned the object of attacking St. Augustine and took Water at Cumberland Island for Sunbury and after some days landed there from thence by land to Savannah, and was there Stationed for some three Months, thence marched to Augusta at head Quarters again. Remained there some time when we heard Savannah was taken we was out on a scouting party over Ogeechee, to guard the frontier in that direction when the Army marched under the command of Gen. Ash from N. Carolina was defeated between the River and Brier Creek by a party of the British, some of Ashe's men were killed some taken prisoner others made their escape by swimming the River. We had expected to have joined Ash that night but before we got in camp we heard of the defeat, and retreated to Augusta. Some Ten days [later], a party was out as [?] watching the movements of the enemy and this declarant being ahead of the rest, he discovered three men in the Road two mounted one down unarmed. He made to them the one dismounted he took & kept until the front guard approached; gave he [the prisoner] up to it and rushed after the others and on rising a hill came in Gun shot of one and fired at him when he wheeled and approached me but perceiving that I was in readiness he retreated and by [?] a little further I came in full view of the British Army and after passing a few words road off in haste for Augusta. Those who had been with me having retreated I overtook them about Spirit Creek we tore up the bridge and made a line of fire in order to baffle them so that we could make good our retreat to Augusta, and crossed the River on the S. Carolina side their forces being superior to ours. From this place a small party was out scouting crossed the River above some distance heard of a party of Tories plundering we pursued them and took them prisoners in with all their spoil in number about thirteen as this declarant believes took them over with us in S. Carolina to where we last started from , some time afterwards this declarant with a number of others were scouting below, between Augusta & Savannah when we were surrounded by a party Fasaday Scout & Tories and after several rounds, we were taken prisoners one of their men killed, on their side and some wounded on both sides. They marched us to Savannah where we were detained some months. hearing of Genl. Gates marching to Savannah, this declarant with 2 others made their escape from the enemy and made good their retreat to the camps of Genl. Gates and after being examined they were permitted to go to Charles Town and on the way fell in company with Major Cooper who said the Regiment was abandoned. When in Charles Town we fell in company with Genl. Multry [sic, Moultrie] in the presence of the Governor of S. Carolina who gave this declarant a permit to return to North Carolina where he believes in the Month of November 1779. He then went to Augusta and tarried about one month then returned to Parson County in the State of N. Carolina. When and where Major Cooper gave me a discharge for three years Service in said Continental light dragoons this declarant found his own horse and during his service lost one horse for which he never Received any pay. This Declarant, Substituted his services in (as he believes)in the Spring of 1780 for three months Tour in the name and

stead of Samuel Neeley and the same Captain Douglass as 1st mentioned, commanded by Colonel Williams of S. Carolina, then marched through by Guilford Court house from thence to Salisbury from thence across Catawba River from thence near the head of Broad River, there fell in with the Kentucky and Tennessee volunteers commanded by Colonel Campbell and Col. Shelby and Col. Severe (sic, Sevier) from Tennessee and heard of Ferguson and Troop aiming to cross Broad River at the fish dam ford N. C. where we made a forced march to meet him there next morning to do which we marched all night but when we reached that place he had passed, we still pursued and on Kings Mountain we overtook him. Ferguson when a Bloody Battle ensued It was stated that 997 were killed, wounded and taken prisoner by us. Ferguson was killed. Colonel Williams Rec'd a mortal wound and died [the] next morning. This declarant Rec'd a wound and was conveyed home with another wounded from the same County, with two attendants, and after the three months had expired Capt. Douglass gave this declarant a discharge. In Orange County in N. Carolina in as he believes in the fall of 1780 this declarant substituted for John Fairontine under Capt. Kells commanded by General Butler and under the more Immediate command of Colonel Mabin [sic, Mebane] who commanded a Company of light Horse for three months Tour (as he believes) when he was marched by Chatham Court house, in pursuit of one Fannon [sic, Fanning]² scald headed Fannon as was called who as a Tory commander as might be called, plundering the Country, and while marching in this direction we heard he (Fannon) had got to Hillsborough, took Col. Liele and some of the Citizens as prisoners on the hearing of which we turned our course for we were still in pursuit of him by the way of Lindley Mill there we heard he was encamped about a mile from said mill on Haw River or nearby. We expected he would march by the Mill it being on the course he appeared to be aiming. General Butler who command[ed] the foot formed his men for battle at the Mill. Colonel Mabin who commanded the light horse (this declarant being one) was stationed a little off the Road between the Mill and the Enemy in order to fall in on the rear. Fannon marched to the Mill and was fired on by Butler which was returned by Fannon where Butler retreated then Mabin attacked them in the rear and after a considerable skirmish Col. Mabin kept the ground to the loss of Fannon about thirty killed & wounded the enemy retreated for the River we took a number of prisoners, Col. Mabin had but about 75 men after Battle he Col. Mabin paraded his men. Butler was not seen that day again. Mabin told his men generally (but a few to guard the prisoners into Hillsborough) was to shift for themselves that day and night the next morning to all meet and in Hillsborough, which was done and on consultation the prisoners were ordered to the Town of Halifax, N. C., near Roanoke River and this declarant composed one of the Guard to conduct the prisoners thence. We delivered the prisoners as commanded at Halifax and Returned to Hillsborough and there dismissed for further orders and was no more called on during that Tour. The time he was in actual service this last Tour he cannot recollect and whether he Rec'd a discharge for the same he does not remember, but of course is entitled to a credit of three months making in when added will make four year[s] in actual service and readiness and with the exception of day two or three months the whole four years was spent in actual service or a prisoner as aff[oresai]d. That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim, whatsoever, 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 and year aforesaid.

S/ Jos Neeley (Seal)

We Henry D. Palmer a clergyman residing in Hamilton Township in the County of Sullivan in the State of Indiana, and Philip Usury of the same place hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Joseph Neeley who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be seventy four years old past (as stated); that he is reputed and believed, in the neighborhood where he resides to have [been] a Soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Henry D. Palmer (Seal)

S/ Philip Usury (Seal)

1. Interrogatory: In the State of North Carolina then Orange County In the year 1759.
2. Inter.: He have none other than that kept by his Father in his Bible which is, he knows not where.
3. Inter.: In the State of North Carolina, since lived in the State of Georgia, Tennessee and now resides in the State of Indiana.
4. Inter.: He first volunteered for two three months Tours then Enlisted for three years, then he entered as a substitute for three months in the place of Samuel Neeley and again substituted for another three months Tour for John Larrentine, which constitutes the whole of his services.
5. Inter.: Captain Douglass, commanded by Col. Pervocal, Lieutenant Pain, Capt. Walker, Capt. Cooper, Col. Marbery, Captain Farris, Lieutenant McDonnald, and Lieutenant Cannon, General Howe his under officers not recollected, Capt. Douglass commanded by Col. Williams, Capt. Keel, Col. Mabin commanded by Gen. Butler who fled at Lindley's Mill, the circumstances about as set forth in this declaration.
6. Inter.: He did in every case but the last mentioned three months service, of which he has no Recollections the first was given by Capt. Douglass, the 2nd by Major Cooper for the Regular service, the 3rd by Capt. Douglass as a volunteer substitute, the last tour no recollection as stated. He is of opinion the 1st two three months Tours was all couched in one discharge, all of which is lost or mislaid.
7. Inter.: Henry D. Palmer, Philip Usury, All McBride, James Pigg, John Maxwell, William Maxwell and Colonel Ledgerwood ..

And the said Court do hereby declare Its opinions after the Investigation of the matter, and after putting the Interrogatories prescribed by the war department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier, and served as he states—and the Court further certifies that Its appears to It that, Henry D. Palmer who has signed the preceeding certificate is a clergyman, resident in the County of Sullivan and in the State of Indiana, and that Philip Usury who has also signed the same is a resident of the County and State aforesaid and is a creditable person, and that their statements are entitled to credit, and that the belief as to his services as a Soldier of the Revolutionary war are general.

S/ Josiah Mann, P. Judge

¹ Field Farrar (also spelled Farrow) or his brother Thomas Farrar, both of whom served as officers in the South Carolina State Troops. Heitman, 222.

² David Fanning