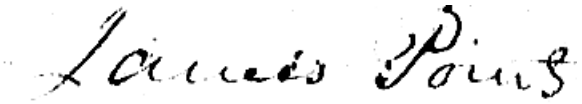
Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Henry W. Nicholson[1] R16768 f22VA
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 1/17/13: rev'd 8/3/24

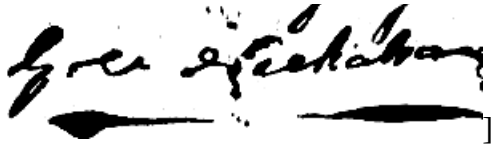
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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.]

I James Points Marshall of the Western District of Virginia do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with George Nicholson of Staunton Virginia and with his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Lee of Windsor Virginia, the widow of the late Daniel Lee, that he knows the said George Nicholson is living and he knows Mrs. Lee his sister was a few months past; and he believes is still living that he feels confident if she had died lately he should have been informed of it – he further certifies, that he knows that the said George Nicholson and Mrs. Lee have been for some years prosecuting a claim as heirs of their Father Cornet Nicholson for half pay for his services in the war of the revolution, and that he knows that they obtained a land script for the Land bounty due their Father for his services in the war of the revolution. Given under my hand at Staunton Virginia, this 27th day of July 1829.

S/ James Points



[Abstract: power of attorney attested November 1, 1849 in Staunton Virginia executed by George Nicholson as administrator of Henry W Nicholson deceased "who was a Cornet in the Virginia State line in the War of the Revolution."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[p 6]
The United States
To Henry W Nicholson, late Cornet in the Virginia State Line
For his Half pay, as cornet, from the 22nd of April 1783 to the first January 1797 – 13 years and 225 days at $160 per annum $2191.78

Act to provide for liquidating & paying certain Claims of the State of Virginia
dollars 2191.78

[1] Va. Half-Pay N. A. Acc. No. 874 See 050 126 Half Pay Henry W. Nicholson

Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office
17th of August 1839
Stated by Robert Real, Clk.

2nd Comptroller's Office
August 21, 1839 Ex'd by Charles McGill

Pursuant to the Several acts of Congress conferring authority on me to certified transcripts and copies from the books and proceedings and files of this office, I John S Gallagher, Third Auditor of the Treasury of the United States, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original Statement on file in this office.
Treasury Department
Third Auditor's Office
November 20, 1849
S/ Jno. S. Gallagher, Third Auditor

[p 15]

Pension Office August 17, 1839

I certify that I have examined the claim of the Heirs of Henry W Nicholson, deceased on account of his service during the revolution that he was a Cornet in the Virginia State Line, and served to the end of the war; that he died in Virginia in the year 1797; that the case is embraced by the provisions of the act of Congress of the 5th of July 1832, entitled "an act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia;" that the claim should therefore be allowed at the rate of $160 per annum from the 22nd of April 1793 when the war terminated, to the first of January 1797; and that the amount is payable to James F Patterson of Staunton, Virginia attorney of William Nicholson, administrator of said Henry W Nicholson, deceased.
Approved
Acting Secretary of War
Commissioner of Pensions

[p 12]

Pension Office April 10, 1851

I hereby certify that I have examined the claim of Henry W Nicholson's Administrator, for services of the said Henry W Nicholson, deceased, as Quarter Master of the State Cavalry Regiment, of the Virginia State line, in the war of the Revolution, under the act of Congress of the 5th July 1832 entitled "An act to provide for the liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia," and I find that the said Henry W Nicholson was a Cornet and Quarter Master in said Regiment, And served therein as such, until he retired from the service as a supernumerary Officer; and that his administrator is therefore entitled to receive under said Act of 5th July 1832, Half Pay at the rate of $90 per annum for his services as Quarter Master as aforesaid (Half pay for his services as cornet having been heretofore allowed) from the 22nd day of April 1783, to the first day of January 1797, during which year he died; and that the amount is payable to Joseph J Coombs, the substitute of Reuben Saunders, Attorney in fact for George Nicholson, administrator of said Henry W Nicholson, deceased.
S/ J. E. Heath, Commr. Pensions

[From bounty land records in the Library of Virginia]

To his Excellency Governor Floyd – Petition for bounty land
Heirs of Cornet Henry Nicholson State line

The evidence of Public documents shows Cornet Nicholson in service from June 29th 1779 (see Ledger A. No. B 1st Auditor's Office – of which an extract is filed) – perhaps to October 2nd 1782 – (see extract from No. 2 Journal ct. Page 553 which is filed) I do not perfectly understand this last extract or see its full force: it seems, however, to bring this officer down to October 1782.

In addition to this evidence, Eleven [?] respectable witnesses say, they believe that Cornet Nicholson served to the end of the war: and give good reasons for that belief. I have heretofore reported against this claim, on the evidence of documents. I did not think it satisfactory.
A reconsideration of the whole evidence has caused me to think favorably of this claim. I report it good, for the war. If it should be allowed, the heirs of Cornet Nicholson will not be entitled to receive land, other than proportion allowed for a service of 3 years – [several indecipherable words] establishes a service to the end of the war – and the allowance should be for the war.
Respectfully

S/ John H Smith, Commissioner

I William Stroud[2] aged 81 years do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Cornet Henry Nicholson formerly of this place (Williamsburg) though I was not acquainted with him until after the close of the war, and hesitates not in saying from circumstances and various conversations that I have had with him and others, that I firmly believe he enlisted in the state service during the Revolutionary War and continued therein until the close of the same. He lived after the war in this City and here died.

S/ William Stroud

Frederick B Powell a Citizen of Virginia and an inhabitant of the County of Henrico, being first duly sworn according to law says: That he is now in his seventy first year, that during the Revolutionary war he was in and about the City of WmsBurg [Williamsburg] in which place he was born and brought up, that he was a messenger, and usually employed in conveying Dispatches, Letters &c, from Gloucester County to Williamsburg and to other Posts of the Army, and from that circumstance he became well acquainted with the Officers and Soldiers of the Army. That among others who he knew, he has a perfect recollection of Henry Nicholson who he thinks was a Cornet in the Cavalry, that he was personally acquainted with said Henry Nicholson, knew him well throughout the war, and that he is fully of the believe that he never quitted the Army but that he served to the end of the War. That from the known delight and pleasure which Henry Nicholson took in Military life, and having no of the occupation or means of livelihood he is certain of the correctness of his recollection.

S/ Frederick B Powell

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 2nd and 27th day of Oct. 1783 and Oct.

[2] **William Stroud S6166**

1784 , in the name of Henry Nicholson, as a Cornet cavalry and Quarter Master Cavalry for £97.2.10 and 17.9.5, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to himself and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 2nd day of November 1833.

S/ Jas E. Heath, AUDITOR

Virginia:

City of Richmond, To Wit:

This day Robert Greenhow an inhabitant of said City & in the seventy third year of his age – being by me duly sworn deposed – That at the beginning of the Revolutionary War the youth of Williamsburg, among whom he was one, formed themselves into a military Corps and chose Henry Nicholson for their Captain. That on Dunmore's flight from Williamsburg – they repaired to the magazine and armed themselves with the blue painted stock guns, kept for the purpose of distribution among the Indians – and equipped as the minute men and volunteers were in military garb, that is to say, with hunting shirts – Trousers – bucks tails [?]—cockades [?] and Liberty or Death appended to their breasts as their motto – That they could and did perform all the evolutions of the manual exercise, far better than the Soldiers who were daily arriving from the adjacent counties. That their Captain (Henry Nicholson) – he supposes was then about fourteen years old – That he, doth not know of what period he entered into the State Service – but he knows that two or three years before the close of the War, he knew him as a Cornet in a Troop of Horse – commanded he thinks by John Nelson – That he (Henry Nicholson) did serve to the end of the war, he is convinced from the circumstance that after Cornwallis left Williamsburg and quartered himself in York – the officers who were there in the environs, were in the habit of occasionally visiting their female acquaintances, that Henry Nicholson, he firmly believes, was one of those officers – that they would frequently stay until the sound of Tarleton's bugle – a little before day, told them it was necessary to be off – that Henry Nicholson was fond of military life and had no other employment, – and that from those circumstances he firmly believes Henry Nicholson did not leave the service until there was no further use or employment for him in the service.

S/ Ro. Greenhow Senr.

Ro. Greenhow Senr

[Attested October 7, 1833]

[From Virginia Half-Pay record on Fold3.com] 92-page file
https://www.fold3.com/image/616522968/nicholson-henry-w-page-1-us-virginia-half-pay-pension-application-files-1778-1875

[p 3: Summary of facts in file]

050126

Nicholson, Henry W.

Cornet and quartermaster of Cavalry, in the Virginia State Line, which disbanded January 18, 1782.

He died at Williamsburg, Virginia January 1, 1797.

A land warrant for 2,666 acres of land was issued March 31, 1834 to George Nicholson

and Elizabeth Lee, widow of Daniel Lee, deceased, who were then the only heirs.

George Nicholson was administrator, and James F. Patterson of Stratton, Virginia, was his attorney.

An affidavit made in 1833 by William Stroud, Senior, age 81 years, was made to the effect that he knew the soldier.

Frederick B. Powell aged 71, of Henrico County, Virginia, stated that he was born and raised in Williamsburg, Virginia, was a messenger conveying messages &c. from Gloucester County to Williamsburg and other points, and knew Henry Nicholson.

In 1833 Robert Greenhow swore that at the beginning of the Revolution the youth of Williamsburg formed themselves into a military Corps and chose Henry Nicholson for their captain, that at Dunmore's flight from Williamsburg, they repaired to the magazine and armed themselves with the blue painted stock guns, For the purpose of distributing among the Indians and equipped as the minute men volunteers were in military garb – that is to say with hunting shirts, trousers, bucktails, cockades and 'Liberty or Death' suspended to their breasts as their motto; that they could and did perform all the evolutions of manual exercise far better than the soldiers who were daily arriving from the adjacent counties; that their Captain, Henry Nicholson, he supposes was then about 14 years old. He knew him as a corney [sic] in a Troop of horse commanded by John Nelson; that Henry Nicholson did serve to the end of the war. He is convinced from the circumstances that after Cornwallis left Williamsburg and quartered himself in York the officers who were then in the environs were in the habit of occasionally visiting their female acquaintance; that Henry Nicholson he firmly believes was 1 of those officers. That they would frequently stay until the sound of Tarleton's bugle, a little before day told them that it was necessary to be off.

[p 39]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a list in this office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line as settled their accounts and received certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an act of assembly, passed the November session 1781, directing the Auditors of Public Accounts to settle and adjust the pay and accounts of said Officers and Soldiers from the 1st January 1777 to 31st December 1781, (see Hening's Statutes at Large, vol. 10, p. 462) that a settlement was made on the 2nd day of October 1783 in the name of Henry Nicholson as Cornet of Cavalry and evidence of the indebtedness of the state to him for £97.2.10 delivered to himself but as the original settlements or copies thereof are not to be found in this office, the term of service embraced therein cannot be stated.

Given under my hand at the 1st Auditor's Office, Richmond, this 17th day of September 1780

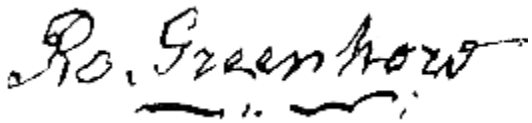
A. W. Morton, 1st CK
& Acting Auditor

[p 79]

Being called on to say, whether I knew Henry Nicholson formerly of Williamsburg Virginia; and to say whether I knew him as an officer of the Revolution; and how long he served in that War.

I hereby Certify, that I well knew the said Henry Nicholson as a Cornet in the Dragoon Service, and particularly during and after the Siege of York, and that I am entirely certain that he served as an officer aforesaid, until the end of the War.

Ro. Greenhow



[Certified in the City of Richmond February 28, 1838 by Joseph Tate, Mayor of the City of Richmond]

[p 80]
In the Affidavit duly Authenticated 9th day of October 1833, I have stated my Conviction that Henry Nicholson did serve until the close of the Revolutionary War; That he never resigned I am also confident, But that he continued in Service, as long as his Services were necessary, or in other words as long as any other military man in the State of Virginia

Ro. Greenhow

[Certified in the City of Richmond February 28, 1838 by Joseph Tate, Mayor of the City of Richmond]