

Private

Edward Nelson Sr.

10 Dec 1780-Dec 1781, Revolutionary War

Edward Nelson is a Great Great Grandfather of Robert E. Cape

On-Line:

<http://www.ourpast.org/genealogy2/getperson.php?personID=I847&tree=Cape>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathanael_Greene

<http://rutherfordtnhistory.org/PeoplePlacesandStories/GregTuckerStories/20090927GriffithRutherford/GriffithRutherford20090927.htm>

Units:

Company of Captain Jesse Bryan
Regiment of Colonel James Read
General Nathanael Greene

Company of Captain Hardy Gatlin
Regiment of Colonel John Tillman

Company of Captain William B. Fonville
Regiment of Colonel Richard Nixon
General Rutherford

State of North Carolina, Craven County

On this 14th day of August in the year of our Lord 1832, personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions, now sitting, Edward Nelson resident of the County of Craven State of North Carolina, aged 72 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 June seventh 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, Viz., that he volunteered in the militia service in the first part of the month of December (perhaps about the 10th day) in the year of our Lord 1780, served in the company of Captain Jesse Bryan and Colonel Read's Regiment under the command of General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] until the 13th day of May in the year of our Lord 1781 when he was regularly discharged by Guilford Dudley, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the North Carolina Militia. He was again called into service the same year, when the British and Tories threatened Newbern [sic, New Bern] about the first of August of that year and served according to the best of his recollection in Captain Hardy Gatlin's Company and Colonel Tilman's Regiment for the period of months and a half. He volunteered about October of the same year, a draft of the militia being made, to serve his country the third time and served in Captain William Fonville's company Colonel Nixon's Regiment under the command of General Rutherford for about the term of two months when he was dismissed with the rest of the militia forming the Regiment. He fought in a battle in which General Greene engaged Lord Rawdon near Camden South Carolina¹. 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 the agency of any State.

Sworn to, and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ J. G. Stanley, Clerk

S/ Edward Nelson

[John M. Bryan, John B. Dawson and Abler Hartley gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina, Craven County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace of Craven County Edward Nelson resident of the County of Craven & State aforesaid, who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For five months and three days, I served as a private soldier in Captain Jesse Bryan's Company Colonel Read's Regiment viz., from 10th of December 1780 to the 13th May 1781. For one month and 15 days commencing from 1st of August 1781 I served as a private soldier in Captain Hardy Gatlin's Company in Col. John Tillman's Regiment. For two months from October 1781, I served as a private soldier in Captain William Fonville's Company & Col. Richard Nixon's Regiment, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this fifth Day of June A.D. 1833

S/Hardy Whitford, JP

S/ Edward Nelson

[Spicer Lane, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1 Probably the Battle of Hobkirk Hill (also known as the second Battle of Camden)

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene to Congress

Camp Sander's Creek

April 27th 1781

Sir:

I did myself the honor to address your Excellency on the 22d and informed you that we lay before Camden, having found it impracticable to storm the town with a prospect of success, and nothing left but to take a position to induce the enemy to sally. We chose a hill about one mile from the town on the main road leading to the Waxhaws. It was covered with timber and flanked on the left by an impassable morass. The country between that and the town is covered by heavy wood and under brush. In this situation we lay constantly upon our arms ready for action at a moments warning.

About 11 o'clock in the morning of the 25th, our advanced piquets were fired upon, who gave the enemy a warm reception.

The line was formed in an instant, Gen. Isaac Huger's Brigade upon the right of the road, Col. Otho Holland Williams's Brigade of Marylanders on the left, and the artillery in the centre. Col. Read with a few (NC) militia in the rear, as a second line. Capt. Robert Kirkwood and the light infantry lay in our front, and as the enemy advanced he was soon engaged with them, and both he and his corps behaved with great gallantry.

The piquets, under the command of Cpts. Morgan and Benson, behaved with equal spirit and good conduct.

As the Enemy was found to be advancing only with a small front, Lt. Col. Ford with the 2d Maryland Regiment had orders to advance and flank them upon the left; Lt. Col. Campbell had orders to do the like upon the right. Col. Gunby with the first Maryland Regiment and Lt. Col. Haws with the second Virginia Regiment had orders to advance down the hill and charge them in front. Lt. Col. William Washington had orders to turn the enemy's right flank and charge them in the rear. The whole line was soon engaged in close firing, and the artillery under Col. Harrison playing on their front. The enemy were staggered in all quarters, and upon the left were retiring while our Troops continued to advance, when unfortunately two companies of the right of the first Maryland Regiment got a little disordered, and unhappily Col. Gunby gave an order for the rest of the Regiment then advancing to take a new position in the rear where the two companies were rallying. This impressed the whole Regiment with an idea of a retreat, and communicated itself to the 2d Regiment which immediately followed the first on their retiring. Both were rallied but it was too late, the enemy had gained the hill and obliged the artillery to retire. The second Virginia Regiment having advanced some distance down the hill, and the Maryland line being gone the enemy immediately turned their flank, while they were engaged in front. Lt. Col. Campbells Regiment had got into some disorder and fallen back a little, this obliged me to order Lt. Col. Haws to retire. The troops were frequently rallied, but had got into too much disorder to recover the fortune of the day, which once promised us a complete victory as Col. Washington found the enemy both horse and foot retiring with the utmost precipitation towards the town, and took upwards of 200 prisoners and ten or fifteen officers, before he discovered our people had left the ground, more than fifty of which were brought off. The Colonel's (Washington) behavior and that of his Regiment upon this occasion did them the highest honor. We retired about two or three miles without any loss of artillery or ammunition wagons, the baggage having been sent off at the beginning of the action. The Enemy suffered very greatly. Our force was not materially different; but had we succeeded, from the disposition made, we must have had the whole prisoners as well as full possession of Camden. Enclosed is the returned of the killed and wounded. Among the former is Captain Baty (Beattie) of the Maryland Line, a most excellent officer and an ornament to his profession.

Our army is in good spirits, and this little repulse will make no alteration in our general plan of operations.

Enclosed I send your Excellency the conditions of the capitulation and surrender of Fort Watson, which I hope will be followed by others.

I have been honored with your two letters the 10th and 29th of March.

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Excellencys Most obedient and most humble Servant
Nathanael Greene

P.S. The horse and part of the infantry at the close of the event charged upon the enemy who retreated immediately into town with precipitation.

To: His Excellency, Samuel Huntington, Esqr. (President of Congress)