

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Cloud W5247

Nancy Cloud

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Dec 2012.

Virginia Grayson County} S.S.

On the 26th day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of Grayson now sitting William Cloud a resident of the said County of Grayson and State of Virginia, aged eighty three 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer private soldier under Capt James Lyon in the fall of the year 1776 the declarant then being a resident of the present County of Henry Virginia. He marched in said company with an expedition commanded by Capt William Christian of the County of Botetoute [sic: Botetourt] Virginia against the Cherokee Indians, a distance of three hundred miles through the wilderness. On this Expedition many of the Indian towns and crops were destroyed, and a Mrs Beane who had been taken by the Indians was recovered and restored to her friends [see endnote]. The Declarant does not recollect the precise time he was absent from home on this expedition, but is satisfied that he served four months. The Declarant received no discharge for this tour, because the provisions giving out in the wilderness, on the return of the troops, they were directed to disperse and make their way home as they could. The hardships which he underwent in this expedition produced a fever on his return which confined him a long time, and was near proving fatal. Soon after he recovered his health sufficiently, he was detached with about twenty others as a private soldier by the County Court of Henry (he then residing in that County) on an expedition across the mountains as far as the lead mines [at Fort Chiswell] now in Wythe County Virginia a distance of between seventy & eighty miles. The object of this expedition was to reconnoitre and obtain information of the tories and disaffected persons who at that time abounded in that section of the Country and there was no commissioned officer in command. He and his party took one tory prisoner and delivered him to Col. [Charles] Lynch who was then stationed at the lead mines for the purpose of keeping down the tories & disaffected & protecting the lead mines. The Declarant states that the tour last above mentioned was performed in the Spring or Summer of 1777 and lasted twenty days, for which tour of duty he got no discharge. Shortly after this and in the same year as he believes he was appointed Leut under Capt. John Purtle [John Pyrtle] in the county of Henry aforesaid was called into court and qualified as such but not commissioned in consequence of the unsettled state of affairs. Being an expert woodsman he was frequently detached on short tours of duty against the tories who were exceedingly troublesome in the mountains adjacent thereto. He remained in service as Lieutenant as above stated two months under Capt purtle. He shortly after this moved to the western end of the County in the bounds of a company commanded by Capt Jonathan Hanby under whom in the year 177[?] to the best of his recollections he was appointed Lieut and commissioned by the then acting governor of Virginia. This commission was burnt he believes some years ago among his other papers when his house was burnt. While Lieutenant under Capt Hanby as above stated he served three months in actual service being stationed at Hedspeth's and McGowans in the then County of Henry now Patrick & sent on various expeditions in the neighborhood against the tories who committed great devastations and who during the time killed William Letcher a good whig. [See endnote.] In this tour he served as Lieutenant under Capt Eliphaz Shelton.

In the year 1781 the Declarant still being a commissioned Lieutenant volunteered as a private soldier & served fifteen days under Maj. or Col. Lyon [sic: probably Lt. Col. James Lyon] (company officer not recollected) and attempted to join Gen Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] but could not do so until after the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], and as they could not aid in that battle they

returned home.

The Declarant was born in the month of September the 17th day in the year 1750 old style as appears by a transcript from his family register now in his possession – in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina. He was a resident of the County of Henry State of Virginia when he first served a tour of duty. When he served the other tours he was a resident of the then County of Henry (now Patrick). He has resided since the Revolutionary War in the County of Grayson as now established, but for a considerable part of the time his residence was first in the County of Henry, then Patrick, the county having been subdivided several times. He still resides in the County of Grayson State of Virginia–

He served during the Revolutionary War five months & five days as a private soldier and five months as Lieutenant. He volunteered every tour he served– He has no discharge – & has no documentary evidence of his services– He was not acquainted with any regular officers being always in the militia service under Militia officers. – He is known to Archibald Stuart & Wm Carter jun (there being no minister in his neighborhood) who can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution – He knows of no living witness by whom to prove his service except Maj. William Carter [pension application W3385] of the County of Patrick and Maj. John Redd [S18174] of the County of Henry.–

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] William Cloud

NOTES:

The widow of William Bean is said to have been captured by Cherokees on 20 July 1776 and condemned to be burned at the stake. She was rescued by a respected woman of the tribe and is said to have been returned after a time to her family.

Hedspeth and McGowan were Tory leaders. Hedspeth lived near present Ararat in Patrick County, and McGowan lived at Flower Gap on the border between Patrick and Carroll counties. William Letcher was murdered at his home in Ararat on 2 Aug 1780.

James Boyd (pension application S12269), Elihu Ayers (R335), and William Carter (W3385) certified Cloud's service.

In Carroll County VA on 3 Oct 1853 Nancy Cloud, about 42, applied for a pension stating that she married William Cloud in Sep 1838, and he died 8 Feb 1842. The claim was certified by Martin Cloud and William Lewis. On the following day in Carroll County George W. Cloud made a statement that has been lined through saying that he was present at the death of William Cloud. Thomas D. Ashworth stated that he had been present when his father, Joel Ashworth, a Baptist minister, married William Cloud and Nancy Vaughn. On an application for bounty land dated 15 Apr 1855, Nancy Cloud stated that Vaughn was her maiden name.

Most of the 236 pages in the file relate to the restoration of Nancy Cloud's pension, which, like those of others living in the Confederate States of America, was suspended during the Civil War. On 21 Jan 1866 Nancy Cloud applied for restoration of the pension, taking the required oath that "she has not borne arms against the government of the United States [and] has not in any manner been engaged in or aided or abetted the rebellion therein, or in any manner encouraged the rebels, or manifested a sympathy with their cause." On 23 Jan 1866 she stated that she was 53 and lived on Lovills Creek and had done so during the war, when she subsisted "from her own labour and that of her children." Her pension was restored, but she was again dropped from the pension list because of allegations in the following three letters:

Lovell's Creek. Carroll County Va/ April 10 1866
To The Commissioner of Pension

Having learned that Mrs Nancy Cloud widow of William Cloud Dec'd who was a Revolutionary pensioner took and subscribed what is known as the Test Oath, for Rebels to take, and also that she was required to prove her loyalty to the U.S. government before she could draw a pension, which is understood she has done, and that she has been reinstated, and will be allowed to draw a pension regularly twice a year.

From what can be learned she made what proof she did in a secret manner. It is a well established fact in the community, in which she lives that she has been all the time during the war and even before the State of Va seceded from the U.S. Government what may be termed a rank secessionist or Rebel, She done as much as any woman could have done in aid of the Rebellion. A large majority of the Citizens of her community are willing to testify that the facts set forth in the above are true & if proof of her (Mrs Nancy Cloud's) disloyalty is required it can be established upon oath by the persons who sign this paper. By writing to any of us you can be furnished with the proof of the facts in the matter.

S. M. Fleming, Benjamin Fleming, Joel F Tilley, A S. Branson, G. C. Marshall, R. J. Harris, Henry H Dean, C. N. Dean, Litel Haynes, Edward McBride, Thomas Parker, M W Keller, Martha Vaughan, Mary Keller, M F Keller

Mount Airy Surry Co N.C./ June 14th 1866

Hon'l. Jas H Barrett/ Commissioner &c/ Sir Some time since Saml. & Benj. Flemmig sent to your office the Certificate of several persons showing the disloyalty of Nancy Cloud who is a pensioner by reason of her husbands services in the war of 1776 & 81. I understand that the friends of Mrs. Cloud have hatched up a batch of affidavits proving her loyalty during the war or late rebellion. If the evidence already submitted is not sufficient to satisfy the department of her rank treason during the rebellion you will please inform me of the fact at this office which is near the Virginia line and within 6 miles of the pensioners residence & I will send you the affidavits of as many respectable Citizens as you may desire whose credibility will be vouched for by the postmaster at this place and also by the U. S. District Attorney D H Starbuck Esq – or any other public officers you may designate That she did all she could in her situation in aid of the rebellion admits of no doubt whatever.

Yours Respectfully,
Mordecai Fleming

Toms Creek Surry Co N.C./ June 14th 1868 [sic]

Jas H Barratt Esq' Sir/ From my acquaintance with Mordecai Fleming Esq whose letter is on the other page I have no hesitation in saying he will make good all his allegations Yours Respectfully/ Job Worth

Mt airy. Surry County N.C/ August 2nd 1866

Mr Joseph N. Barrett Sir in reply to your letter of the 25th June last you are informed that I have procured the affidavits of twenty one additional witnesses testifying to the disloyalty of Mrs Nancy Cloud nine of the said witnesses was qualified in Carroll Co Va before Squire Samuel D Staples the same Magistrate the first was qualified before. The other twelve was taken in this County before different Magistrates as you will see when they come to hand. I have endeavored to get the best Citizens in the Community to testify to the fact that Mrs Nancy Cloud was from the beginning of the Rebellion to the end of the same and open Red mouth secessionist as strong as Jefferson Davis Wm L Yancy [sic: William Lowndes Yancey] Robert Toomer or any Rebel, The Post Master at Mt airy has Reccommended twenty of the above named witnessed. And I have forwarded them to the U.S. District Attorney with such other Reccommendations that I have no doubt of his reccommending them and direct them to that office forth with. If however when you Receive the list of witnesses, that I have procured with such Certificate of character as will accompany them If you are still not satisfied let me now how many moore will be required and you shall have them

Yours Respectfully/ Mordecai Fleming

NB/ I understand from Squire Levi Edwards who some of Mrs Nancy Clouds witness was that Testified to her Loyalty Mr James B Davidson Martin Cloud Benjamine F Cloud Michael F Davidson, and others.

Every one of them the Rankest secessionist that was in this neighbourhood. It is very strange that Mrs Cloud should let such Rebels now that she was union and never let union people now any thing a bout it, it wont do it is too bareface yours M Fleming

The following is a representative sample of the accusations against Nancy Cloud:

Va. Carroll County to wit.

I Martha Vaughan, a Sister-in law of Mrs. Nancy Cloud, and live in her immediate neighborhood, and being very well acquainted with her, do hereby certify, that I heard her frequently during the late Rebellion speak in favor of the Rebellion, and express herself and say that she was a secessionist and I know from her conduct during the Rebellion that she was a rank secessionist. I heard her call her own brother a Union man & Tory, – when Jackson’s men who were sent to this County, after the men that failed to go with the said Mrs. Clouds son when he went to his regiment [Washington Cloud, Co. C, 24th Va. Infantry; enlisted 24 May 1861], the said Mrs Cloud proffered to assist them in getting up the absent men. I heard her say that the men that were detailed as farmers in this neighborhood, ought to be taken up & sent to the army. I also heard her say that she wanted to have a certain man sent to Castle Thunder [a prison for civilians in Richmond], because he differed with her son who was then assistant Enrolling officer for this County about taking up a certain man, for the purpose of sending him to the army. I also heard her persuade [i.e. encourage] two young men sons of a widow lady to join her sons Company, and by her persuasion I believe she influenced them to join her sons company one of them being under age. I have heard her say that she wanted the union people of this community sent to Castle Thunder. She called the union people old Tories.

This 4th day of May 1866.

[signed] Martha Vaughn

Sworn to & subscribed before me This 4th day of May 186[?] S D Staples J.P.

Va. Carroll County to wit.

I Sarah Puckett a neighbor and well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Cloud, do hereby Certify upon honor, that I have frequently heard the said Mrs Cloud, say that she was a secessionist, I know that she persuaded several persons to join the Rebel army. She persuaded and encouraged my two sons, (I only have two sons. I am a widow) to join her sons company, which she did accomplish one of my sons at that time was not old enough to enter the army, it was against my will for them to go into the army. And since the Rebellion, she has been heard to say by myself & others that she intended to leave this Country, as she could not think of staying here among the union Tories of this community. Given under my hand this 3rd day of May 1866

Sarah herXmark Puckett

Affirmed to & subscribed before me in my County aforesaid Given under my hand this 3rd day of May 1866. Saml D Staples JP.

I hereby certify that the facts set forth in the above certificate of my mother Sarah Puckett are true, as I heard them from Mrs Nancy Cloud.

Carroll County to wit.

Martha J herXmark Puckett

Affirmed to & subscribed before me in my Conty aforesaid. This 3rd day of May 1866/ Saml D Staples JP.

Va Carroll County to wit

I Francis M Puckett a son of Mrs Sarah Puckett do hereby certify that the certificate given by my mother is true, and I do hereby further certify that Mrs. Nancy Cloud did persuade me to go into the Rebel army under her son who was then Enrolling Officer for this County, and also making up a company, which he did make up and entered the Rebel army, and by her persuasion and promises I joined her sons Company before I was old enough to be conscripted

Given under my hand this 3rd day of may 1866.

Francis M hisXmark Puckett

Va Carroll County to wit – / I Daniel W. Puckett do hereby certify that Mrs Nancy Cloud encouraged me to join her sons company, which stimulated me to do so

Given under my hand this 3rd day of May 1866 [signed] D W Puckett

Virginia Carroll County to wit:

We the undersigned do hereby certify that we called upon the magistrate before whom Mrs. Nancy Cloud proved her so called loyalty to the United States, to know what she was required to prove. – he refused to tell us what she was required to prove. – He said they were bourn up in secrecy not to tell what she proved – we also showed him our letter of the 10th April 1866 addressed to you, & he the Magistrate said that all the facts set forth in it were correct. this 5th day of may 1866

[signed} S. M Fleming [signed] R J Harris

Va. Carroll County to wit

I John Dowell who live in the neighborhood of Mrs. Nancy Cloud, do hereby certify that I heard her say that any body that would not fight for their country ought not to stay in the Southern Confederacy. I heard her say that if she knowed that the South would not whip and gain her independence, that she would leave it. She at one time aided her son who was then assistant Enrolling officer as he called himself, to arrest me, and send me to the Rebel army. This 5th day of May 1866.

John hisXmark Dowell

C M Lewis deposeth as follows. I am well acquainted with the s'd. Nancy Cloud an know her to be an avowed secessionist & so expressed herself on all occasions. She urged me as she did all others to Volunteer to whip the north, at the out Break of the Rebellion, & continued to do so during the progress of the same, & about the time of the surrender She urged me to Volenteer & Cross the Mississipi River & join Kerby Smiths Army [sic: Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith's Trans-Mississippi Department] & fight the Yankees to the bitter End & upon my refusing to do so she abused me & called me a tory to my Country Sworn to before me this July 12th 1866.

[signed] C M Lewis

Va Carroll County to wit

I C. N Dean who is a neighbor of and well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Cloud, do hereby certify that I know she was a Secessionist or rebel during the late Rebellion. She persuaded me to join the County guard, her son was then Enrolling Officer for this County. She said I knew that there were some men in this County that ought to be taken up and sent to the Rebel army, and some sent to Castle Thunder. Given under my hand this 3rd day of May 1866

C. N. Dean

Virginia. Carroll County to wit:

I Levi McCrary have ever since the Spring of 1863 been acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Cloud Do hereby certify on oath that I heard her say she was in favor of the southern army. I further Certify that I frequently heard her during the late Rebellion say that they who would not fight for their Country ought to be driven out of it, and I verily believe from her conversation that she was a Rank Secessionist as I never heard her speak a word in favor of the Union. I further Certify that she persuaded me to join her son's Company, I refused to do so, she then said I would have to go to the army & she did not care. I heard her say that several persons in her neighborhood, ought to be taken up and sent to the Rebel Army. I heard her say that we would be better off to live under a King, than to go back to the Lincoln Government. I heard her say that if all would turn out & not lie in the woods, they could easily whip the Yankees She said we were fighting in a just cause She said that the north broke the constitution and the South ought not to go back to the union. Given under my hand this 14th day of July 1866.

Levi hisXmark McCrary

Va. Carroll County to wit

This day I Enos Hiatt do hereby certify on oath that I am acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Cloud, and that I saw her several times during the late Rebellion and heard her say that she was in favor of the said Rebellion, and from her acts and conversation during said Rebellion I verily believe that she was a Rank Secessionist during said Rebellion, as I never heard her speak a word in favor of the Union. I also heard her say that all the men that were liable to the army ought to be made to go into the Rebel army. I further certify that I was a commissioner to furnish provisions to the soldiers families, during a part of the Rebellion, & that the said Mrs. Nancy Cloud called on me to aid her. I refused to do so, she told me that another Commissioner had let her have a half bushel of wheat. The reason why I refused to let her have any thing, was this, the Court of this County would not allow Officers families to draw a support from the County. This 25th day of July 1866. [signed] Enos Hiatt

Virginia, Carroll County to wit.

I Jane L Staples being acquainted with Mrs Nancy Cloud, I live in about a mile of her, The two first years of the war she was frequently at my house, Lovell's Creek Post Office Va was kept in my house (and I was P. M.) from which she received her mail, Do hereby certify on oath that if the said Mrs Nancy Cloud was not a secessionist from all appearance there was no such thing as one. She said to me during the Rebellion that if she was in my place she would not suffer the Union people to receive their mail at my office, but said if she was in my place she would kick them out of the Office. I heard her say during said Rebellion that if she had her way with the Union people, she would have them all confined, so that she could have all of their heads cut off at once. I heard her say that she hated to give her son up, but she said she knew it was in a just cause, and in my presence she consented for her daughter to write to him to Volunteer I further certify that the said Mrs Nancy Cloud was frequently at my house the first of the war for the purpose of drawing assistance from this County in the way of provisions, my husband was a Commissioner to supply soldiers families with provisions. I let her have some salt which was furnished by this County. I heard her say in May 1865 that all the true Confederate soldiers would cross the Mississippi River and join some other power, she said she believed we would whip the Yankee's yet. She said she had rather live under a king if she had her choice than to live under the Lincoln Government.

This 26th day of July 1866.

[signed] Jane L Staples

Mary P. Fleming also stated that Nancy Cloud "was right mad with her son (who was assistant Enrolling Officer for this County) because he would not take up a certain man who was not liable to the army, and send him to the Rebel army." These and other statements were sent to the Pension Office with the following letter:

Toms Creek Surry Co N.C/ August 2^d 1866

Hon'r. The Commissioner of Pensions/ Washington City DC.

Sir. Enclosed I send you various affidavits of parties living in Va & N. Carolina concerning the status of Mrs Nancy Cloude (who is a pensioner by reason of her husbands service in 1776-81) in relation to the late rebellion. I am personally well acquainted with H V Allred P.M at Mt Airy NC & know him to have been a fine Union man during the War & a man of Integrity & Standing. I also know Messrs Robt Allen Forester Booker Esq William Roark Jacob W McGraw, Jno Snow, Richard Snow, William Golding Geo W McCraw & James Hutsell & that they are men of character for truth and Honesty and entitled to full credit and confidence

I have no doubt of the truth of the statements made by these witnesses above named. It was quite common for the women to be the biggest fools we had. I hope as she linked her destiny to the Rebel Cause she may have to rely on them for aid in future. Very Respectfully/ Job Worth

If you should desire to know anything in relation to myself I will refer you to
Hon R. P. Dick Greensboro NC

Hon D H Starbuck US. Dist atto Salem NC
J. G. Lash Cashier Salem Bank " "

A campaign was also begun in defense of Nancy Cloud . The following is a representative sample.

Virginia Carroll county to wit [24 May 1866]

James B Davidson and John W. Green make oath and say that they verily believe that Samuel D Staples Justice of the Peace before whom the parties are said to have made affidavits against Mrs Nancy Cloud Pensioner was was the instigator of the whole proceeding that appear against her at the Pension Office and that the sd S. D. Staples was governed altogether by prejudices growing out of personal difficulties. That they heard him assert that he did what he had done because Mrs Cloud in time past had offended him.

[signed] J. B. Davidson

[signed] J. W. Green

Virginia Carroll County to wit [1 June 1866]

B. Frank Cloud makes oath and says, that he knows Mrs Nancy Cloud "pensioner" was often at her house during the late war, and had many opportunities of finding out her real sentiments and sympathies, knew her to have been violently opposed to secession and the war and to have said and done every thing against it she could That she always advised him to stay out of the Army and heard her advise others to do the same, and that her whole desire seemed to have been to keep her friends from going into the War – that it might cease, and let those that were in it come home and stay – and that she was very much offended at those who were trying to get persons to go into the army and trying to stay out themselves. That he furthermore knows a family of Puckets to wit Sarah, Martha, D. W. and F. M. Pucket's and knows the circumstances under which the two last named (D. W. & F. M. Pucket) went into the army and that they were not in a situation to have been influenced by her for one of them was a conscript, and had been reported as such and the other was already a member of a Company, prior to the organization of the company that he states Mrs Cloud influenced him to join which company he heard her beg of the Commanding Officer, should not be taken to the army and that her influence if she had any was used to prevent the whole Companys going to the Army He furthermore knows the Fleming's, Keller's, Pucket's & Dean's whos affidavits are said to have been sent to the "Pension Office" as evidence against Mrs Clouds loyalty, to be of the very lowest standing in society, and the worst characters in the County. They are dangerous enemies & he thinks would do any thing to injure any one against whom they wer prejudice, and that he knows they have been mad at Mrs Cloud for a number of years, and that he believes them to have been governed by spite and malice for the purpose of privately injuring her in such a way that she might not be able to refute it. That their neighbors often express themselves as being afraid to make them mad on account of suffering private injury at their hands, and that he would not believe any of them on oath

[signed] B. F. Cloud

Virginia Carroll County to wit [1 June 1866]

Micky McCrary makes oath and says that she lives in one fourth of a mile of Mrs Clouds Pensioner and was at her house in Carroll County Va. many times during the late Rebellion and had many opportunities of finding out her sentiments and that she knows her (Mrs Nancy Cloud) to have been strongly opposed to the War and at different times heard her say that she would be willing to live on bread and water the balance of her days, if the War would cease and the soldiers could get to come home and stay and the only persons she ever heard her say ought to go to the Rebel Army was those who were meddling or doing mischief in the neighborhood and that she desired only as a means of punishing them for their misdemeanors That if said Mrs Cloud could have had her way about it that there would never have been a war, or a soldier gone into it That she is aware there has been no good feeling between Mrs Cloud and

the Puckets & Deans that on the contrary they were mad with each other and had no friendly intercourse whatever. That S D Staples J.P. and Mrs Cloud have been at outs for a number of years and that one Martha Vaughn and Mrs Cloud have been very mad with each other for some time That there is a deep rooted prejudice by all of them against Mrs Cloud and that she furthermore believes that she Mrs Vaughn would do her any injury in any way she could privately

Micky McCrary

Thomas T. Greenwood made a statement similar to the preceding and added that "he fully believes said Staples J.P. to have been the leader and getter up of the plot for spite and private injury." J. B. Davidson stated that Nancy Cloud had lived on his land since 1854 and "suffered much during the Rebellion for the necessities of life, being forced to sell such things about her house as she could best spare in order to get bread," and had heard among other things "S. D. Staples say that a certain Sarah Pucket was under any circumstances a discreditable witness."

Virginia Carroll County to wit [5 June 1866]

Nancy Cloud makes oath and says that the affidavits taken and given by William Fleming, Samuel Fleming, M. W. Fleming, Benjamin F. Fleming, James D. Dean, Calvin Dean, Henry Dean, Sarah Pucket, Martha Pucket, Wilson Pucket, Francis M. Puckett, Mason Keller, Mordecai Keller, Mary Keller, Martha Vaughan and perhaps others, and sent to the Pension Office at Washington to prevent her drawing her arrears of Pension &c as widow of William Cloud, a soldier of the Revolution are wholly false and unfounded, and taken and given through spite and malice – that these parties or some of them and the chief [illegible word] in this matter attempted to prevent her from drawing it when first allowed as she supposes will appear from the files of the papers in the Pension office – that these parties are not her neighbors or friends but on the contrary her bitter enemies with whom she has had nothing to do for years – that she learned that they were going to take the said affidavits and she attended at the place – that they refused to let her be present and went off in the woods and fixed them up – that she has been informed and belivs that their statements were not made on oath and she refers to papers accompanying this for proof of this – that the parties making the affidavits are not persons of good character but utterly infamous and unworthy of credit as will also appear by papers accompanying this – that a number of them live in North Carolina and not in Virginia – and with this will appear the statements of parties who are really her neighbors and who are really respectable. She repeats the statement that she was opposed to secession, the war and would have done anything she could to have prevented it – and that she did nothing to encourage or bring it on – that she has taken the oath prescribed by law now on file – that all the parties who lived in Virginia are said to have voted for the ordinance of secession, some of them volunteered in the rebel army, and some of them were elected to office in such army – and would have perhaps have assisted in [illegible word] our union if they could have found such [one or two illegible words] – that she thinks that she can show that James D. Dean, Henry Dean and J. Harris whose characters are not quite so infamous as the others deserve but little credit and she refers to papers accompanying this in regard to that matter – that the Justice who took these affidavits acted through spite and malice, and was paid so much per head to take them – as she has been informed.

[signed] Nancy Cloud

The file contains the following indictment apparently introduced to impeach the character of two of Nancy Cloud's accusers:

VIRGINIA:—Carroll County, to wit. In the Circuit Court of said County

The Jurors of the Commonwealth of Virginia in and for the body of the County of Carroll impannelled and sworn in the Circuit Court of said County at the term thereof, commencing on the 19th day of march 1866, and now attending on said Court, upon their oaths present, that William Fleming and Marion W. Fleming on the first day of May in the year 1865 at the county aforesaid, two horses of the

value of one hundred dollars each of the goods and chattles of Elijan Largen, feloneou[sly] did take, steal and lead away against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia, upon the evidence of Elijah Largen, James Nester & William H. Taw witnesses sworn in Court to give evidence to the grand jury.

T. M. Dobyms – Prosec[utor]

On 4 May 1867 Nancy Cloud, said to be 54, again applied for the restoration of her pension, stating that the charges against her “were made by some of her neighbors, on account of an old family quarrel which has existed for years prior to the late war.”

The Commissioner of Pensions sent an investigator whose conclusion is stated in the following.

PENSION OFFICE./ Washington, D.C. October 17 1867

Sir [James A. Morgan Esq, Acting Commissioner]/ Pursuant to your instructions of the 10th inst. I proceeded to investigate the Restoration Claim of Mrs. Nancy Cloud No. 3255, and submit the following report –

I visited the Claimant at her residence in Carroll County Va. She claims that she was always opposed to the late rebellion, but, admits that during its continuance, she acted and talked “Sesesh” [secessionist] – that she so acted and talked, because she did not dare to do otherwise. Her daughter & son-in-law, who reside with her, made the same statements, When asked for any act or declaration of the Claimant in behalf of the union, they replied that she had kept certain persons from going to the Rebel army. Why? Because they were the sons of some of her neighbors & friends. She had stated that she wanted the war closed. She wanted peace & hoped that they would have it. Upon what grounds? She wanted a Compomise made. What kind? They did not know. Did she want the old Government re-established or did she prefer the establishment of the Confederacy? The daughter did not know. The son-in-law thought she wanted the old Government.

I have examined some 18 or 20 persons, all of whom, with one exception, were vouched for by the Claimant and her immediate friends. Most of these persons were Sesessionists, and were reluctant to say anything prejudicial to the Claimant’s interests. I am entirely satisfied that persons, who told me that they did not know her sentiments during the Rebellion, did know them and knew her to be a sesessionist.

There were but two persons out of the entire lot who endeavored to convince me that she was loyal – one of whom admitted that he did not know, although he had sworn to the contrary – the other one could give me no satisfactory reasons for his conclusions.

Ther are on file in the case five affidavits, of witnesses whom I have seen, which prove, beyond a doubt, that she was a rank sesessionist, during the war. These witnesses in their conversation with me re-iterate and re-affirm fully, their statements made under oath. Their statements are corroborated by the statements of several gentlemen of standing in that community, several of whom stated that if there was a sesessionist in that community, during the war, she was one. After a thorough investigation of this case I have no doubt but that she was disloyal during the entire late rebellion.

Respectfully yours/ B Rixford

The following appears to be a list of those interviewed during the investigation with comments by the investigator. (Page numbers are for the fold3.com file. “Clmt” = claimant, Nancy Cloud. “Sesish” or “sesesh” = secessionist.)

[p 71]

Francis McGraw

– Sessish [secessionist] in his opinion Dep. Slip.[?]

Michael F. Davidson

– identifying witness – Stated at first that in his opinion she was loyal. he afterwards stated that he did not know

Mrs. Michael F. Davidson

– did not know her sentiments

M. M. Ferguson – one of her witnesses to impeach the Character of witnesses against her states that she was Sesesh.

Thos T. Greenwood & wife } states that she was a [at?] heart loyal. but [illegible word] Sesesh
 – they

Son-in-Law & daughter of Clmt} could instance no one act or word of loyalty.

J. B. Davidson brother of } Loyal – but could give nothing satisfactory on the point
 Michael F. & witness for Clmt}

John Flemming & wife – reiterate their evidence as to her acts of disloyalty.

Wm A. Edwards – knows her to be Sesish

Wm Rawley – in his opinion she was Sesish – that was her reputation.

Samuel F. & D D. Gillmore – didn't know.

Widow Likey Simpson – knew she talked Sesesh.

James Hutrel – Sesesh

D. W. Pucket – States that she was Sesesh that she held out inducements to him to join her Son's Cr.

Mrs S. D. Staples, affirms her affidavit; Her Husband makes the same statements.

Newell Johnson – Sesesh at outset but wanted stopped.
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Va Wm Lewis J.P. O.K. E. B. Hanby

“ M M Prigrison [Ferguson?] D

“ Thos. E. Crawford

“ B. Frank Cloud Grand Son

“ Micky McCrary D

“ Thomas T. Greenwood O.K

“ I B Davidson Mr. [illegible] OK

“ M. F. Davidson J.P.

“ Martin Cloud Claim[ant's] Son

“ Newell Johnson

“ Esau Worell OK Hillsville

“ James Jennings “ “

“ Benj Cooley “

“ Jesse P. Worrell “ moved to Mo

“ J. B. Johnson “ Hillsville

“ Marshall Shereff “

“ P. S. Collins Jr

“ W. H. Southerland Clk Ct [Clerk of Court?]

“ Wm C Thomson

“ Mary Q. Greenwood

“ David S. Vaughn D Maiden name of Clmt

“ Catherine Vaughn “

“ J. W. Green C.K. Hillsville

“ Levi Edwards D.

Mrs Lockey Simpson. Son of to get into the army

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“ Enos Hiatt did not allow her Co. in [corn?] because her son was an Officer

“ John Fleming D

"	Mary P. Fleming	"			
"	Jane L. Staples P. M. Lovell's Creek P.O. Va				
N.C.	Waller D. McCraw	N			
"	C M Lewis	D – O K			
"	Mrs Margaret Norman				
"	John Snow				
"	Richard Snow	(probably reliable[?])			
"	Wm Golden }				
"	James Golden}				
"	Forrester Booker	O.K.			
"	G. A. McCraw	Moved Away			
"	James Huttsel	D + O.K.			
Va	Wm A. Edwards	O.K.			
"	Charles A Johnson	D – reliable			
"	Joseph M Johnson.	Moved Clmt persuaded him to join the Rebels			va
"	Robert Allen		Henry H. Dean	D	"
"	Levi McCrary	D	C. N. Dean	"	"
"	S. M. Fleming	D Mt Airy P.O.	Litel Haynes	D	"
"	R. J. Harris		Ed'd McBride	D	"
"	L F Jones		Thomas Parker	D	"
"	John Dowell	D	M N Keller	D	"
"	Joel F Tilley	Dead	Martha Vaughn	"	"
"	Benj Fleming	D	Mary Keller	"	"
"	A. S. Branson	O.K. probably	M F Keller	"	"
"	G. C. Marshall		Wm Fleming	"	"
"	R. J. Harris		B M	"	"
"	L. D Fleming	D	T. W.	"	"
[p 73]					
"	C N Dean	D	James L. Mitchell		
"	Rosanna Fleming	D			
"	M A Keller	D			
"	[illegible] Craft				
"	Francis M Pucket	D			
"	D. W. Pucket	"			
"	Henry H. Dean	"			
"	James D. Dean	"			
"	Sarah Pucket	"			
"	Martha J Pucket	"			

In 1872 the US Senate Committee on Pensions voted favorably on a House bill to restore Nancy Cloud's pension, but the bill failed after the Commissioner of Pensions informed the committee of the results of the above investigation.

An act dated 9 March 1878 provided for pensions without a condition of loyalty, and on 8 April 1878 W. Cloud (probably son Washington Cloud) of Pierce City MO began the process of obtaining a pension for Nancy Cloud. On 27 April 1878 she successfully applied for restoration of the pension, stating that her age was 65, and that since the war she had lived with her son-in-law in the southeastern part of Carroll County near St. Paul Post Office.

A document in the file states that Nancy Cloud died on 20 Feb 1898.