

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of James Alexander W12190

Transcribed by Will Graves

(Punctuation, grammar & spelling modernized)

State of North Carolina, Buncombe County

Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions January Session A. D. 1834.

On this 9th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open court James Alexander a resident of said County and State of North Carolina aged 77 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 provisions made by an Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he entered the army of the United States as a volunteer, private, in the County of Lincoln North Carolina in the fall of 1779 in the Regiment of militia or mounted infantry commanded by Col. William Erwin. That he rendezvoused at Charlotte McLenburgh (sic, Mecklenburg) County N. C. and marched from there to Wilmington N. C. from there they marched up the river by Fayetteville and back to Lincoln; he does not recollect the dates of his discharge but is certain he served three months this tour.

He entered the army again in the County of Lincoln N. C. as volunteer, private, in the year 1780. He can not recollect the month under Captain Malcolm Henry as a mounted militia man under the command of Genls. Davidson and Rutherford; that he joined the army near the Tuckaseegee ford on the Catawba River in Mecklenburg and marched from there into Lincoln County with a view of attacking the Tories collected at Ramsour's Mill, but arrived there a few minutes after the Battle was fought; that they continued scouting through the County of Lincoln under the command of Genl. Rutherford until discharged; this tour he well remembers was for three months and that he served the full term and was discharged, but cannot recollect the precise period of his discharge. That he entered the service again as a private in a company of horse commanded by Capt. John Barber in the County of Lincoln N. C. some time in the summer of 1780 in the Regiment commanded by Col. Charles McDowell; that he scouted through the Counties of Lincoln, Burke, Rutherford and was detached under the command of Capt. Joseph McDowell to observe the movements of CornWallis' (sic, Cornwallis) army which was then marching through South Carolina and was in the ~~battle~~ skirmish with Tarleton at ~~the Cowpens~~ Enoree S. Carolina; after said skirmish they marched back to N. C. and Joined the army under the command of Charles McDowell and was discharged. This was a tour of four months and said applicant is well convinced he served the full period but does not recollect precisely either the time he entered or was discharged. He entered the service again as a volunteer under Captain John Caruthers in a company of horse as a private in the County of Lincoln N. C. a short time after he was discharged from his last mentioned service. He does not recollect the particular time and was engaged in scouting for the purpose of keeping down the Tories in the counties of Lincoln and Rutherford for the space of four months, when he was discharged.

That he entered the service again as a volunteer in a Company of horse commanded by Captain Isaac White in the County of Lincoln. He cannot recollect the precise time but thinks in the fall of 1780. That he marched through Rutherford County

and joined the army from beyond the mountains at Gilberttown in said County and marched under the command of Col Campbell to [the] South Caro. line and was in the Battle of King's Mountain. After the Battle he marched through the Counties of Lincoln and Rutherford until the expiration of his term which was five months. Said Applicant states that owing to his age and the length of time which has intervened since the aforesaid services were rendered, he cannot pretend to speak with certainty as to dates but he is certain the time above aforesaid to wit three months under Col. Erwin; three months under Captain Henry; four months under Captain Barber; four months under Capt. Caruthers and five months under Capt. White are correct and that he served all of said terms fully.

He has no documentary testimony whatever nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove his said services or any part of them. 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 of any State.

Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: In Roan (sic, Rowan) County, North Carolina on the 23rd of December 1756.

2. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: My father had it set down in his family Bible from which I transcribed it into my own.

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Ans.: I was living in Lincoln County N. Carolina. I removed from there to York District South Carolina about the year 1783, where I lived about two years from there I removed to what was the Burke now Buncombe County N. Carolina where I have lived ever since and now live.

4. How were you called into service: were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute?

Ans.: I was a volunteer each time.

5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and Militia Regiments as you recollect and the genl. circumstances of your service.

Ans.: I never was with any of the Regular troops and knew none of the officers except from information. I was always under the command of Genl. Rutherford, Davidson or McDowell or some of the Cols. or other officers under their command.

6. Did you ever receive a written discharge?

Ans.: I never did.

[7.] State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to our character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

[Ans.:] Col. Samuel Davidson, Thomas Forster (?), Col. Robert Williamson, Robert Henry and various others.

Sworn to in open Court Jany. 9th 1834

S/ James Alexander

Test: Jno. Miller, Clk.

State of North Carolina, Buncombe County

This day came James Alexander before me Jas. W. Patton one of the acting Justices of the Peace for said County and made the following explanations in addition to his declaration heretofore forwarded to the War department of his services in the Revolutionary war. He states that as well as he can now recollect from the frailty of his memory and the distant period at which his services were performed he first entered the service in the County of Lincoln North Carolina some time in the early part of the fall of 1779 as a volunteer in a company of horse commanded by Captain Malcolm Henry for the term of three months; he marched into the county [of] McLenburg (sic, Mecklenburg) North Carolina where (sic, where) he joined the regiment of horse commanded by Col. Erwin, and from there they marched towards Wilmington in North Carolina where they fell in with the army under the command of General Rutherford but deponent is unable to state with accuracy at what particular place he joined said army. There he remained with the army marching from place to place, and was with General Rutherford on the morning on which the Battle was fought at Ramsour's Mill in Lincoln County who was then lying between the Tuckaseegee ford and Lincolnton and was sent forward with the horse and arrived at the Battle ground a few minutes after the Battle was over. That shortly after said Battle he was discharged. That he entered the service again in Lincoln County N. C. in the early part of the summer of 1780 under the command of Captain John Barber as a volunteer in a horse company, he marched to the Cherokee ford on Broad River in York District S. Carolina where they joined the army under the command of Genl. Charles McDowell. That he was sent shortly after with the command of Col. Joseph McDowell with a regiment of horse through Spartanburg District and had a sever skirmish with a part of the British light horse under the command of Col. Tarlton (sic, Tarleton), after which they fell back upon the main army at the Cherokee ford. Shortly after this they were marched back into Lincoln County where he continued until the expiration of three months from the commencement of the trip where he was discharged having volunteered only for that time.

He entered the service as a volunteer in a company of horse commanded by Captain Isaac White in the County of Lincoln N. Carolina; the time not recollected. He does not recollect that any definite time was mentioned in the term of service but knows he served four months during which time he was in the Battle of King's Mountain S. C. having joined the army under the command of Col. Campbell at a place called Gilberttown in Rutherford County N. Carolina and marched with them to the Battle. That [he] entered the service again in Lincoln County N. Carolina as a volunteer for no specified time as he now remembers, under the command of Capt. John Caruthers as a company of horse and ranged through the Counties of Rutherford and Lincoln for the purpose of quitting and keeping down the Tories. He thinks as long as five months and was discharged. That he afterwards served a tour of five months he thinks under Captain Isaac White ranging as [?] through the Counties of Rutherford and Lincoln and was in said service at the time Cornwallis was taken. Deponent states that he will be 79 years old on the 22nd of December next as he is informed that his memory is very much impaired by age and he does not pretend to [?] as to the precise periods at which his said service was performed but is confident he served the length of time specified and that he always believed the officers who called him into service were authorized by law to do so.

Sworn & subscribed to before me this 2nd day November 1835.

S/ Jas. W. Patton, J.P.

S/ James Alexander