

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Alfin (Alphin, Olfen) S8018

Transcribed by Will Graves

[Explanatory note: I have transcribed more of this application than I normally transcribe for two reasons: one is to show the type of information that is available online in the full pension record gradually [31% complete as of 6/22/07 with increases of 1 or 2% per day during weekdays] becoming available on Footnote.com (for a fee of \$60/year) vs. the "Selected Records" which are available at HeritageQuest and two is to show the extraordinary lengths to which this particular veteran went to establish his claim. Even so, I have not transcribed all the attestations and certifications which appear in the file.]

For the purpose of Obtaining the Benefit of an relief of certain surviving Officers and soldiers of the Army of the Revolution approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1828, I William Alphin of the County of Duplin in the State of North Carolina, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continel [sic] Line of the Army of the Revolution during the war and continued in its service until its termination at which period I was a private in Captain Joseph Rhodes' company in the third Regiment of the North Carolina line. And I also declare that I afterwards received a certificate for the award of Eighty Dollars to which I was entitled under a resolve of Congress passed the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1778.

I further declare that I was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1828 on the Pension List of the United States.

Signed

S/ William Alphin, X his mark

Before me James Lawson a justice of the peace in the County of Duplin and State of North Carolina, personally appeared this day Nathaniel Waller of the above County & State and Thomas Spein of Pitt County and aforesaid State who did solemnly take oath that William Alphin by whom the foregoing declaration was subscribed is generally reputed and believed to have been a soldier in the Army of the Revolution in manner as therein stated.

Witness my hand this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November in the years 1828.

S/ Jas Lawson, JP

[PRINTED FORM WITH BLANKS FILLED IN]

Revolutionary Claims

Treasury Department

22 May 1829

William Alphin of \_\_ [blank in original] in the County of Duplin in the State of North Carolina has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Private, in Captain Rhodes's company, in the third Regiment of the North Carolina line; and that he received a certificate for the reward of Eighty Dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the third of March, 1826, nothing.

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are collaborated by the records in his office.

By Order of the Secretary

S/ F. A. Dickins

State of North Carolina, [Duplin] County

On the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Honorable Robert Strange Esq. Judge of the Superior Court of law of the County of Duplin now sitting, William Alfin of said County, who will be Seventy one years of age on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January next; 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. -- that he volunteered in the militia in Onslow County in the State of N. Carolina in the year of \_\_\_ [blank in original] under the command of George McCulloch, from thence he went to Wilmington N. C., thence to Fayetteville, or Cross Creek, thence to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, Thence to the Big Bridge in New Hanover County near Wilmington N. C. where he was attached to the brigade of General Lillington when he was discharged after a Service of three months – Eleven days after the aforesaid discharge, he volunteered again in the Cavalry, in a company commanded by Captain Benjamin Williams. He served under said Williams for three months in the Counties of Onslow, New Hanover & Jones, in which last County he was in a battle at Sanders Bridge in which the enemy was commanded by Craig [James Henry Craig] and at which battle Captain Gordon [John Gordon] of the British Cavalry was killed. He was then discharged after an additional service of three months. He then enlisted in the regular service in Onslow County under Captain Jos Rhodes for eighteen months. He then marched to Duplin Courthouse, thence to Wilmington, thence to Charleston S. C. head quarters being at James's now Sullivan's Island where [he] remained till the close of the war where he was discharged having served in the militia six months and in the regular Service between eleven and twelve months.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Pearsall, Clk

S/ William Alfin, X his mark

State of North Carolina, Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions August term 1833

On this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Stephen Graham, James Lawson & Richard Miller Esquires now sitting & holding the Court aforesaid William Alfin the aforesaid applicant to amend his preceding declaration who being first duly sworn doth on his oath further declare and say that his first service in the militia under Captain George McCulloch commenced about the first of December 1780, and that his service in the cavalry under Captain Benjamin Williams was commenced the last of March or first of April 1781, and he enlisted and entered the regular service about the last of July or first of August 1781 & served eleven months in the regular service, that there is no clergyman residing in the neighborhood of said applicant; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure to testify to his service in the militia; but thinks he can prove his service in the Continental Army by Nathaniel Waller of this County who at this time is unable from sickness to attend Court & therefore can't obtain his testimony at this time and depends on his name being found on the rolls.

Answers of said applicant to the questions not answered satisfactorily in his preceding declaration:

1. I was born in Onslow County NC second of January 1762.
2. I have no record of my age.
5. The regular officers with the troops where I served were Colonel Lytle, General Greene, Benjamin Coleman, Captain William Lytle, William Bush, Carter Ivey, Joseph Rhodes, Captain Sharpe; the Continental regiments he remembers were of the third Regiment of the North Carolina line, one Regiment of the Maryland line and one Regiment of the Pennsylvania line's the Numbers or the Colonels he does not recollect; the militia regiments he recollects was Colonel Brown's of Bladen [County]; the general circumstances of his service are stated in his declaration.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jas. Pearsall, Clk

W/ William Afin [sic], X his mark

State of North Carolina, Duplin County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions November Term 1833

On this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 1833 before the worshipful Justices of the Court aforesaid viz. James Lawson, Stephen Graham and Gibson Sloan esquires personally appeared William Afin or Oflin the aforesaid applicant to explain his proceeding declaration who being first duly Sworn according to law doth on his oath further declare and say that his name is differently spelt sometimes thus Olfin, sometimes Afin and sometimes Alphin – that he was in the regular service when peace was made; he was before of the opinion that it was in 1781 that he entered but supposes he was mistaken, he is certain he enlisted with Captain Joseph Rhodes but believes that he was attached to a company in South Carolina commanded by Captain Hadley at James's now Sullivan's Island that he received a warrant for 640 acres of land to which he was entitled for his Revolutionary Services which he sold to one Smith Herring and was located in the State of Tennessee; that he can prove by Daniel Herring whose affidavit is hereunto annexed that a warrant for that amount issued to this applicant which warrant said Herring carried to the State of Tennessee.

Sworn & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ William Olfin, X his mark

Test: S/ P. Murphy

State of North Carolina, Duplin County

Personally appeared before me Jeremiah Pearsall one of the Justices of the peace for said County Nathaniel Waller a Citizen of the County & a Soldier of the Revolution who after being duly sworn, makes the following statement, viz., that he is well acquainted with William Afin of this County, whose name is inscribed on the Pension Roll, & who heretofore did entitle himself to a pension; that he knows that said Afin did render services in the Revolutionary War as set forth in a former affidavit of his, & which he supposes is now on file in the War department of the United States; That he has understood the name of said Afin to be spelled differently by different persons, some "Afin", Some "Alphin" & others "Olfin" -- that he is satisfied William Afin of this County the applicant for a renewal of his pension is the person properly entitled to the same.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day July A.D. 1835.

S/ Jere Pearsall, JP

S/ Nathaniel Waller

State of North Carolina, Duplin County

On this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1835 before the Undersigned a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, personally appeared the above named William Afin who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following explanation in order to entitle himself to the pension the payment of which has been suspended. He served six months in two tours of three months each – the first tour he served in a company of militia infantry as a drafted man in Captain George McCulloch—Russ Lieutenant marched from Wilmington to Fayetteville, thence into South Carolina to Cheraw Hills – was drafted in November or December 1780 – was attached to a Regiment under Colonel Brown at the Special request of General Lillington & other officers he continued in service eleven days after the expiration of his three months tour & was discharged in New Hanover in March 1781 just after a skirmish at the Big Bridge. He served other three months in a company of militia Cavalry under Captain Benjamin Williams, Stephen Shackelford Lieutenant as a private. I volunteered in Onslow County, i.e., entered in Onslow about the first of April 1781 marched into New Hanover & Jones & was at a skirmish in Jones at Saunders' Bridge with the Enemy under Major Craig & Captain Gordon one of the enemies officers was killed.

He enlisted in Onslow County with a recruiting Officer whose name he does not recollect for eighteen (18) months if the war continued so long & if not, to the end of the war, joined a company of

recruits at the Cross Roads in Duplin under Captain Joseph Rhodes under whom he marched into South Carolina to Head Quarters at the High Hills of Santee and was there placed in a company under Captain Hadley, the date he cannot precisely state he thinks it was in the last of the summer or first of the Fall and after having served between eleven & twelve months the war terminated and he was discharged. About 10 years ago, he received from the State of North Carolina a warrant for 640 acres of land and sold it to John S. Herring and gave the warrant to his (John S. Herring's) brother, viz. Daniel Herring who carried it to the State of Tennessee & to whose affidavit this declarant begs leave to refer, which accompanies his papers heretofore sent on to the War Department war Pension Office, his name is variously spelt "Alfin," "Alphin," or "Olfin."

S/ William Olfin, X his mark

State of North Carolina Duplin County

To the Honorable J. S. Edwards Commissioner of Pensions

William Alfin Senr. Appeared this day before me & made the following statement viz., That he enlisted as a Soldier in the Revolutionary War (he thinks) in the year 1781 – one thing however he knows (if not much mistaken) that it was the Fall of the year after & the same year of the Battle with the Enemy at Guilford Court house in this State, & he has always thought that circumstance occurred in 1781 – That he enlisted under Captain Rhodes (later of this County) in the County of Onslow, & that some few weeks after he joined the Company under Captain Rhodes & marched to Duplin & Sallied there some weeks, & then marched directly to head quarters at Bacon's Bridge in South Carolina (he understood) twenty five miles from Charleston – That as soon as he reached head quarters, he was placed in the Company & under the Command of Captain Hadley & there continued during his stay in the Service that he did render effectual Service eleven months, & did obtain a regular discharge from the service but the same is lost – He states that he understands there is some discrepancy in the statements he heretofore made, & with the Rolls in the Department, to satisfy himself & the war department, he has reflected well & had conversations with a brother Soldier who tells him he must have enlisted in 1782 as he did not serve quite a year & was discharged in 1783 – further that his name on the muster Roll is Olfin, -- he states that his recollection directs him in 1781 as the time of his enlistment, yet 1783 seems like the time of his discharge, in one of which he knows he must be mistaken, and as to the spelling of his name, he is an illiterate man, & don't know but understands is spelled Olfin, Alfin, Alphin.

Further he states that in the year (he thinks) of 1825 entitled himself to 640 acres of Land & did actually receive the same, by his agent, John S. Herring.

Sworn to & describe us 18<sup>th</sup> of February A.D. 1836 before me.

S/ Jere Pearsall, JP

S/ William Alfin, X his mark

And at the same time, Nathaniel Waller, appeared & made the following statement is, That he knows that William Alfin the applicant, did rendered the Service which he speaks of, That he believes he has heretofore given and Certificate that he enlisted in 1781, and that he must have been mistaken, because he was discharged in 1783 & served not quite one year – He knows that William Alfin did rendered the services because he joined with him in Duplin under Captain Rhodes, & marched with him to head quarters at Bacon's Bridge in South Carolina & at head quarters he was placed under the Command of Captain Benjamin Carter & Alfin under Captain Hadley – that he served between eleven & twelve Months, when he & Alfin with others, were in proper form discharge from the service – he states there may be some discrepancy in his Statements from the treasury of his memory, but as to the time of service & who under, he swears unequivocally he thinks his Regiment was called the third Regiment,

Sworn to & subscribed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1836 before me.

S/ Jere Pearsall, JP

S/ Nathaniel Waller

Raleigh 13 September 1836  
Patrick Murphy Esqr.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the sixth instant is received and on examination of the muster rolls I find the certificate I have given in the case of William Olfin or Alphin is correct, he appears mustered under Captain Hadley (for no length of time) length of time not mentioned date 1783 no day or month mentioned. The muster rolls may not be correct. I have thought them incorrect in some cases in spelling names and have no doubt they are in spelling Olfin, if his name is spelt Alfin, but in all cases I am governed by the rolls in making certificates. I find the last named above and the next below William Olfin's, to have enlisted for 18 months and in the year 1782. Nathaniel Waller appears under Captain Carter in 1782 for 18 months. The rolls and papers in my office do not show anything respecting the marching of the Army or to what place the men were ordered, either do they show when the 18 months men were discharged, but it is very certain that those enlisted in 1782 & 1783 could not have been discharged before the close of the war. It was on this ground Waller & Olfin obtained warrants for 640 acres of land.

The name of Pharaoh Lee is not on the roll. I think it probable he belonged to the Virginia line. The money sent over pays fees for this service, the balance will be paid to any person you may direct to collect it.

Very respectfully  
your obt Servt.  
S/ Wm Hill

State of North Carolina Duplin County

William Olphin one of the Soldiers of the revolutionary war represents to the board who had been appointed by a resolution of the General Assembly of North Carolina to pass upon military land warrants – alleges that he enlisted under # Captain Rhodes for 18 months in the Continental service of the United States in the year 1782, that he served until the termination of the war and was regularly discharged at Charleston South Carolina, and that he has lost or mislaid his discharge.

York Petitioner hopes that the board will consider of his claim according to equitable wound, and that they will passed favorably upon his claim under such rules and regulations as will do Justice to all parties concerned.

S/ William Olphin, X his mark

Test: S/ Phill Southerland, JP

Nathaniel Waller makes oath that William Olphin was a Soldier in the Continental service and that he served with him, and that he now resides in the County of Duplin.

S/ Nathaniel Waller

Sworn to before me at Duplin this \_\_\_ [blank in original] day of June 1825 – I do further certify that I know N. Waller that he [is] a man of truth and entitled to due faith. S/ Phill Southerland, JP

State of North Carolina, Duplin County

Personally appeared before us Nathaniel Waller who being duly Sworn, doth say that he is well acquainted with William Alphin and that he served with him in the revolutionary war, and that he there here of is the same man.

Sworn to before us 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1826  
S/ D. Glisson, JP

S/ Nathaniel Waller

State of North Carolina: Secretary of States' Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the evidence upon which (with that derive from the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State) the Commissioners appointed to pass upon applications for military land, allowed to William

Alphin a warrant for six hundred and forty acres of land.

Given under my hand at Office in Raleigh this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1836.

S/ W. Hill

Raleigh 4<sup>th</sup> April 1836

Dear Sir

Your favor of the first instant was received this morning. On the after half of this sheet I send you copies of the evidence on which be Commissioners allowed Wm Olphin's claim to land. His name appears I think on this muster rolls as an 18 months man which very much strength and the evidence. Might be useful in this service should be about \$1.

Very respectfully  
your obedient servant  
S/ Wm Hill