

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Benjamin Alsop: S9269

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, County of Spotsylvania to wit.

On this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Sept'r 1832 personally appeared before the Honorable Justices of the Court Sup'r. Court of Law and Chancery for the County of Spotsylvania, in open Court sitting, Benjamin Alsop of the County of Spotsylvania in the State of Virginia aged seventy four 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States about the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1775 as a Minute man, with Captain Oliver Towles and served as a minute man until about the first of Dec'r. of the same year, when the Battalion, of which the company to which he belonged was in [two words illegible] was disbanded and in Jan'y 1776 he again enlisted with Captain Oliver Towles and served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia line, under the following named officers: Colo. Mordecai Buckner, Lt Colo. Thomas Aylett, Major James Hendricks, Capt Oliver Towles 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nathaniel Fox 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Charles Tutt and Joseph Holliday Ensign. He states that when he enlisted in the Minute service, he was in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of his age, and was ordered with four other companies to an encampment for the purpose of receiving instruction in Camp duty[?] he remained in camp some time upon the land of Gen'l Alex'r. Spotswood in the County of Spotsylvania on the Rapahannock river, and shortly after that service, viz. in Jan'y 1776 as above stated, he enlisted for two years under Capt. Towles and aided with his recruiting. The company thus raised was passed[?] on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y by two magistrates (under the orders of Convention) and the company certificate obtained &c. The company was in a few days thereafter marched to Fredericksburg, from thence to Williamsburg, where he was appointed Sergeant, after remaining about three weeks in Williamsburg, he was marched to Hampton, where he was kept until the month of June; he was then marched back to Williamsburg, and there remained until the latter part of August, where he received marching orders for New York. All this time his company was attached to the 6<sup>th</sup> Reg't of the Virginia line under the Command of Colo Buckner, Lt Colo Aylett and Major Hendricks. The Regiment then marched for New York passing through Fred'g and crossed the Potomac at Noland's Ferry; he joined the army under the Command of Gen'l. Washington at New Castle[?] about nine miles from New York in the month of November, shortly after which [on 21 Nov 1776] the whole army commenced the retreat through New Jersey into Pennsylvania and encamped on the banks of the Delaware just above Trenton. On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, a detachment of 200 men was sent across the Delaware (of which he was one) was sent across the Delaware for the purpose of reconnoitering about Trenton, and on his return he found the company crossing the river, where the detachment was ordered to join their respective companies. then about night fall He was then [illegible word] with the rest of his company in the advanced Guards and [four or five words illegible] marched toward Trenton. About one half or three quarters of a mile from Trenton they fell in with the Hessian Pickett Guards at a place called the White house, and where they were fired upon, and returning the fire of the Hessians [three words illegible]. The advanced guards was then under the command of Major Rich'd Parker. He then marched on to Trenton, where there was a general engagement in which the Americans were victorious. this took place early in the morning [26 Dec 1776]. after this engagement the whole army returned to their encampment on the Delaware carrying with them the Hessian prisoners taken at the engagement. After remaining in Camp a day or two, they were marched to Trenton [30 Dec], and there encamped for a few days. from Trenton they marched to a small village called Maidenhead, where they understood that the enemy was approaching. they then retreated to Trenton, and crossed the Bridge [at Assunpink Creek], the enemy following. The enemy encamped for the night in Trenton and the American Army in sight. About twilight[?] the American Army having kindled Camp fires took up their encampment and [illegible word] and silently marched to Princeton leaving the enemy in possession of Trenton. He was in the engagement at Princeton [3 Jan 1777] and was immediately under the command of Gen'l Chas

Scott of Virginia, who held the command of the Virginia line. He was afterwards at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] in Gen'l [George] Weedons Brigade in Gen'l [John] Green's Division, where he was struck with three balls, only one however wounding him, that in the left shoulder, whilst in the act of reloading his Musket. The blanket slung along to his back had 16 bullet holes through it. He also states that he was at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], but in consequence of his inability to bear arms by reason of his wound was not engaged in the engagement; he brought off Lt. Chas Tutt who was mortally wounded in that action. He further states that he was afterwards in Fort Mifflin [on Mud Island in Delaware River] during the whole siege which lasted about thirty-two days [10 Oct - 15 Nov 1777], and was one of the few who defended it to the last; The Fort was at first under the command of Colo. [Samuel] Smith of Baltimore, who receiving a severe wound, was compelled to resign the command to Colo. John Green of Va., Colo Green being disabled, the command devolved upon Colo Chas Simms of Alexandria [VA], and under him the men evacuated the fort in the dead of night. they crossed the river in Boats and went to a village called Woodbury, where they remained a short time, and then marched to Head Quarters. In the fall of 1777 he marched with Gen'l Washington to Valley Forge, and in Feby 1778 his time of enlistment having expired he was discharged by Gen'l Weedon, and came to Virginia, where owing to the death of his Father which took place during his absence, he was compelled to remain. But afterwards and in the year 1780. served in the Militia of Va. He states that he does not now recollect what has become of his discharge.

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 first above mentioned. [signed] Benj'n Alsop

State of Virginia, County of Spotsylvania, to wit

On this the sixth day of November 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Spotsylvania now sitting Benjamin Alsop a resident of the County of Spotsylvania and State of Virginia aged seventy four years, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That he was in the service of the United States as a soldier & officer in the Militia of Virginia under the following named officers, and served in the Militia as herein stated. viz about the first of June 1780 he was enlisted into service and was attached to the company of militia under the command of Capt. Thos Minor, Lt. John Holliday, Second Lieut Holliday, and Ensign Rob Durrett. The regiment to which his company was attached was commanded by Colo Geo. Stubblefield Lt. Colo. Joseph Spencer and Major Wm. Mosly [sic: Mosely]. he marched from Spotsylvania the county in which he resided to Hillsborough in North Carolina passing through Richmond & Petersburg; at Hillsborough he was appointed Quarter Master by Colo. Geo. Stubblefield and in that capacity continued to act during that campaign. Hillsborough being a place of general Rendezvous several regiments met there about the same time, also were there organized, and were under the command of Brigadier Gen'l. Edward Stevens of Culpeper Va. From Hillsborough they marched to Roughly's [sic: Rugeley's] Mill in South Carolina, passing by Guilford Court House. At Roughly's Mill he joined the main Southern Army under the command of Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates, there they remained some few days when they marched towards Camden they engaged the Brittish under the Command of Lord Cornwallis where Gen'l Gates was defeated (on the 16. Aug 1780). Gates army partly reunited at Hillsborough, and then marched up into South [sic] Carolina and encamped at a place called New Garden [near Guilford Courthouse NC], where they remained a short time and was there discharged, his time of service not being yet expired having been ordered into service for six months. He returned to Spotsylvania in Va. and in the following May (1781.) he was nominated by the County Court of Spotsylvania to the Governor of Va. for the office of Lieutenant in the Company of Militia then commanded by Capt Thos. Bartlett and was duly commissioned as such. Shortly after receiving his commission as Lieut. he was ordered into Service and was transferred from Capt Batletts Company to that of Capt James Taylor, and joined the Army under the command of Gen'l LaFayette as it passed through Spotsylvania to Raccoon Ford in

the County of Orange [4-5 June 1781]. The regiment to which his company was attached was commanded by Colo James Meriwether & Majors Hardyman & McWilliams, he continued with the army under LaFayette until about the last of Sept 1781 at which time he was discharged (being then in the neighbourhood of Williamsburg) because of relief having been sent down. He states that he never received any written discharge either whilst in the service in 1780. as above set forth or afterwards in 1781. and that he served in all rather more than nine months.

The Court propounded the following interrogatories-

Where and what year were you born? Ans. In the County of Spotsylvania State of Va. in 1758. and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March as is stated in the Register.

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

Answer I have in my possession an old family Bible containing a register of the births and deaths of my father's family, and in which my birth is recorded.

Ques. 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 born in Spotsylvania in Va. and have resided [six illegible words] from that time to the present day.

Ques. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

Ans. I was drafted in the year 1780. and in 1781. was induced[?] into service as a Lieut. with the company to which I had been transferred as stated in my declaration.

State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

In 1780. Colo Holt Richardson, Colo. Geo. [last name illegible], Colo [name illegible], Colo. Lucas, Major Boyce - in 1781. Gen'l Lafayette, Gen'l Anthony Wayne, Colo. Chas Dabney, Major John Willis, & Major[?] Geo Washington aid to LaFayette. for the general circumstances of my service I refer to my declaration

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

I have already stated in my declaration that I never received a discharge.

Did you ever receive a commission, and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Ans. Yes I received a Commission, it was signed by the Governor of Va. Thos. Jefferson I believe. I do not know what has become of it. I have lost or mislaid it.

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

Rev. John A Billingsly, George Alsop, Larkin Stannard Colo. Thos. Minor & Capt Edward Hardin[?]. He believes almost everybody in the county of Spotsylvania [rest of sentence illegible]

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. in making this relinquishment, he does not mean to relinquish his rights to any benefit to which he may be entitled under the act of Congress passed 7 June 1832 for services rendered in the army of the United States as a regular soldier as set forth in his declaration before the [one or two illegible words] Court of Law and Chancery for the County of Spotsylvania on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. provided by said law he may be entitled thereto in addition to what is claimed in this declaration

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year afsd [signed] Benj'n Alsop

NOTE: A note on the pension certificate states Benjamin Alsop's surviving children and his date of death as follows: "Have a cert. for Elizabeth C. Spindle, Ann G. Parker & Sarah Ann Crutchfield children of Benj. Alsop, dec'd. - pay due up to Dec. 1, 1832."