

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elisha Wallen R11075

fn68VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/29/11

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[fn p. 55]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: On this 8th day of November 1838 personally appeared in open court before the court of the County aforesaid now sitting Elijah Wallen a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged 75 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

States that he entered the service in the state of Virginia as a volunteer, under Captain James Gibson of Washington County and State of Virginia as an Indian spy Colonel Arthur Cambell [Arthur Campbell] then had the command; of the Regiment; about the first of April in 1777 and served a six months tour of duty, the spring following we was called out again I served another six months tour in 1778 under my said Captain James Gibson the spring following I served another six months the tour under Captain William Elliott. In 1779 and 1780 and 1781 he served two other tours under Captain James Gibson again Colonel Arthur Campbell was in the two last tours of duty General and Colonel Montgomery had the command of the Regiment; Francis Boweny [? could be Bowery?] was my Lieutenant; when we was first organized as spies to protect the frontiers of Virginia against the incursions of the Cherokees & Shawnee Indians we was marched to the Ford of Clinch [River] at the mouth of Stock Creek and from thence to the Right Codes Station and on various scouts against the Cherokees & Shawnees And on the Rocky Station; in my 2nd tour our troops was arranged so long a line of forts and stations from Cowans Fort in what was called Cassles Woods [Castle Woods] to Martin's station Powells Valley [Powell's Valley] about 20 miles from Cumberland Gap embracing a range of country of 150 miles and the troops was constantly divided into small detachments from that of a Captain's command down to that of a Sergeant shifted from one station to another as the nature of the service required; at Moore's Fort, Osman's Fort, Dinkins Fort, Shallow Ford of Clinch, Rye Cove Station, Rocky Station a station where Jonesville now stands in Lee County Virginia Martin's station and between the tours of duty in the militia service there was regular spies that was always out on the scout; traveling between these several forts; and Stations and going secretly out sometime singly and at other times 2, 3 or more together and at that time I had no family and continued either in the service as a soldier or a traveling spy from the time I entered the service in April 1777 until the fall of 1781 each year in the spring I served a six months tour ending in October and each of my tours served under Captain Gibson & Captain Elliot as stated above General Campbell & Colonel Montgomery our field officers and called us out by the orders from the Governor or the authority of Congress for while the British was on the seacoast we had to keep the Indians in the West Frank Bowery our Lieutenant was killed by the Indians I entered the service in my 16th year I was born in Henry County Virginia in March 1762 and moved to

Washington County when quite a boy after the revolutionary war was closed I settled near a place called Rocky Station what is now the County Virginia lived there 4 years or 5 then to Fayette County Kentucky 3 years from that to this County and lived 2 years then I moved to Knox County Kentucky a few miles across the line from where I now live and lived 42 or 3 years, and then back to this County again about 2 years since. As a reason why I have not applied sooner to be placed on the Pension roll is as follows I employed a lawyer Frances Ballenger of Knox County Kentucky to draw up a declaration for me and furnished him with the certificates of my services and went on to take some depositions which was not certified right and would not do. He promised me from time to time to attend to it but soon after he was made circuit judge and quit the practice of law. I applied to him for my papers he told me he had sent them to me but could not tell by hundred and they were sent; and thereby lost all the documentary evidence and at that time was informed that I must prove my services by two witnesses as my papers was lost and I did not know where to find them; ultimately, I was informed that one witness who had a knowledge of my actual services with other requirements of the department would be sufficient; I knew of one of my fellow soldiers Alexander Richie who served in the same Company with me & most of the time and had a knowledge of my services the whole time whose deposition will accompany this declaration & make a part; as a further reason I have not applied sooner my entire ignorance of the law or what was required then although for the last six years have been trying to get the business done have not been able to succeed to complete it until now I also spoke to a lawyer in this County 8 James B Robeson who was to attend to it for me but he neglected to do so & moved away so that I have been foiled in all my camps; and other circumstances not under my control: he now declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state nor of the United States and hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity whatever except the present and have no agent or attorney except Doctor Noel of Tazwell who is fully authorized to attend to and correspond with the department and received my certificate if allowed. Sworn and subscribed to the day and year first written.

S/Elijah Wallen, X his mark

[Tandy James, clergyman, Alfred Noell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 27]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: Be it known that on this 5th day of April 1839 personally appeared before me Peter Neel a Justice of the Peace for said County Wm Condry¹ a resident of said County first being duly sworn according to law on the holy evangelist of Almighty God to speak the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth touching the matter of the case of Elisha Wallen for a pension on account of his services during the revolutionary war as an Indian Spy and other services from the early part of the year 1777 until the year 1781 on the frontier of the state of Virginia deposeseth and saith as follows viz.; That he is eighty-four or five years of age and he knows that Christie's [William Christian's] campaign was ordered out against the Indians by the order of the Governor of Virginia. I was under Captain Joseph Martin and I know the forts soldiers and spies was continued on until the close of the war by orders from the Governor as I then understood; I was engaged most of my time packing provisions and carrying expresses from the Rye Cove to the long Islands on Holsteine River [Holston River] and to Henry County in Virginia and various other places.

Question 1st: Who commanded the expedition at the long Islands and whether the horses was not

¹ Sic, William Condry FPA R2198

pressed by law and whether or not the horses was not Branded 1776 and state whether you did not get your pay from the government.

Answer: William Christie commanded; the horses was pressed and called public horses and branded 1776 and when the year 1777 entered they were branded with the year and I drew my pay from Captain Joseph Martin as a soldier who was the government pay master for his company. I do not know who was general pay master at that time; To the Holston River at the long islands was under the government of Virginia Washington County at that time in 1779 the state line or Walkers line was run and the long islands fell in the State of North Carolina what is now East Tennessee I know Colonel Arthur Cambell [Arthur Campbell] read the Governor's orders when we was called out and I always understood that all the campaign was by the laws of the State of Virginia and further this deponent saith not. Sworn and subscribed this day and year first above written.

S/ Wm Condray, X his mark

[fn p. 34]

State of Tennessee Claiborne County: On this night day of January A.D. 1839 personally appeared before me Peter Neil a justice of the peace in and for the said County in State aforesaid Alexander Richie² who being first duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God to speak the truth and nothing but the truth in the matter of the application of Elijah Wallen for a pension as an Indian Spy of the revolution under the law of the United States passed June 7th 1832 deposeth and saith as follows viz.: that as well as he recollects that himself and Elijah Wallen the present applicant for a pension entered the service in Washington County & State of Virginia in the year 1777 and I think about the first of April in the Militia under Captain Gibson as an Indian Spy and served a tour then of 6 months and the spring following he served another tour of 6 months under the same Captain and a third tour his Captain's name I do not recollect and have reason to believe that he served the time he states in his declaration Colonel Arthur Cambell [Arthur Campbell] was Commandant of the County we was arranged in a line of forts across the country on the frontier so as to keep a constant look out against the Shawnee & Cherokee Indians at Cowens fort in Cassles Woods Moore's fort in the same woods James Osman's fort Dunkins fort at the Shallow ford of Clinch Blacka[more's] fort on Clinch and Rye Cove Station & Rocky Station in Pow[el's] Valley and where Jonesville n[ow] stands which is Lee Courthouse Martin's station where Joshua Ewen now lives in the County

Question 1st: Mr. Richie was you and your comrades in the Indian service called out by the authority of the State of Virginia

Answer we was & by General Cambell and kept the stations from 1777 to 1782.

Question 2nd: Is this very Elijah Wallen the identical Elijah Wallen that served with you and on the other scouts named in your Declaration

Answer he is identically the same man I know him well & have known him ever since we was frequently together though some time at different Stations

Question 3rd: have you any doubt that he served his time out at each call or draft

Answer I have no doubt on the subject I know the facts I have engaged in the same service for 4 years of the time and great part of the time under the same officers

Question 4th: Mr. Richie how old are you now and how old do you believe Elisha Wallen to be
Answer I was born by the record in my father's Bible in 29th of June 1762 and I think Elijah Wallen about this same age and further this deponent saith not. Sworn & subscribed to this 9th

² Sic, Alexander Ritchie, FPA R8784

Of January 1839.

S/ Alexr Ritchie



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State of Tennessee Claiborne County: Be it known that on this __day of August 1839 personally appeared before may Peter Neal a justice of the peace for said County Alexander Richie a resident of said County first being duly sworn according to law on the holy evangelist of Almighty God the truth to speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth touching the matter of the case of Elijah Wallen for a pension on account of his services as an Indian Spy and other services during the revolutionary war on the frontier of Virginia from the early part of the [year] 1777 until 1781 deposeseth and saith as follows viz.: That he is in his 76th or 7th year of his age and say that he was acquainted with Elisha Wallen soon after he was enrolled under Captain Elliot and transferred to Captain James Gibson's Company both as a Spy and a soldier for the 4 following years succeeding the spring of 1777 about the first of April and was acquainted with him during his whole service we served at the same time 6 months as a soldier and 6 months as a spy for the 4 years for which he claims the whole time.

Question 1st Mr. Richie please state whether Colonel Arthur Cambell [Arthur Campbell] did not call out and organize the troops for this Tour under the order of Governor Henry [Patrick Henry] and under Jefferson after Governor Henry's time was out and whether you did not get your rations and supplies etc. from the Quartermaster and commissary under the laws of Virginia.

Answer: I know that our rations and supplies was all supplied by the authority of Virginia and we received pay for provisions that we killed as game and otherwise from the pay master sent out for that purpose and I am also sure that Colonel Campbell received his orders from the Governor from Virginia and we was paid off in Continental money as far as we ever got any pay for when the first call was made Colonel Campbell read his orders from the Governor to him ordering him to call out men to take the frontier and to appoint spies. I know Elisha Wallen was a spy.

Question 2nd: Was it not understood during the whole service as spies & soldiers that the appointment of the spies was by the order of the Colonel commandant and was not drafts and calls on all the frontier Counties for men to guard the frontier by the order of the Governor to the Colonel of the Regiment and did not Mr. Elijah Wallen served accordingly.

Answer: He did serve as a spy and soldier as before stated and I can say further that my father acted as quarter master & was furnished money from Williamsburg which was then the seat of government to pay for provisions etc. and as payments to pay those whose time was out. And further the deponent saith not. Sworn and subscribed the day and year first above written.

S/ Alexr Ritchie

State of Ohio Warren County: SS

On the third day of September A.D. 1851 personally appeared Elijah Wallen (before me a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in said County and State) a resident of said County and State aged ninety-one years who being first duly affirmed 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 was called out at Washington County Virginia in the year 1777 or 1778 to act as an Indian Spy, or Guard and Ranger on the frontiers – That he was commanded by Captain James Gibson, in the Virginia Militia. That he continued in said service about five years – being

sent home during the winter months. That he was stationed at Blackamon's or Blackamore's [Blackmore's] Fort at Ricove Fort and Martin's Station; his business being to guard said places. That no battle was fought in that Quartered during his service so as to call him into Battle. That at and during his said service he had no intercourse with any other troops other than Captain Joseph Blackamore's Company who were out in the same service and in the same district of Country as he was. – That he has no documentary evidence of any kind to prove his said service. That some 11 or 12 years ago he employed one Alfred Newel, Esquire of Claiborne County Tennessee in Taswell Town to apply for a Pension for him – That said Newell did nothing in the matter. That about 9 years ago he employed one John Wetherlin Esquire of Hawkins County State of Tennessee who procured the affidavit of one of his fellow Soldiers Sander Ritche [sic, Alexander Ritchie, the affidavit above?] who then resided at a place called little Mulbury in the County of Claiborne State of Tennessee but who has since deceased but whose son James Ritche he believes now resides near Yellow Springs Post Office Hancock County State of Tennessee. That he was honorably discharged at Knox County Kentucky in the month of May or April A.D. 1782. That he never received one cent of pay for his said service. That after his said discharge he resided for the period of about ten years in the County of Lee State of Virginia from whence he removed to near the Town of Lexington in the County of Fayette State of Kentucky – from whence he removed to Claiborne County State of Tennessee and resided there for about two years from whence he removed to Knox County Kentucky, from whence he removed to Clay County State of Tennessee from whence he removed about nine years ago to his present place of abode in the County of Warren and State of Ohio. That he now knows of no person whose testimony he can secure who can testify as to his service. That he was born in the County of Henry State of Virginia on the 6th day of March A.D. 1760. That at the time of his entering the service he resided in the County of Washington State of Virginia. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Rolls of any State.

S/ Elijah Wallen, X his mark

[Julius C Beeman, a clergyman, and resident of the Township of Marion in the County of Clinton state of Ohio and John Starkey residing in the same neighborhood gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

1st Question Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born on the 6th day of March in the year 1760 in Henry County and State of Virginia.

2nd Question: Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age in my possession; my age was recorded in a Bible which belonged to my uncle Joseph Wallen – was in his possession about 60 years ago – said Joseph has deceased died some 60 years ago. – Said record is the only one I know of, of my age; where it is now, I know not; when I knew of its being in possession of said Joseph he lived in Hawkins County State of Tennessee

3rd Question: Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer: I was living in Washington County State of Virginia – Since the War I lived in Washington County State of Virginia for a short time, but soon after the War said Washington County was divided so that part I lived in was called Lee County – that I lived in Fayette County Kentucky – then in Madison County Kentucky – then I lived in Claiborne County State of

Tennessee – then in Knox County Kentucky – then lived in Claiborne County Tennessee and now reside in Warren County and State of Ohio.

4th Question: How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer: – When called into service, I was living in Washington County State of Virginia, I was not drafted; I was a volunteer.

5th Question: State the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I was an Indian Spy, or Guard and Ranger by business was to guard Blackamores Fort, Ricove Fort, and sometimes Martin's Station. The Indians frequently stole horses of the settlers during my said service during which time myself & others would fall after them & frequently retake the horses so stolen by them, and frequently dispersed and drove back the Indians when we had a knowledge of their killing the whites settlers – which was frequently the case.

6th Question: Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: I never received a discharge from service.

7th Question: State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer: William Crowson, Esqr.; Sullivan Stevens, Hiram St. John, George W Starkey, Amasa Sawyer, Daniel Smith.

S/ Elisha Wallen, X his mark

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State of Tennessee Grainger County

Be it known that on this 20th day of March 1841 personally appeared before me Jesse F Bates a Justice of the Peace for the County William Steward formerly of Scott County of Virginia now a resident of Misoura [Missouri ?] after being duly sworn on the holy evangelist of Almighty God and cautioned by me to speak the truth touching the matter of Elijah Wallen who is a petition are to be placed on the Revolutionary pension roll for his services during the revolutionary war on the frontiers of the State of Virginia in conjunction with the State of North Carolina deposeth and saith as follows viz. that he is aged about eighty-three or four years old that he entered the service in the West part of Virginia under the orders of Colonel or General Cambell [Campbell] by order of Colonel Smith then Washington County Virginia in the Christian's Campaign in the year 1776 under Captain Joseph Martin formerly of Henry County of Virginia and continued in the service under the different officers that had the command on the frontier until 1781 in all the different tours Colonel John Montgomery Colonel Christian Christian [sic] Colonel Evan Shelby and these before named sometimes under Captain Elliot sometimes under Captain James Gibson; I was at different times Sergeant and at other times orderly Sergeant and Elijah Wallen was one of the man who served the half of each of the years from 1777 until 1781 as a soldier and was also an Indian spy the balance of the time the spies place was one of great hardship and danger; I have read over his amended declaration and I can say that it is all true that he is there stated for I was with him the greater part of the times;

Quest: Mr Steward please state whether the Elijah Walden now before you is the same that served with you in the frontier struggle

Answer I know him to be the same and I know he served as he states.

Quest. 2: Please state whether this service was authorized by law

Answer: it was for I brought the orders from the Governor myself at one time further this deponent saith not.

S/ Wm Steward

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wm Steward".

State of Tennessee Grainger County: Elijah Wallen a petitioner to be placed on the pension roll for his revolutionary services on the frontiers of Virginia would amend his declaration and state on his oath that from his great age and failure of memory at the time he made his declaration which is now on the files in the pension office with suspended ones: and the great length of time and from the requirements of the department has since he first filed his declaration been able to remember many facts and circumstances of the service set forth in that declaration connected there with that he was not able to set forth at the time which he is in hopes will place his case beyond out and perhaps shall be be able to state most of the facts although he is satisfied that many things has escaped his memory altogether one circumstance connected with the service which he now well remembers is that the leading chief of the Cherokees, Dragging Canoe and a great party of Cherokees was gathered at the __ Island on Holston River to make a treaty with the whites in June 1777 that he then was in the service and he knows commissioners from Virginia and North Carolina amongst those from Virginia was Colonel Christie or Christian and Evan Shelby he does not recollect all the names from Virginia & Carolina of the commissioners but believes Colonel Avery and Major Winston was two of those from North Carolina and a treaty was finally concluded in the latter part of the summer he thinks in August of the same year; he states that he was then in the service in Captain Elliot's Company of six months men and knows that it was by the order of the Governor of Virginia that he was called out; by orders to General or Colonel Arthur Cambell and he expects that an act of the legislature of Virginia the preceding winter will be found authorizing the same: and after that peace was concluded Dragging Canoe and his party under the influence of the British agent was constantly with small parties of Indians attacking the frontier settlements and occasionally killing some of the whites which rendered it necessary to keep out spies constantly and in the fall of 1777 he states he was appointed a spy and his contemporary Alexander Richie was another spy for the ensuing winter and spring; his excursions on the settlements was from the New River settlements across as far South as the Holston and Tennessee rivers during the winter and the spring of 78 when he was stationed at like Moore's Fort Cassles Woods and had to reconnoiter some sixty or eighty miles of frontier from Greenbrier to the Holston in the spring again we was called out to keep in awe Dragging Canoe and his party under Captain James Gibson and continued his time until fall and then himself and Richie both took the place of a spy again many of the whites was butchered during this winter and spring: In the latter part of the winter of 1778 and first 1779 under the authority of the State of Virginia commanded by Colonel John Montgomery & Colonel Evan Shelby by order from the Governors of the State and North Carolina there was about 1000 men raised under these field officers Colonel Montgomery commanded and one fact not recollected before was at this time we entered the service as twelve months men and attacked and pursued the Indians from the mouth of Big Creek on Holston in April of this year about 1000 Indians and drove them down the River killing about 40 the reason why he did not state this 12 months tower [tour] of service before was that they only remained in actual service about six months but had all the time to be ready at a moment's warning and the latter part of this service we was stationed at the different forts along the frontier and acted as spies to reconnoiter and watch as such he called it a six months tour & the other six months as a spy and for the further particulars would

referred the Department to his former declaration and the testimony connected there with as well as the deposition attached to the declaration of William Steward and such other testimony as we may be able to obtain from Richmond if any is to be found their relative to the acts of the legislature: this last tour of duty was one of great hardships both in exposure and starvation the supplies not having been sent on to us and our officers had to obtain it as they could for the balance of his service is particularly set forth in the former declaration he would now appeal to the philanthropic feelings of the Secretary of War Commissioner of pensions and the magnanimity of the government for relief; that after so much hardships of danger of starvation of sickness of exposure to the most savage foes and all the troops of his service and in the case his poverty in his old age and with all the evidence that a parsimonious government should deny to him the small pittance provided for him in such cases by Congress and has been denied on such testimony he hopes cannot now, will not now resist any longer and prays that his case be dispassionately considered as such allowance be made him under the law 7th of June 1832 as he is entitled to and in conclusion would state that Dr. Alfred Nall is his only agent to manage his business. Sworn and subscribed this 20th day of March 1841

S/ Elijah Wallen, X his mark