

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Zebulon Allphin R162

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky }
County of Kenton } Sgt.

On this the 19th Day of August A.D. 1851 personally appeared before me Solomon C. Perrin Presiding Judge of the county court within and for the county of and State aforesaid Zebulon Allphin a resident of the said county and state; who being by me first duly sworn according to law doth declare on his oath, that he was born on the 5th day of May A.D. 1766 in Orrange [sic: Orange] County in the state of Virginia and is therefore now above Eighty five years of age.

That about the first of May A.D. 1781 he entered the service of the United States as a private soldier, substituted in the room of one John Hamilton of the said County of Orrange, who had been drafted to go on a Three months tour, to Albemarle Barracks, there to guard some British and Hessian Prisoners that had fallen into the hands of the American Army [at Saratoga 17 Oct 1777] and were quartered at that place.

That he served at that place until near the expiration of his said term and was then transfered to Charlott's-ville [sic: Charlottesville] to protect some Horses and Military stores collected there belonging to the American Army; that he continued in the last mentioned service above four months

He states that he does not now remember, if ever he knew the name of any officer under whom he served. He cannot be more precise as to the time of his said service, but remembers that by the agreement between the said Hamilton and the declarant's father, Hamilton was to furnish a work hand for the season, to assist declarant's father in planting and [illegible word] his crop of corn, upon the condition that he would allow declarant to go to the Barracks and perform the required duty, whereby his recollection of the commencement of his service as above stated is strengthened. He also remembers that when he was expecting shortly to be discharged from the service at the Barracks, he was very much chagrined upon being informed that instead of going home he would have to go to Charlott's-ville. During his stay at that place he was exceedingly discontented, because he believed that he was unjustly detained beyond the term for which he had engaged to serve, and was illy provided with clothing, so that he became quite ragged, and acquired among the soldiers the nick name of one of the Lost Sheep of Isreal. He further states that when he was discharged from the service at Charlott's-ville he proceeded directly to his home in Orrange County aforesaid and arrived there only a day or two before Christmas. He states that the journey from Charlott's-ville to his home, under ordinary circumstances could be performed by a footman, in two days, but which required him about a week owing to the want of clothing necessary to protect him from the inclemency of the weather, and more particularly the want of shoes as he well remembers that he was obliged to tarry each morning until the warmth of the sun would melt away the frost and soften the frozen earth before he could travel – From all of which facts and circumstances he fixed the time of his service at above Seven months. He states that he was large and stout, so that whilst in the service all were astonished upon being informed that he was only fifteen years old.

He states that whilst in the service at the Barracks he messed with one Abner Shropshire [pension application W8724], but that he had heard nothing of him since he left the Barracks until he recently learned that he had obtained a pension for his services and died a few years ago in Burbon [sic: Bourbon] County in this state. He remembers that whilst at the Barracks one Capt. [James] Garland an American officer attempting some pranks with some of the sentinels was shot and killed by a young lad by the name of Lally Mansfield.

Whilst at Charlott's-ville he messed with one James Trice [W9527] of Louisa County State of Virginia, him, he has never seen since they seperated at Charlott's-ville when they left the service, but has

heard that he returned to his home — while at Charlott's-ville a soldier by the name of William Harris who was marauding upon a neighbouring potato patch belonging to one Captain Nelson Thompson was shot by one of Thompson's negroes. He states that he was honorably discharged from the service aforesaid, having faithfully performed every duty required of him, and been engaged in actual service each day — and not engaged in any civil pursuit or employment during any part of the period of service as above stated.

He does not now know of any living witness by whom he can prove his services and states that he received a written discharge but what has become of it he does not now recollect and cannot state. — He has hitherto refrained from making application for a pension not because he did not believe he was entitled to it, but because he supposed the amount to which he would be entitled would be trifling and of little service to him whilst he was able to labor but now that he has grown old and unable longer to support himself by manual labor, he conceives that he is entitled to, and needs the pension for his services however small. He makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th day of June 1832, and 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 this or any other state

Zebulon hisXmark Allphin

Interrogatories propounded by the Presiding Judge of the Kenton County Court, to Zebulon Allphin, an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress passed 7th day of June 1832 together with his answers

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

Answer — On the 5th day of May A.D. 1766 in Orrange County in the State of Virginia —

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

Answer — I have somewhere amongst my papers a detached piece upon which is written the date of my birth as above stated, but when or by whom the entry was made I do not recollect. I have not seen it for many years and am not now able to lay my hand upon it.

3rd Where did you reside when you entered the service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war; and where do you now live?

Answer — I lived at the time I entered the service with my father in Orrange County in the state of Virginia about one year after I left the service I removed with my father from Orrange into Albemarle County between the Barracks and Charlott's-ville where I remained with him about five years; I then left him and went to Jonathan Taylor's on James River in Botetourt County, and was overseer for him two years. I afterward spent two years with Dr. William Fleming on Tinker's Creek in the same County as overseer; after which I was overseer for and resided with Col. Andrew Lewis on Roanoak [sic: Roanoke River] in the same county for two years; and in the fall of the year 1793 removed to Kentucky and settled in Burbon County on the land of Maj. Biddinger and remained there two years; — then went to the Blue Licks and managed there three years for Maj. Buddinger; I then moved to Harrison County and thence to Grants Lick in Campbell County and had charge of the business of a company engaged in manufacturing salt at that place. I operated under the direction of Col. Robert Johnson the father of the late Col. Richard M Johnson of Kentucky, and one John Grant, who were the agents of the said Company. I afterward lived at Big Bone and Mud Licks in Boone County, some eight or ten years; and then moved to my present residence in Kenton County Kentucky —

4th How were you called into the service; were you draughted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom?

Answer — I was a substitute for one John Hamilton of Orrange County State of Virginia, who was a draughted man —

5th 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 —

Answer — I do not recollect if ever I knew the names of any of the officers or regiments where I served. The general circumstances are as fully set forth in my declaration this day made, and filed herewith as

they can be, by me from my best recollection –

6th 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 received a written discharge – by whom it was given I do not recollect; and do not now know what has become of it

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services, as a soldier of the Revolution

Answer – Thomas Morris, and John T. Alexander, who were soldiers in the late war, William Sechrest Sr a clergyman of the “Methodist Episcopal Church,” Robert M. Daniel, Stephen Mullins Esqr, Maj. Thos. D. Carneal of the City of Lexington Kentucky, Col. Jno. W. Tibbatts, late a member of Congress from Kentucky and subsequently commander of a Regiment of Kentucky volunteers in the Mexican War, Mrs. Jane Bristow a lady who has known me between sixty and seventy years, & Robert M. Carlisle Esqr one of the representatives elect to the Lower branch of the Kentucky Legislature from the City of Covington and county of Kenton and William Beach a soldier of the late war. Zebulon hisXmark Allphin

NOTES:

John T. Alexander deposed that “he has frequently heard his father who lived in Orange County Virginia, near the father of the said Allphin and who was a revolutionary soldier say that the said Zebulon Allphin had been engaged in the service of the United States during the war of the Revolution. That he has frequently heard his father and mother converse about Allphin and his service in the said War, and of his extreme youthfulness, but extraordinary size and muscular strength....”

Allphin’s pension was suspended in Sep 1853 for lack of proof of his services. A letter dated 2 Mar 1857 by the agent who prepared Allphin’s pension application states that on 9 May 1854 an application for bounty land was made successfully in Allphin’s name, but that Allphin had “not been from home except on election days for several years so that it is improbable that a Declaration could have been made by him without the knowledge of his son who lives very near to him.” The agent inquired how it was possible that his honest application for a pension was rejected, while a fraudulent application for bounty land was granted. The file contains numerous testimonials to Allphin’s integrity as well as other correspondence too extensive to summarize here.

The 1857 letter states that Zebulon Allphin had a brother named Ransom Allphin (pension application S36402), and also a son with the same name.