

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Aston (Ashton) R287

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Alabama, Lawrence County

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1833 personally appeared in open Court, before the County Court of said County of Lawrence, Alabama, now sitting, James Aston, a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged Seventy eight 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 Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832.

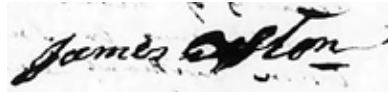
That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He the said James Aston, states that he volunteered and enrolled himself in the Army of the United States, in the year 1775, in the month of November of that year under the command of Captain Joseph Dixon [Joseph Dickson], Lieutenant Coaghn, the Regiment was commanded by Griffith Rutherford and James White, Major. This was in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina where declarant resided. His first march was to the Snow Camps where prisoners were taken without resistance – from there the Army returned home to Rowan County, and from thence to Cross Creek. He continued in service under these officers three months. He was then for a few weeks in scouting parties about home under Captain Dickey – from the company of said Dickey he enlisted in the company of Captain Charles Gordon and Battalion of Major Joel Lewis. He continued in service under this enlistment eighteen months and was discharged at Hillsboro [Hillsboro] North Carolina. He continued in service from the time he first entered as above stated until the close of the war, seven years in all. He was at the battle of Cowan's Ford on Catawba River where General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] was killed [February 1, 1781]. He was part of his time stationed at Camden. His discharge is lost. His discharge was signed by Major Lewis, above named. He was at the battle of Ramsour's mill [June 20, 1780], against the Tories, who were commanded by Colonel Moore. He was in a skirmish at Charlotte town in the County of Mecklenburg and another at a place called Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River, and at Torrances [a/k/a, Tarrant's Tavern], Rowan County, General Pickens [Andrew Pickens] commanded there. He was often in South Carolina, and Cherokee Nation. He knew Colonel Davie [William Richardson Davie], Colonel Washington [William Washington], & General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services, but his brother Alexander Aston. He resided and was born in the said County of Rowan, North Carolina until he entered the service and remained there three years after his discharge. He then removed to the State of South Carolina, Abbeville district – and resided there until the fall of 1826 when he removed to his present place of residence, Lawrence County Alabama where this declaration is made. He was not otherwise and for a month from the time he entered the Army until his discharge.

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 or the United States.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Gregg, Clerk

S/ James Aston



[Hugh Barr, a clergyman, and William Jones, a neighbor, gave the standard affidavit as to the declarant's reputation for veracity, age, & reputation as a soldier.]

[p 5]

I Alexander Aston, of said County of Lawrence, Alabama, do hereby declare and make affidavit in open Court, that my brother James Aston volunteered and enrolled himself a Soldier in the Army of the United States, at or near the commencement of the Revolutionary war, that I saw him in service at the battle of Snow Camps also at Ramsour's Mills, at Cowan's Ford, and Torrances, and am satisfied from information at the time and sent to that he served the time and in the capacity as stated above by him from 1775, until the close of the war of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court July 16, 1833.

S/ John Gregg, Clerk

S/ Alexander Aston<sup>1</sup>



State of Alabama, Lawrence County

This day personally appeared before me William White an acting Justice of the peace for the State and County aforesaid John Aston and saith on his oath that he was personally acquainted with James Aston the Claimant in the above declaration in which he Claims a pension as being a revolutionary soldier in the Service of the United States and he further Saith that he new [sic, knew] the said James Aston to be frequently going out in the Service of the United States and Coming in and that he the said James Aston was at the battle of Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River in the State of North Carolina and at the battle at Tarrences in the Said State and we further Saith that he knew the said Claimant to be Drafted for a month Eighteen months in the United States Service and that he went to Salisbury and Served out his time for which he was Drafted as near as he recollects and further the deponent Saith not. November the 19<sup>th</sup> day 1834. S/ John Aston

[p 14]

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State aforesaid [North Carolina], do certify, that the name of James Aston does not appear on the muster rolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, or any other document affording evidence of service in said line.

Given under my hand this 11<sup>th</sup> day 1833.

S/ Wm Hill

[p 17]

State of South Carolina, Anderson District

Be it known that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 1836, before me H. McKay a Justice of the peace for and in the District aforesaid Personally appeared John Milford a Resident of Anderson District and pensioner of the United States aged 78 years, and being duly Sworn Saith that he was well acquainted with James Aston during a part of the revolutionary war that he the said James Aston did reside in Mecklenburg County North Carolina during a part of the war that to his personal knowledge the said James Aston was a good Soldier for the cause of Liberty that he believes to the best of his knowledge he served an Eighteen months tour at Salisbury in said State.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this ninth June – 1836.

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<sup>1</sup> [Alexander Aston R286](#)

S/ John Milford<sup>2</sup>

*John Milford*

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<sup>2</sup> [John Milford S21885](#)