

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Penland R8093

Alice Penland

f36NC

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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 2]

State of North Carolina Buncombe County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions July Sessions
1837

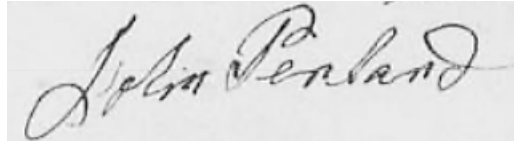
On this 4th day of July 1837, personally appeared in open Court, before Nehemiah Blackstock, Elisha King and Alexander McFea Justices holding the Court aforesaid, John Penland a resident of the County of Buncombe and State aforesaid aged 73 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on 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 entered the service as a substitute for Robert Penland as a private in the Militia, in the County of Burke North Carolina in the early part of the summer 1780 or 1781, (he cannot speak with certainty as to the year,) in the company commanded by Captain Kemp [sic, Jonathan Camp] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell for the term of three months. He marched into South Carolina Spartanburg District, where he continued marching from one point to another not remaining long at any one place until the term of his service expired, and was discharged in South Carolina having served the term of three months. He entered this service again in the month of October or November of the same year, he thinks 1781, in the County of Burke North Carolina as a volunteer private in the Militia in the company commanded by Captain Joseph McDowell in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles McDowell. He started to march to Wilmington North Carolina, but a few miles before he reached that place was taken sick 2 or 3 weeks before the expiration of the term for which he had entered, being unable to march further he was left there by the balance of the Army who marched on to Wilmington. He being considered by the Colonel as unfit for duty in consequence of his sickness, was discharged and then Colonel furnished him with a pass to ride home, before he arrived at home or about that time he is certain before he fit for service he thinks the term of his service, three months, had expired. He afterwards served about six months against the Indians and Tories, but being informed that the War department considered this latter service as unauthorized by the Government at the time he thinks it unnecessary to detail it particularly. He has no documentary evidence in his power to prove his said services nor does he know of any person now living by whom he can prove any of his said services except Samuel Alexander and William Morris who live in the County of Burke. 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. That he applied to the war department about three years ago, as well as now

recollected, not having seen said Declaration since it was proved in court he cannot speak with certainty as to the date.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court 4th of July 1837

S/ John Miller, C. B. C. C.

S/ John Penland

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Penland". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

By S/ John B. Whiteside, DC

Where and in what year were you born?

I was born on the 27th of November 1764 in New Castle County State of Pennsylvania.

Have you any record of your age and where is it --

My age was recorded in my father's Bible in which I have often seen it: my father died some years ago in the County of Burke and some one of my brothers or sisters took possession of the Bible and I do not now know where it is.

Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live.

I was living on a Creek called Upper Creek in the County of Burke North Carolina, I continued to live in said County until the year 1811 when I removed to the County of Buncombe where I have lived ever since and where I now live.

How were you called into service; were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute? And if a substitute for whom?

I was a substitute the first 3 months for Robert Penland the next 3 months I was a volunteer. And the subsequent excursion against the Indians and Tories I was a volunteer.

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

There were some regular troops I think in the neighborhood of Wilmington when we marched there, but falling sick before I reached the place I am not certain whether the Army to which I was attached joined them or not, nor do I remember to have seen any of the officers I was never under any higher officer than a Colonel nor with any other troops except those under the command of Colonel McDowell, nor was I in any engagement during my services.

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

I do not think I never received a written discharge I was discharged verbally both times by Colonel Charles McDowell.

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 of your services as a soldier of the revolution. I am known by Charles Moore, James M. Smith, Colonel Samuel Chum , John Hankins and many others.

Sworn to & subscribed the 4th of July 1837

S/ John Miller, C. B. C. C.

S/ John Penland

by S/ John Whiteside, DC

[Christopher Bradshaw, a clergyman, and Charles Moore and James M. Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 11: On August 28, 1850 in Buncombe County, John Penland, 86, made the following additional declaration regarding his pension application under the 1832 act:

"That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: That he entered said service from Burke County and State of North Carolina in the years 1781 under Captain Jolly who belonged to Colonel McDowell, as an Indian spy, and served about four weeks.

"The applicant says that this was a volunteer expedition, and that they did not enter for any specific time, but marched against the Cherokee Indians, and after doing the service intended, and being gone about four weeks the company again returned home and was discharged.

"That in the year 1781 he again entered the service under Captain Hilan [perhaps Captain Henry Highland of Rowan County] and also belonging to Colonel McDowell's Regiment of the militia, and was again a volunteer as also an Indian spy. He further says that he is of opinion that this period of service was in length about four weeks, and were a kind of scouting party or company which were killed in readiness to march whenever the Indians proved troublesome.

"He further says that these short tours above mentioned was not put down in his former declaration for the reason that he did not know that he had the right to count Indian servitude.

"He further says that the service which he mentioned in his former declaration was first one tour of three months under Captain Kenady [sic, possibly Capt. Thomas Kennedy of Rowan County], , and Captain Camp who were under Colonel McDowell, and that the 2nd was under Captain White¹ who also belonged to Colonel McDowell's Regiment of Militia, which 2 services constituted 6 months service, and a 3rd tour of nearly 3 months, under one Captain Johnson still belonging to Colonel McDowell's Regiment of North Carolina militia, and that these 3 tours constituted nearly 9 months service exclusive of the 2 tours which was for 4 weeks each.

S/ John Penland

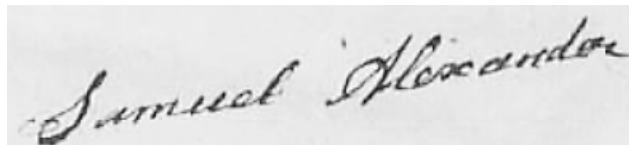
[John Reynolds, a clergyman, and E K Hutell, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 24]

State of North Carolina Burke County} This day Samuel Alexander Senior² came before me Joseph L. McGimsey an acting Captain justice of the for [Peace] the County and State aforesaid and made oath in due form of law and saith that John Penland served three months with him the said Alexander as a private soldier in the Revolution War under the command of Colonel Charles McDowell and Captain Joseph McDowell a tour to Wilmington, North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed this 22nd day of March 1837.

S/ Samuel Alexander

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel Alexander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

¹ There are a large number of possible candidates for this officer. See, http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/nc_patriot_military_captains.html , search "White."

² [Samuel Alexander W1530](#)

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State of North Carolina Burke County

This day William Morris Senior³ came before me John Allen Justice of the peace for said County and made oath and saith that John Penland served three months with him the said Morris as a private soldier in the Revolution war under the command of Colonel Charles McDowell & Captain Johnson Kemp [Jonathan Camp] in South Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed this 16th of March 1837

S/ William Morris, X his mark

[p 16: On August 28, 1850 in Buncombe County North Carolina, the veteran executed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to pursue the pension due him for his service in the revolution.]

[p 20: On January 29, 1852 in Buncombe County North Carolina, the veteran executed a power of attorney authorizing his attorney to pursue the pension due him for his service in the revolution.]

[p 7: On May 11, 1855 in Buncombe County North Carolina, Alice Penland executed a power of attorney under which she authorized her attorney to pursue the claim of John Penland, deceased, and herself as his widow Ford pensions due them under the provisions of the Act of February 3rd, 1832. She signed this document with her mark.]

³ [William Morris S7252](#)