

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Ellis S16109

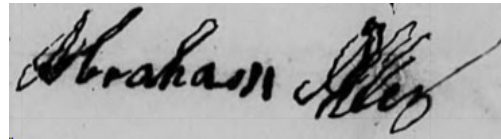
PA VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Ohio Clinton County Sct On this [blank] day of November 1832 personally appeared in open Court before George J Smith, Presiding Judge & Jesse Hughes, Aaron Sewell and James Dakin Esquires his associates in office, constituting the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County of Clinton, and State of Ohio now sitting Abraham Ellis a resident of Liberty Township in said County aged about 79 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 has no record of his age but has been informed and believes that he was born on the 27th day of September 1753 in the Township of Hanover, Lancaster County and state of Pennsylvania where he resided until about the 25th day of June 1776 when he volunteered in the service of his Country (then struggling with the power of great Brittain) for a tour of duty of six months in the company commanded by Captain Timothy Green, whose Lieutenants were William Allen and William McCulloch, and John Barnett Ensign. The said Company at first paraded at one Dixons a public place in said County of Lancaster at the crossing of Sweet Anowy[?] and from thence they were marched to the Town of Lancaster in said County where they were furnished with arms. From thence they were marched to Philadelphia where they joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel James Cunningham whose Lieutenant Colonel was Hays and which Regiment belonged to the Pennsylvania Militia but what number is unknown to this deponent. The said Regiment was detained a few days at Philadelphia and conveyed from thence in shallops by water to Trenton in New Jersey. From thence they were marched to Princetown [Princeton], from thence to New Brunswick, from thence to Amboy and from thence to the City of New York where they were placed under the command of General [Edward] Hand, and from thence conveyed to Long Island where this deponent was engaged in the battle fought between the Brittish and american forces in the month of August 1776 [27 Aug 1776]. This deponent well recollects said battle and during the same frequently saw Generals Washington, Sterling [sic: William Alexander, Lord Stirling], Hand and others who were field officers. This deponent was at one time during the battle driven into a Quagmire up to his armpits in endeavoring to make his escape from some Brittish light horse to the americans entrenchments. He well recollects the termination of that battle and the retreat of the American forces, first to the City of New York, from thence to Haerlem heights [Harlem Heights] and from thence to the White plains and from thence back to Trenton aforesaid when and where the Hessians were captured [26 Dec 1776]. This deponent was not in this battle but with his proper Company and Regiment with others was stationed about one mile from it at the time. After the battle he was marched with his Regiment to the City of Philadelphia where he remained until sometime in the forepart of January 1777 when he was discharged under the proper hand writing of said Lieutenant William Allen, said Captain Greene being absent for some reason at this time not recollected by this deponent. He had then faithfully served his tour of duty for six months and returned to said County of Lancaster where he was shortly afterwards appointed a Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Michael Myers, in the Regiment Commanded by Colonel John Rodgers and the battallion of Major William Brown. Afterwards a few days before the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] and as near as this deponent recollects about the first of September 1777 there was a draft made upon the Pennsylvania Militia for a tour of two months when this deponent was called into the service as 1st Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain John Laird whose 2^d Lieutenant was John M Harland. The said Company paraded at the same Dixons, marched to the Town of Lancaster aforesaid drew their arms and joined their Regiment Commanded by Colonel John Rodgers and were placed under the command of General Irvin [sic: James Irvine]. From thence they were marched to a place then called Chesnut Hill [sic: Chestnut Hill] near the City of Philadelphia where they joined Washingtons Army. During the time they were encamped on said Hill the Militia under said General Irvin had a considerable skirmish with the enemy [6 Dec 1777] in which said Irvin was thrown from his horse

and taken prisoner, but was exchanged in a few days and restored to his command. From thence they were marched to German Town and engaged in the battle fought at that place [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] where this deponent commanded as a Lieutenant as aforesaid. After said battle of Germantown they were marched back to the West side of said Chesnut Hill where they were encamped until sometime in November 1777 when they were marched back to Lancaster County aforesaid and discharged by said Captain Laird having fully completed their term of service in which this deponent was engaged as aforesaid. Afterwards this deponent continued to reside in said County of Lancaster until sometime in the year 1780 when he removed to the State of Virginia and settled in Berkly [sic: Berkeley] County where he resided until after the Capture of Lord Cornwallis [at Yorktown VA, 19 Oct 1781] when he was drafted in the Militia of Virginia & placed in the Company commanded by Isaac Eaton. He cannot recollect the exact time but it was shortly after the surrender aforesaid. The Company was paraded at said Eatons in Berkly County and marched toward Albemarle Court House and met the prisoners taken at the said Capture of Cornwallis near said Court House, and said Company was from thence employ'd in guarding said prisoners. They were conducted to the Barracks at Winchester where the said Company remained in said service until the removal of said prisoners to Shepherds Town [Shepherdstown in present WV] and thence conveyed into Maryland when said Company were discharged by said Eaton having served a tour of about two months and this deponent returned home to his residence in said County of Berkley where he lived until sometime in the year 1807 or 8 when he removed to his present residence where he has resided ever since. The commission of Lieutenant as aforesaid and said discharges have long since been lost & gone from this deponent & he has no documentary evidence to substantiate his claim or other proof of his service than the depositions of Christopher Ellis and Thomas Strain [pension application S3972] herewith presented. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not only the pension Roll of the Agency of any state

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abraham Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

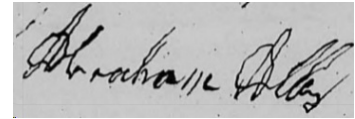
The State of Ohio Clinton County Court of Common Pleas

Of the Term of April in the year of our Lord AD 1833

On this 22^d day of April in the year 1833 Personally appeared in open Court Abraham Ellis who at the Term of November last of this Court made his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 and who being now here again duly sworn as the law directs doth on his oath make the following statement in addition to his former declaration in order to obtain the benefit of said act. That to the best of his recollection and belief it was on the 25th day of June 1776 when he entered the service as stated in his former declaration in the Company of Captain Greene as a private soldier and served therein as such until the 6th of January 1777 making a tour of 6 months and 10 days. That to the best of his recollection it was on the 9th or 10th day of September 1777 when he entered the service in the Company Commanded by Captain John Laird as first Lieutenant and served therein as such until the 9th or 10th day of November in the year last aforesaid making a tour of duty of two months. That he believes it was on the 6th day of December 1781 that he was drafted in the Militia of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Isaac Eaton as a private and served therein as stated until 3^d or 4th of February 1782 not quite two months actual service, but they were discharged for a two months tour of duty as he well recollects

This applicant states that William Irvin one of the witnesses who deposed in his favour at the last term of this Court has been for years & still is a licenced teacher of the Christian religion in good standing in the Society to which he belongs now known as reformers. There are very few if any regular Clergymen living in the County & none with whom this applicant is acquainted in the immediate neighborhood or by whom he is able to prove the reput of his services & except Mr Irwin will answer the purpose he cannot comply

with the requisition of the department which he considers not only highly absurd in itself, but wholly inconsistent with our civil institutions [see endnote]



The Court then proceeded to propound to the said applicant the 7 interrogatories directed by the department of war, which with the answers thereto are as follows towit

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born as I am informed & believe in the Township of Hanover Lancaster County & state of Pennsylvania on the 27th day of September 1753

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

Answer. I have no record of my age in my possession nor do I know where the same is to be found if there be any in existence

3. Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War & where to you now live?

Answer. I was living in the State of Pennsylvania, Lancaster County when called into service for the 1st and 2^d tours mentioned in his application, and in Berkley County Virginia when drafted for the 3^d tour named in my application after the Revolution he resided in Berkly County aforesaid until 1807 or 1808 when he removed to Clinton County Ohio where he has resided ever since

5. 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 & the general circumstances of your service

Answer. I well recollect Generals Washington, [Israel] Putnam, Sterling & Hand at the battle of Long Island all of whom I believe are regular officers. I am wholly unable to give the nos. of or names of any of the Regiments except the one to which I belonged commanded by Colonel Cunningham; also one that was called Colonel Hands Regiment

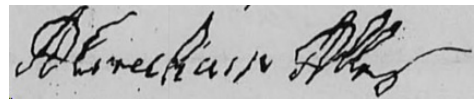
6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

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

Answer. In answer to the first interrogatory included in no 6 I did receive discharges from each of the tours I served as a private as set forth in my application the first given & signed by Lieutenant William Allen and the 2^d by Captain Isaac Eaton. And in answer to the 2^d of said interrogatories I did receive a commission for the Governor of Pennsylvania & signed by him, He thinks it was Thomas Mifflin but will not be certain. It has long sic been lost or mislaid so that I cannot tell what has become of it.

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

Answer. Samuel Miller and William Irvin who were produced by me at last Court Towit Nov. Term last to whom I am well known in my present neighborhood can testify as to my charactor for veracity & their belief as to my services as a soldier of the revolution



NOTE: The requisition referred to by Ellis is the following in the instructions for applying under the Act of 1832. "The applicant will further produce in Court, if the same can be done, in the opinion of the Court, without too much expense and inconvenience to him, two respectable persons – one of whom should be the nearest **clergyman**, if one lives in the immediate vicinity of such applicant, who can testify, from their acquaintance with him, that they believe he is of the age he represents, and that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood to have been a Revolutionary soldier, and that they concur in that opinion."