

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Isaiah Alley S1939

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Kentucky } Sct

Warren County }

On this 6th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the Warren Circuit Court now sitting Isaiah Alley a resident in the County & State aforesaid aged about eighty two 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.

1st. That he volunteered into the Revolutionary service from the County of Hanover & State of Virginia under the command of Capt Dabney (he thinks) [possibly Robert Dabney] & in the regiment of Col. William Boyce [see endnote] on a six months tour He rendezvoused at Richmond where he remained some days. He was then detached into the light Infantry and marched & countermarched in this service between the enemy then stationed in there ships on James River & our army. He was engaged in this description of service about 1/3 of his tour or two months. He then joined the main army then commanded by Gen. LaFayette & marched thro various counties of the state & up as high as the "point of Fork" on James River [at its confluence with Rivanna River] guarding the Country against the ravages of Cornwallis army. From the "point of Fork" he marched down again to Richmond, the enemy having just passed through the town. He pushed on after them thro' James Town, He being then under the command of Gen [Anthony] Wayne. He was in the engagement that took place there [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781]. The battle commenced in the afternoon & continued till night. He saw Wayne have two horses shot under him. In this engagement Col Boyce behaved disgracefully & cowardly. He lay down behind a big tree & begged his men to do so too. – your applicant informed on him. Boyce was tried by a Court Martial and yr applicant – a witness of the fact above stated. He thinks Boyce was broke for his misconduct. Your applicant was on the right wing of the army & the regulars on the left. In this engagement a circumstance occured which is thought worthy of mention and was seen by yr applicant. A British light horse man had for some time been engaged in endeavouring to ascertain the numbers & situation of the American forces. And for that purpose would ride rapidly both in front around the extremity of our lines, & in the rear of our army. Some of our officers observing this, sent for a couple of riflemen. They were asked "if they could shoot well, flying or running" The answered "they could," and asked for their object. They were shown the dragoon, then moving at the height of horse's speed. They fired & brought both him & his horse to the ground. After the battle he crossed the river, and remained stationed a few miles from the river, til the expiration of his tour. This was however not immediately after the battle – yr applicant was like wise before the battle at James Town, in the battle at a place called "Hot water" [Battle of Hot Water Plantation, 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 Jun 1781]. Just after he had passed through Richmond, moving on from the upper to the lower part of the state, the news arrived that the enemy had detached a body of men from their ships for the purpose of collecting provisions. About 300 of our men were sent out to prevent the execution of their purpose – your applicant was one of them. They came upon the British who had halted, & were eating – a great number of cattle which they had collected, being confined in a field. We attacked them in this situation They retreated for a while, fired their canons for the purpose of evoking assistance from their ships – which was afforded. When their reenforcment was rec'd. they formed, and beat us back. We succeeded however in our object, and set at liberty all the cattle they had taken. The object he thinks, of a portion of the American army's crossing the river after the battle at Jamestown was to confine the enemy to the river. His discharge was signed by his

Captain – whose name he is utterly unable positively to remember. He remembers however that it was Dabney. Age & bodily infirmity have gathered up on him and he finds his memory has almost entirely become a prey to their joint influence. The service just mentioned was performed in the year 1781. He joined the army in the spring (say May) of that year, and he was discharged just before the capture of York town [19 Oct 1781]. He feels a perfect confidence that he served a longer period than six months. He remembers that he was an overseer for Col William Dandridge and that two crops were made during his absence in the army. He also remember to have gone out under Col Dandridge on some service below Richmond but he can not remember the particulars. He feels free to swear that he served at least a year and has an entire confidence himself that he served longer – but will not swear it. To many – nearly all of the events of his services, & campaigns he is as one dead – for his recollection is so much impaired that often he can not remember for an hour the events of the present time. He hopes his age & infirmities may not prejudice his application – for it seems to him they should rather entitle him to additional indulgence from his government. His discharges have been lost. From Virginia he moved to the state of Tennessee and from that to Kentucky. He has no record of his age

He hereby relinquishes all 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

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Isaiah hisXmark Alley

State of Kentucky. Warren County Ss. On this 27th day of November 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Warren now sitting Isaiah Alley, who being first duly sworn according to Law offered the following amendments to his declaration in order to obtain a pension. 1st. That he was born in the County of Henrico & State of Virginia sometime in the year 1750. But the record of his age having been burnt in his fathers house that was consumed, he now states it from recollection. In accordance with the 7th requisition of the War Department he states that he is known in his present neighbourhood to John Chapman, Thomas Rogers Peter Downey Sam'l Smith &c &c, all of whom can testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. and the said Isaiah Alley further made oath that by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades: For six months he served as a private under (he thinks) Capt Dabney and at least six months as a private under Col Dandridge; and for such service he claims a pension

Isaiah hisXmark Alley

NOTES:

I could find no record of a Col. William Boyce, nor any record of an officer by that name having been court-martialed, as related by Alley. There was a Continental Major William Boyce, but apparently no accusation of cowardice against him.

On 21 Sep 1835 Alley applied to have his pension transferred, having moved from near Bowling Green KY to the vicinity of Nashville "because his son had removed to Tennessee."