

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

Pension Application of Alexander Aston S2927

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee, Nelson County.

On this 1st day of March 1841 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County court of said county now sitting Alexander Aston a resident of said County & State, aged about 76 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 7 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

In January between the 1st & 10 1781 one Wm. Farrar was drafted for a tour of duty in Goochland County Virginia, & procured him to take his place as a substitute. Before he engaged as substitute the troops had been gone about two weeks, & he followed on & was received by the officers. They went on to the station Cabbin Point [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County] below Petersburg, crossing James River at Sandy Point. At this point they were soon discharged & went home, their services not being further needed at that time. He was out under this engagement at least three weeks to the best of his recollection. He was then about 16 years of age. This is the tour spoken of by Johnson in his accompanying affidavit, but he has mistaken the year making it 1780 instead of 1781 which is the true time.

About the 1st of March in the same year soon after his return another call was made for troops & one John Johnson was drafted. This declarant contracted to go & did go as his substitute. Elisha Leak was then Captain, Anderson Peers Lieutenant & Wm. McCall [William McCaul] ensign. They started from Richmond near the 1st of March & went with 109 prisoners in charge to Winchester where they delivered the prisoners to a troop of Cavalry to be conveyed by them to the Barracks for safe keeping, except those who made their escape on the way. After this duty was performed, the company to which he belonged was discharged & all returned home. He was in active service as aforesaid under this engagement at least three weeks.

About the 1st of April he was drafted on his own account being then sixteen years of age, for a tour of duty. John Pleasants was first Colonel & Nathaniel G. Morris [Nathaniel Garsden Morris] 2nd Colonel & Armstead one of the Majors – the other officers are not recollected. They started from Goochland County Va. where he resided & went to Richmond & remained there till Genl Lafayette came [sic: Lafayette, 29 Apr] & while he staid there, & after he left, the company to which he belonged were disbanded & permitted to go home & remain as minute men as he now thinks. He was out in actual service this tour at least eight weeks to the best of his present recollection. On the 11 June of the same year Cornwallis passed his father's house in Goochland, & they were all soon called out again. He then again entered the service early in July under Colonels Taylor & Innis [sic: James Innes]. They marched to Richmond from thence to New Castle [now Old Church] on Pamunkey River. From there about 700 men were taken as a detachment under Taylor & Innis, & he was among the number. They crossed York River & went into Middlesex & Glouster [sic: Gloucester] Counties, & were there engaged in clearing the country mostly by night for some time to keep the enemy in check & secure the citizens from their marauding & foraging parties. They were then under the command of Genl Weden [sic: George Weedon]. They continued in this duty till the expiration of their engagement of three months. They were then regularly discharged & returned home. He has preserved no written evidence of service or discharge, tho' he had at one time, but the same has been unintentionlly lost. He knows of no living witnesses by which he can prove his service except Richard Johnson [pension application S2664] & John Maddox [S30565] whose affidavits are herewith forwarded & attached.

Declarant was born 17 Feb. 1765 in Bucks county Pennsylvania & from that his father with him

moved to Hanover Va. & from that to Goochland Va. And after going to Kentucky & remaining there some years he moved to Tennessee & in 1801 settled in Nelson County where he has ever since remained & does now reside.

He hereby relinquishes his every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

It will be seen & he declares that he was in actual service as before stated six months & eight days.

Declarant was advised long ago to make this application, but was determined not to do so until the effects of old age, rendered him less able to support himself by his own labor.

[signed] Alexander Aston

State of Tennessee }                      This day [4 Nov 1840] came John Maddox being an inhabitant of Ohio  
Wilson County        }                      C'ty State of Kentucky before me and made oath that Alexander Aston  
formerly of the the state of Virginia & County of Goochland but now an inhabitant of Wilson County &  
State of Tennessee in the year 1781 served one tour of duty in the service of the United States as Militia in  
the Spring of the year under the the command of Colo John Pleasants and Colo Nathaniel G. Morris Colo  
Pleasants having the highest command Also another tour of duty in the fall of the same year under the  
command of Gen'l. Weden Taylor & Innis Colos. In the fall tour we were mess mates during the whole of  
the tour in the spring we were not mess mates but under the same Captain [signed] John Maddox

Tennessee Wilson County January 1<sup>st</sup> 1850

Dear General Z. Taylor [President Zachary Taylor]. – Sir. I an Old man among men gray headed long time, and tho I say it am no Drunkard, nor blasphemer of the sacred name of the ruler of Heaven and the Earth, but trust that my character stands fair among those in whom the Lord of glory delights to dwell. Further I am a soldier of the Revolutionary War, served four tours of duty in the State of Virginia (lived in the County of Gooch'd) under the Command of Officers then in the service, and had the aprobation of those officers as far as a boy could perform, I did prove the performance of three tours by men of good standing among us, I was in actual service nine months, have a Pension for six months only, now want my just rite and no more. Colo. John Bell of Nashville was Secretary of War at that time, but he soon left, all places being filled with lot[?] Democrats. I being in reality a Whig, had no chance to be heard by that body of men. Now your Honor sits at the helm I hope that your ear is open to hear the complaints of an Old soldier pleading for his just rite I know that is as just an act to pay a single Dime when it is due as it is a larger sum Therefore hope that your Honor will pay some attention to my wants seeing I am Old and cannot work to make out these hard times and if you think it right to send me relief I live in the County of Wilson, Tennessee, Lebanon is our Post Office – Dear Sir I hope that you are placed on the high Chair of the United States for a more noble purpose than to rule as with a rod of Iron that is Monarchial power But you rule a free people that have a rite to make there choise I have had my voice and given my true vote being a true Whig

Please hear my complaints and grant my humble and just rites and I will remain Dear Sir your very  
humble servant

Alexander Aston

Hon Gen'l Z. Taylor  
President U States

Washington City