

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Aaron Reynolds S4061

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/19/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Giles County: SS

On this 27th day of August in the year 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Edward D. Jones, Sampson H White and Thomas S Webb esquires – (Justices of the peace assigned to hold said Court) in the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Giles in the said State of Tennessee now sitting Aaron Reynolds a resident of and in the County of Giles in the State of Tennessee aged seventy-nine years the 1st day of November 1832 as he has been informed & believes to be true 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 enlisted in the Army of the United States on the 5th day of August in the year 1775 in the County of Stafford in the State of Virginia – near Fredericksburg in company with Thomas Sharp & others of his then vicinity – that he enlisted as aforesaid with and under one Augusta or Augustus, or Gusta, Brown Wallace [Gustavus Baron Wallace] a Captain in the regular service in whose company and ___ Briscoe [probably Reuben Briscoe] was 1st Lieutenant, the other officers of said company not now recollected and served in this 3rd Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers viz. the aforesaid Captain Augustus Brown Wallace and ___ Briscoe as 1st Lieutenant – as above, and Colonel ___ Messor or Mercer [probably Hugh Mercer] & Colonel ___ Weston or Weedon [probably George Weedon] & Major John Marshall [probably a mistaken reference to Thomas Marshall, the father of John Marshall] – that his said enlistment was for two years from the time of enlistment and that when his said term of enlistment expired he was with his said Regiment at what was then called by the soldiers the Wet Camp in the County ___ in the State of Pennsylvania – a short time after the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777] – that said Wet Camp was between Germantown and the Valley Forge – but how far from either of said places he cannot state with accuracy. He further states that after his said term of service was out as aforesaid – he again enlisted for three years, but how leaving the said Camp, on the day his said first term was out or in a few days thereafter – under Captain Jack Messor or Mercer and served with [indecipherable word] him in the 3rd Regiment of the Virginia line – under the following officers – viz. as well as he recollects – Colonel Weedon or Weston – who was there in the place of Colonel Messor mentioned above (who after having been promoted to the command of Brig. Genera was killed in the battle at of Princeton [January 3, 1777]) Colonel or Major Jack Marshall aforesaid and he does not recollect whether the said Marshall had been promoted to be Lieutenant Colonel or was then Major in said Regiment, he does not recollect any of the other officers at that time in command of said Regiment & company. After Colonel Weedon or Weston had been in command of said Regiment for some time – declarant thinks, that Colonel or Major Jack Marshall commanded it for a while & then Colonel ___ Gas Kill [probably Thomas Gaskins] commanded the said Regiment for a time at

Middlebrook or Bondbrook as well as declarant can state. Declarant was commanded temporarily by other field officers whose names he does not now recollect. The last Captain and that declarant served under was Captain Valentine Peyton at Charleston at the siege of which place the said Captain Peyton was killed a short time before the Town was surrendered [May 12, 1780]. Declarant served out his said second term of three years either as a soldier in said Regiment or as a prisoner of war; for about six months he was kept in the barracks in Charleston with the other prisoners & then he with them was put up a board the prison ships – & kept on board of them, in the harbor of Charleston between the city of Charleston & Fort Moultrie about half way between the two said places. In July [?] 1781 declarant with others of the said prisoners was carried round to Jamestown in Virginia on board said vessels and landed at that place from whence the prisoners was marched to Williamsburg Virginia where those whose term of service was out were discharged. Declarant states that his second term of service had expired before he was marched to Williamsburg & while he was a prisoner but that he was not discharged until the 25th day of July 1781 at Williamsburg when & where he was discharged – & received a written discharge – but by whom he was discharged or by whom his discharge was signed he does not recollect. He left the service at Williamsburg on or about the said 25th day of July 1781 as aforesaid. Declarant states that the first battle he was in was a battle between the British & Americans at New York Island, about 3 or 4 miles from the City of New York and between King's bridge and the City. Colonel Weedon or Weston & Colonel or Major Marshall were in command as declarant's field officers – but who was the immediate commander in chief on this occasion declarant does not know – but General George Washington was in command in chief & was in person at the White Plains – to which place the troops in the said engagement was ordered to retreat after the said battle – where declarant saw General Washington. He supposes from his being at White Plains immediately after the battle at the Island that he was then the commander in chief but does not know the fact to be so. Affiant does not recollect when said battle at the Island took place – but knows that it was during his said first enlistment of two years and was on Sunday – declarant recollects that it was on Sunday because he recollects that the Army to which he belonged arrived in the city of New York Friday – marched out of the city on Saturday and on Sunday fought the battle at the White Plains there was a battle a few days after – declarant & his Regiment returned thither in which General Lee commanded the American troops as well as he recollects – but declarant was not actively engaged in the battle being reserved with his company or Regiment to assist the others who were engaged as declarant understood – but the Americans were defeated before declarant was brought into battle, from the White Plains declarant was marched through New Jersey into Pennsylvania – crossing the Delaware River & encamped on the Pennsylvania side for some time – then recrossed the Delaware River on cristmost [Christmas] night & marched in the night to Trenton – through rain & snow – attacked the Hessians next morning [December 26, 1776] about sunrise took them prisoners & recrossed the Delaware River with them – encamped there until the troops were somewhat recruited – then marched back to Trenton – remained there a short time – Wallace [probably a reference to Lord Cornwallis] entering Trenton on the opposite side to our encampment – General Washington who then commanded the American Army [several indecipherable words] of it to which declarant then belonged as aforesaid, in person marched off from his said encampment about ten o'clock P. W. In the night – He marched the Army to Princetown [Princeton] where declarant was in battle again [January 3, 1777] – & where General Mercer the former Colonel of declarant was killed by a bayonet. From there declarant and the Army was marched to Morristown in New Jersey – from thence to Valley Forge where the Army & declarant remained in winter quarters in the next

summer declarant with the Army to which he was attached was marched to Brandywine in which battle [September 11, 1777] – declarant was engaged – from that the Army marched to Philadelphia & to Germantown – in which battle [October 4, 1777] declarant was also engaged – After being at Monmouth & marching thence back to the vicinity of Morristown – some time in the fall of that year declarant with the brigade to which he belonged under the command of General Woodfork [probably William Woodford] was marched through Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia & North Carolina into South Carolina and to Cooper's River some five or six miles above Charleston – We then took water and went to Charleston arriving there the last of April or 1st day of May – we were the siege there about one month – surrendered & declare with other persons after being kept in the barracks as stated above was put on board the prison ships &c &c as stated herein before. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ German Lester, Clerk

S/ Aaron Reynolds, X his mark

Declarant could be much more minute in the details of his services but deems it unnecessary – he has not stated very minutely the routes of his several marches nor the particulars of the battles in which he was engaged – for the same reason – he is not certain that he has mentioned all the names of the officers under whose occasional command he was – at different periods declarant His said discharge for some time & then gave it up to one Coleman who was going to Richland [Richmond] as he said for the purpose of getting a warrant or certificate for declarant's Military bounty land – but he has never seen or heard of his said discharge since. It is most probable lost or destroyed before this time. Declarant hereby refers to evidence in the war Department or on file in the House of Representatives of Congress as to his service as aforesaid. He has annexed a copy of a paper marked A as a part hereof which is also to be found on the records of Congress.

S/ Aaron Reynolds, X his mark

[f p. 12]

House of Representatives 2nd February, 1830

I do certify that Aaron Reynolds, now of Tennessee, and who has a petition now before Congress, lived many years in Kentucky, and during the Indian wars in the West; that, from my early infancy, I was intimately acquainted with said Reynolds, as he lived almost in sight of my father's house till said Reynolds removed to Tennessee.

Said Reynolds supported a high reputation for honor, honesty, industry and bravery. At the Blue Lick defeat [August 19, 1782] he saved the life of Colonel Patterson by giving up his horse, and putting his own life in imminent jeopardy thereby, and the 100 acres of land upon which he lived while in Kentucky, was a gift from Colonel Patterson for this disinterested act of distinguished bravery.

He was a distinguished Indian Warrior in defense of the early settlements of Kentucky, during his residence there, until these wars terminated. He was a poor man when he left Kentucky, and supported his family by hard industry.

RH. M. Johnson

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]

The State [Library of Virginia](#) online digital collection relating to bounty land claims contains the following document relating to this veteran:

Auditors office June 28, 1784

This is to Certify Aaron Reynolds a Soldier of the 3rd Virginia Regiment Enlisted with me, the 2nd day of February 1776 and served as a Soldier & corporal till the 5th July 1781, when he was regularly discharged. Given under my hand at Fredericksburg the 5th day of August 1783.

S/ Gus: B. Wallace

Lt. Colo. 3 Virgl. Rgt.

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