

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Allen S6486

f32VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/9/08 rev'd 7/22/14

[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.]

State of North Carolina, Granville County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions August Term 1832

On this 8th day of August A.D. 1832 personally appeared in open court before William M. Sneed, James Wyche & Abraham Laurence Trent the members of the court now sitting William Allen a citizen of the County and State aforesaid, aged 72 years on the 26th day of December 1832, 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 the 7th day of June A.D. 1832.

That he was born and raised in the County of Henrico in the State of Virginia, and was there a resident when he entered into the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War. His memory does not enable him at this time to state the month or year, of his entering the Service, but it was at an early period after the rupture between the Colonies & the mother country.

The first service in which I engaged was what was called "The Minute" men. They were men who engaged to serve the state whenever called upon but were permitted to reside at their own homes – nor can he recollect whether there was any particular term or period of service, for which this class of Soldiers engaged to serve – But he enlisted in that service and continued in it according to the best of his recollection (more than) (he believes) but he can say with confidence 18 months. He enlisted under Captain John Hodges but his other company officers he does not now recollect. In the course of this Tour he was several times called into actual service, the number of times he cannot now recollect, but as often as 3, 4 or perhaps five times and maybe oftener. The length of time he was on duty, he is entirely unable to state, but the longest time he was on duty, that he now recollects, was when he was detached to Hampton where he was stationed about two months. Upon leaving Hampton we were marched to York where we were detained two or three days, and from that place sent to Williamsburg where we were detained in service longer than we had been at Hampton; I think more than three months and probably as much as four months. The act of Assembly under which we had been called into service having been modified or repealed, and another passed directing the Enlistment of regular soldiers, we were discharged at Williamsburg and I came home. I had a regular discharge from the proper officer but am unable after searching among my papers, to find it, and presume that upon removing to North Carolina I left it at my father's among other papers which I deemed of no value and I doubt not they have all been long since destroyed. In the several tours of duty that I was required thus to perform, I cannot recollect distinctly the names of the commanding and field officers, but think we were commanded by Colonel Innes [probably Colonel James Innes] a part if not the whole of the time. In all this service I officiated as a Sergeant.

Shortly after my return home the enemy had progressed of James River and were doing great damage to the country bordering on it, a call was made for Militia to meet them, and I volunteered and perform part of a short tour of duty down that River about Rocketts and as low down as City Point. The length of time I was there on duty I cannot recollect. The commanding officer of this detachment feeling the indispensable necessity of Light horse of which we have none, I was dispatched by, I

believe, Major Dick, to Richmond to obtain the assistance of light Horse or Cavalry. Upon my arrival at Richmond and entry of the Tavern where I put up, I found Captain Peyton Randolph and Lieutenant Joseph Selden, who had just been commissioned as such engaged in enlisting man to serve in the "State Legion of Light Horse". Being well acquainted with these gentlemen, I was importuned by them to engage in that service. After some little hesitation, and upon being told by several young man of my acquaintance that if I would enlist, they would also do it, I consented and did enlist in that service and the Terms of Enlistment was for and during the War and each man found his own Horse. To enlist men I was by these Gentlemen furnished with money and sent out on the recruiting service with instructions to return at a short but appointed time, which has now entirely escaped from my memory. At the time appointed I met these officers in the City of Richmond & had with me more recruits than both of them together. 2nd Lieutenant Montford and Cornet Booker or Egglestone, had been also dispatched to obtain recruits and we were all rendezvoused at Goodes Bridge on the Appomattox River in the County of Chesterfield at the time appointed when it was found we had obtained our full complement of man for the Company. The Legion was quickly stationed at the same point that was commanded by Colonel Everard Meade. The other field officers I cannot recollect. There were various and many pieces of duty on which detachments of the Legion were sent but I am unable to state them, or the length of time that elapsed between the organization of the Legion and the time we were marched towards Little York which was then in the possession of Cornwallis. When on duty about York it was found that Cavalry were not as efficient as the other kinds of Troops, particularly after the investment of the Town; and forage for horses in that part of the country not being to be obtained our Legion was ordered back to Goodes Bridge where we were stationed until we obtained official intelligence of the Capture and surrender of the British Army under Lord Cornwallis. Our Legion, and I among the rest – were then disbanded without furnishing the soldiers with written discharges. The length of time I was in Service on the East to the last pieces of duty I am quite unable to recollect. I officiated in all my services of the first, Second and last as a Sergeant.

Somewhere about the year 1788, 1789 or 79 he I removed from my home in Henrico County Virginia and settled in Granville County State of North Carolina, where I have continued to reside ever since.

The said William Allen relinquishes every claim 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 and year first above written.

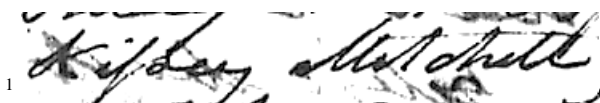
S/ William Allen



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State of North Carolina Granville County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions February Term 1833

On this 7th day of February A.D. 1833 personally appeared in open Court Kipey Mitchell [?]¹ aged about sixty-eight years of age who being duly sworn according to law testifies & declares as follows viz.: that she is the Daughter of Archer Johnson Senior Deceased late of Granville County. That during the Revolutionary War she lived with her father who was a resident of the County of Amelia & State of Virginia within about Ten miles of Goods bridge upon the Appomattucks [Appomattox] River. That she was well acquainted with William Allen who then lived in the adjoining County of Henrico and who now lives in the same County & within four miles of herself. William

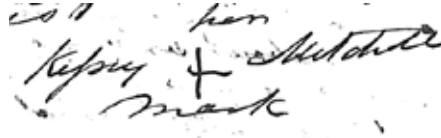


¹ Could it be Kiskey Mitchell?

Allen was a young man and in the habit of visiting our family for he eventually married my sister who is now living his wife.

This affiant does not remember seeing William Allen in the first tours of duty as stated in his declaration for a Pension sworn to on the 8th of August last which has been read to her but she distinctly remembers that he was in service before the last Tour mentioned by him as a member of the Legion of light horse therein stated. – She well remembers that while he was stationed at Goodes Bridge as stated by him he was several times at her father's house and she always understood & now believes that he enlisted in this latter service for & during the War. From the highly respectable character of William Allen, this affiant declares her entire confidence in the statement he has made of his services and that he did actually serve as he has stated.

Subscribed & sworn to 7th of February 1833

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelsey + Mitchell". There are some faint markings above and below the signature, possibly initials or a date.

State of North Carolina, Granville County

Personally came before me William M. Sneed a Justice of the peace for said County & State, William Allen a citizen of the same, aged 72 years last December, who being duly sworn according to law Deposes and states as follows Viz.:

That in the first tour, herein before sit forth, of service in the Revolutionary War, he is unable to specify much length of the duty he performed, but he remembers that he was called into service and sent to the Town of Hampton in Virginia where he continued on duty for more than he believes, but is willing it shall be stated at two months; from Hampton he was dispatched & in two days we arrived with the Detachment at York – where he remained two or three Days, from thence in two days march we were ordered to Williamsburg in said State, and here he was detained on duty he thinks about four months, but he is whirling that it may be Estimated at three months and a half.

Another time he was called into Service and sent on duty with his Company down James River to City Point and here he was kept on duty he thinks more than two months, but he is willing to Estimate it at two months.

On another call into Service he marched to Williamsburg, but the danger that produced the call having been removed, the detachment was sent back home & discharged. In this tour he served not less than two weeks but thinks rather more.

In the second term of Service set forth in this Declaration he and his Company were called out and went on duty down James River to Rocketts & thereabouts and he was in service near about three months before his Enlistment in the Legion of Light Horse. He is willing it shall be stated at two months.

In his Third & last tour he cannot remember the dates of his Enlistment but presumes that the Evidence of the Service of the Virginia State Troops in the War Department will show. He continued in Service from the date of his Enlistment until his discharge after the Capture & surrender of Cornwallis at Little York. If however there being not in the Department & evidence shall be so informed he will endeavor to obtain information from the Public Records of Virginia and forward to the War Department.

In all his service he was a first Sergeant.

Subscribed & sworn to before me this 6th of April 1833.

Witness

S/ Wm M. Sneed, JP

S/ William Allen

[Veteran married the daughter of Archer Johnson, Sr., who lived during the War near Goode's Bridge on

Appomattox River in Amelia County, Va. Archer Johnson died in Granville County, NC according to documents in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$143.62 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a Sergeant of Infantry & cavalry for 14 months in the Virginia service.]