

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Absalom Cleveland S6774

fn17NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/20/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. 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. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of South Carolina Greenville District: On this the 28th day of July in the year 1834 personally appeared in the court of Ordinary for Greenville district before John Watson the Judge of said court Absalom Cleveland a resident of Pendleton district of said State aged seventy-five 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 after stated, he entered the service as a private in Captain Jesse Walton's volunteer company of minute man on the last of October in the year 1775, which company was raised in Surry County North Carolina where he then resided, and was to continue as a company for six months for which time he volunteered. The other officers of the company were Benjamin Cleveland 1st Lieutenant, William Nall 2nd Lieutenant and Richard Allen Ensign. Shortly after he entered the service in October 1775 they marched to Salisbury in North Carolina where they remained sometime over at months (the precise time not recollected) with the company returned home, after which they were kept in a state of readiness to march whenever called on – had frequent [indecipherable word or words] preparatory thereto until Christmas following, when they marched to Cross Creek now Fayetteville in North Carolina against the Scotch and English forces – arrived there shortly after the engagement [word obliterated] Cross Creek in which McClaud [sic, Donald McLeod] the commanding officer of the Scotch & British fell,<sup>1</sup> the company to which he was attached continued in service until sometime in March 1776, making six months of service from the time they volunteered until their return home; upwards of three months in actual service from home & the remainder in preparing to obey any legal call that might be made on them. The company to which he was attached to the long to Major Joseph Winston's Battalion which was a part of Colonel Martin Armstrong's Regiment – That he again volunteered for three months and entered the service in the first of March 1777 in the company commanded by his father Benjamin Cleveland (Walton his former Captain having been promoted to the rank of Major) and they marched to Watauga Fort then in North Carolina but now Tennessee for the purpose of guarding the frontiers against the attacks of the Indians. They

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<sup>1</sup> Veteran appears to be describing the battle known as the Battle of Moore's Creek bridge which occurred on February 27, 1776 and in which the Tory commanding officer Donald McLeod was killed.

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/moorescreek.htm>

continued in service for three months and upwards it being the last of June in the year 1777 when they arrived home. The company was stationed at the Fort during the time and was not immediately attached to any Battalion or Regiment as he knows of – he entered as a private soldier & so continued during the above detailed tour –

That he again volunteered and entered the service as a private soldier in the Company commanded by Captain Richmond Pearson of Rowan County North Carolina the last of June 1780 and first marched to Salisbury, thence to Coulsons place [sic, Colson's Mill ?<sup>2</sup>] near the mouth of Rocky River to attack some Tories who were there & with whom we had a slight engagement in which we took some prisoners and put the rest to flight. From thence we marched to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where we met with a part of General Gates Army, thence to Big Lynches Creek where we had some slight skirmishing with the Tories but no decisive action – thence to Rugeley's mill where we joined General Gates & his Army & continued March toward Camden until we met the enemy where the battle was fought on the 16th of August 1780 – The company to which he was attached returned to Charlotte after the battle near Camden and thence proceeded to Salisbury – he was taken sick at Charlotte and left the service after their arrival in Salisbury and returned home the first of September 1780 being unable to serve out the time for which he had volunteered.

I have no documentary evidence of my service but referred to Mr. Nathaniel Vannoy whose certificate is hereto annexed as the only living person I know of who can prove my services.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

The applicant in answer to the several interrogatories propounded by the court says

To the 1<sup>st</sup>. That I was born on the 24th day of February 1759 in Albemarle County Virginia –

To the 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have no record of my age; it was recorded in a large Bible of my father's but I do not know where it is.

To the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I was living in Surry County North Carolina when I entered the service in the revolutionary war. He has since lived sometime in the State of North Carolina, sometime in the State of Georgia and is now living in Pendleton district South Carolina though of late years I have spent a good [indecipherable word] of my time moving to be near relations and am at present on a visit to one of my relations in Greenville District South Carolina.

To the 4<sup>th</sup>. I always volunteered

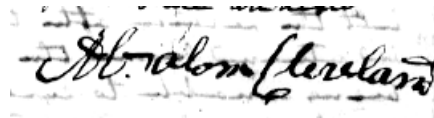
To the fifth. I have already answered as fully as I can.

To the sixth. I never received a discharge from the service –

To the seventh. I refer to Nathaniel Vannoy and Samuel Gibson who certificate are annexed.

Sworn to & subscribed the 28 July 1834

S/ Absalom Cleveland

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Absalom Cleveland". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

I Nathaniel Vannoy residing at present in the district of Greenville and State of South Carolina do

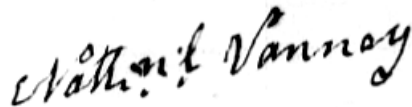
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<sup>2</sup> If I'm right as to the action he is referring to being the one at Colson's Mill, that action occurred on July 21, 1780.

<http://gaz.jrshelby.com/colson.htm>

hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Absalom Cleveland who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration and have been for sixty-eight or sixty-nine years. That I know of my own knowledge that the first six months of service as a minute man above detailed by him in his declaration was performed as stated, having frequently seen him in the service & was with him part of the time: And I further certify that I am confident the other tours of service as mentioned in the above declaration were performed by him though I was not with him in the two last mentioned tours yet I know of his going and being absent from home about the times mentioned & have no doubt of the entire correctness of the whole declaration as I lived in the same neighborhood he did. That he is generally reputed and believed to have been a soldier of the revolution all through this country where his & his father's Colonel Benjamin Cleveland's services are matters of history in which opinion I concur. I believe him to be of the age he states.

S/ Nath'l Vannoy



[Samuel Gibson, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended Declaration of Absalom Cleveland a Soldier of the Revolutionary War made in order to obtain an increase of his pension

The State of South Carolina Greenville District: SS

On this 27th day of July in the year of our Lord 1837 personally appeared Absalom Cleveland before me the Subscribing justice and being duly sworn made the following declaration on oath, the is: in the year 1779 the year before General Gates defeat at Camden in this State he recruited or enlisted a company of fifty some odd men in Wilkes County in the State of North Carolina which was commanded by Pleasant Henderson of North Carolina as Captain and by this Deponent as first Lieutenant. That the whole force in the service hereafter mentioned amounted to near 400 men and was commanded by Colonel Joseph Williams of North Carolina. This deponent further declares that in the said year of 1779 that [he] entered the service of the United States as first Lieutenant of the company aforesaid for the term of three months; that he served out the said term faithfully and bore the commission of first Lieutenant during the whole time and discharged his duties accordingly. The Corps to which this deponent was attached during this Term of Service were engaged with Commissioners from Virginia and North Carolina appointed to run the dividing line between these states that they commenced their duties at the Long Islands of Holston [River] and proceeded to the Cumberland Mountain where the Corps were discharged and this deponent arrived at home the evening before Christmas in the year 1779. One of the surveyors from North Carolina was by the name of Guthrie and old Dick Henderson and Samuel Henderson acted as Commissioners on the part of North Carolina and Doctor Walker acted as one from Virginia. This deponent further states that he has no papers or writing by which the aforesaid service might be established in his power or possession; and that he is not now aware of the existence of anyone by whom he can prove this said service. The year after, 1780, this deponent was at the Battle at Camden where General Gates was defeated. For further particulars he begs leave to refer to his original Declaration upon which he was admitted to the Pension roll and allowed \$26.66 per annum and submits this that his Pension may be increased.

Sworn and subscribed to before me.

S/ William Choice, NP & JQ

S/ Absalom Cleveland

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for eight months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]