

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Alderson S8020

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Monroe County } SS

State of Virginia }

On this 16th day of October 1832 personally appeared before me Henry Alexander a Justice of the Peace in and for said County Thomas Alderson a resident in said County and State aged eighty eight years on the 22^d day of August 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 June 7th 1832 —

That he was born in the County of Bucks in the State of Pennsylvania which place he left when a boy and moved to the County of Shenandoah in the State of Virginia from there to the County of Rockingham in said State. That in the year 1780 in the month of September he was drafted from the said County of Rockingham for the term of three months under Colo Jeremiah Ragan and was marched crossing the Blue ridge at Swift Run gap on to Richmond where he was put on duty to guard the Jail in which they were Robbers and Torys 5 of whom (as he was told were condemned to be Hanged) – a short time before his three months had expired a proposition was made by a Regular Officer his name not recollected that if the Militia would give up their Blankets and tent cloths for the use of the army that they might go home which was agreed to by the Militia Officers. That he got home about Christmas and his three months was up about the same time he arrived at home. he got no written discharge – That about the middle of June 1781 he was drafted for twenty days in the light Horse under Capt. Moore at the time the Brittish came up to Charlottesville, he was marched by the way of Swift Run gap in the Blue Ridge on to Richmond when he arrived at the City it was on fire or not yet done burning which was set on fire by the enemy [18-20 June]. After joining the army he was marched privately to Williamsburg in the night, and when he got to Kent CH [Court House] the Brittish was there. The troops were ordered to turn a little to the left where they remained about two hours for the Brittish to get out of the way Col Harris [sic: probably Benjamin Harrison] from Rockingham commanded at that time. he was in a Skirmish at a place called Hot Water [Battle of Hot Water Plantation 6 mi NW of Williamsburg, 26 June] he remained there some time and was discharged at that place. Gen'l [Edward] Stevens and Meclinburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] he seen who were regular Officers he was discharged by Col. Harison who was from the said County of Rockingham That in the year 1781 in the month of Sep'r. he was drafted for three months from the County of Rockingham under Capt. [Michael] Coger and was appointed by Col Daniel Smith as quartermaster to furnish the troops and was marched by the way of Swift Run gap on to williamsburg and to York where he joined the army under Gen'l. Washington he was at the seize of York & with a scouting party which was commanded by Col Lewis and Maj. Lockard [probably Samuel Lewis and Patrick Lockhart of Botetourt County] who went to take a redout [sic: redoubt] at which place several of our men were killed he was present when Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781] that he was one of the guard over the prisoners for two days march when he was appointed to take care of some of the sick and try to get them home which he done and got them home to the County of Rockingham, and which cost him Two Thousand Dollars out of his own pocket that he never got anything for except \$1.25 that was paid him by one of the sick he got home about the 1st of December in that year, he was discharged by Col [Samuel] Vance but has lossed it long since after the war he moved to the County of Greenbrier that part which is now Monroe and has resided where he now lives for forty nine years — He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the roll of the agency of any State

[signed] T Alderson

personally appeared before me the undersigned Justice of the peace in and for the County of Monroe Thomas Alderson who being Duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of Old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot sware 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 [sic: grades] in the year 1780 he served a tower of three months under Capt. Ragin as orderly Sargent and in the year 1781 he served under Capt. More as a private for 20 days and in the same year he was drafted and served out a three months tower under Capt. Coger for which time he acted as quartermaster and that all the above named towers he served with an Embodied Corps called into service by a competent authority and that he was in the field and for the time during which the several services performed he was not employed in any Sivil persuit and the said Thomas Alderson further states that he has no knowledge of any person that is now living that he could procure to prove his several services above stated for which he now claims a pention

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day July 1833

[signed] T Alderson

William Ellis JP

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see my transcript of the pension application of David W. Sleeth, S6111.]

Thomas Alderson

I called on this old Gentleman on the 9th September 1835, found him exceedingly feeble in body and mind. so much so in the latter particular, that I am wholly unable to get from him a satisfactory account of his services – he is in his 91st year of age, his character is good, and his neighbours say that he has always been called and considered a revolutionary soldier – from what little I was able to collect from the old man, I have no doubt of his haveing served as alledged.

W. G Singleton Oct 13, 1835