

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

Pension Application of Henry Allen W20579

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[The following two transcripts are of copies certified as received by the House of Representatives.]

State of Virginia } SS.

County of Culpeper }

Be it known, that on the 5th day of April, 1837, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the County aforesaid, Catharine Allen, a resident of the said County of Culpeper and State of Virginia, and aged seventy-nine years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed July the fourth 1836; That she is the widow of Henry Allen, who was a soldier in the army of the Revolution, and attached to the infantry service thereof; That he enlisted under Lieutenant Armistead Minor, in Culpeper County, in the year [blank] and as she has often heard him say, and verily believes, he was attached to the Third Virginia Regiment, was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], at the storming of Stony point fort [16 Jul 1779], and returned in the latter part of the year 1781; That in the month of December 1781, she was married to the said Henry Allen; That a few days after Christmas, say the early part of January, 1782, he was detached to Fredericksburg to assist in the Armory, where he remained until the end of the war. and she further declares, that her husband, the aforesaid Henry Allen, died on the 11th day of August 1831; and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed.

That she is infirm and cannot conveniently travel to court, which is twenty miles distant from her residence, and that there is no Judge of the General Court living nearer. Catharine herXmark Allen

State of Virginia }

Fauquier County Ss. }

This day [31 Aug 1837] personally appeared before me Robert M. Stribling a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, John Bradford, aged seventy one years, and being duly sworn, according to law, depose and saith that he was intimately acquainted with Henry Allen dec'd. of Culpeper County, a Revolutionary Soldier, that the said Henry Allen enlisted in the early part of the Revolution and remain'd in service until the latter part of the year 1781, when he came home on furlough and married Catharine McConinchie at Christmas in 1781 while he was a soldier that in January 1782 he was transfer'd from the line to the public factory in Fredericksburg for manufacturing of arms for the use of the army where he remained at work until the factory was broken up. and the said Henry Allen, dec'd never was discharg'd from the army until 1783. The reason that this affiant is confident that the facts above stated are true he boarded with the said Henry's father in 1782 & went to school. And the father of this affiant, Mr. Benjamin Bradford work'd in factory with the said Henry Allen dec'd and that most of the hands that work'd in the factory were soldiers militia men as well as regular soldiers as it clear'd them from all other military duty, and further this deponent saith not. [signed] John Bradford

[Other certified copies of documents include the following: Deposition by James Child or Childs that he knew of Allen's enlistment, witnessed his marriage to Catharine McConckie, and knew that he worked in the factory at Fredericksburg. Deposition by Peter H. Triplett (pension application W2706) that Allen was in Col. Christian Febiger's regiment, that they were together at the storming of Stony Point, and that Allen married Catharine McCouchie. A bond signed in Fauquier County VA on 14 Dec 1781 by Henry Allen and Daniel Fields for the marriage of Allen to Catharine McKonkey. Deposition by Charles

Morgan that he had found in the pocket book of his grandfather, Alexander Bradford, the 1783 discharge of Henry Allen who married Catharine McChonkie, and had given the discharge to his father, Capt. Joseph Morgan. Deposition by William A. McConchie that Allen had married Catharine McChonkie, and that he had seen Allen's discharge in the hands of Capt. Joseph Morgan.]

[James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, rejected Catharine Allen's application because there was no proof that Henry Allen "belonged to the Army while he was at work in the Armory." In response the following letters were written.]

Fredericksburg 15th of July 1837

In reference to the doubt expressed by Mr Edwards, as to the employment of Soldiers, as Artificers [sic: artificiers] during the war of the Revolution, the undersigned knows that nothing was more usual, during that war, than to employ men who had enlisted a soldiers, as Artificers. These last were then very scarce, and whenever a Soldier was ascertained to be an Artificer, he was detailed for that service, and paid as a Soldier. Congress has granted a Pension to Wm Pattie [pension application S10252], who was an enrolled Militia man & detailed to work as an Artificer in the Public Armory at Fredericksburg, Virg'a. Given by me the date above
[signed] John Taliaferro

Washington Octr. 10 1837

Sir My friend Cap'n. Allen [Charles Allen of Warrenton Springs] of Fauq'r. informs me that he has a case before you turning upon the degree of confidence to be reposed in the testimony attending persons in his county with whom I happen to be very well acquainted. They are I understand John Bradford of Fancausville[?], Charles Morgan of Morgansburg and William McKonkey residing near Morisville [sic: Morrisville] all of whom are of the same county [Fauquier].

Of these Mr Bradford father of Colo. Benjamin B. Bradford is an old gentleman of advanced years, but of excellent constitution and in the full possession of his intellect which has ever been above mediocrity. I have lodged at his house and know him well.

Charles Morgan is the post Master of Morgansburg and a merchant of much respectability.

With Mr. McKonkey I am not personally acquainted but Capt'n. Allen apprises me that his testimony is entitled to as much confidence as either of the other gentlemen I have named.

A principle, also, is invoked, I understand, as may be so, in this case; in the event, that the testimony of these gentlemen is found defective for want of form.

In respects the character of the service rendered by the deceased soldier for a part of the time, which elapsed prior to his discharge in 1783 I am told, the testimony shews that he was transferred from the line of the army, & the manufactory of Arms erected by Virginia, at Fredericksburg, and that this service is not regarded as military.

The case of William Pattie turned on this question, and was decided by the last Congress, in his favor. Its circumstances, I was well acquainted with, and this decision cannot be doubted nor the principle on which it [several illegible words].

But I, myself, possess, and if it be useful, will furnish evidence that Majr. Alexander Dick, reported by the Board of Officers who met at Richmond, after the close of the war, to ascertain and report which of those brother officers had served to its termination, was, at one time, transferred to the station of Superintendant of this very factory, long conducted by Charles Dick, his father, and Fielding Lewis, a brother in law of Genl. George Washington. Charles Dick was my grandfather and A. Dick my maternal uncle. I mention this assignment of A. Dick, a major in rank, and prisoner of war escaped from a dungeon in England, as evidence that a soldier, who proved to be a good mechanic, may have been transferred to the Fredericksburg armory without receiving his discharge from enlistment.

At Norfolk, during the last war all the injured or imperfect arms of an army of 5000 men, were

there repaired. I am, Sir. very respectfully your obt. servt C. F Mercer

NOTES:

On 2 Nov 1839 Peter Triplett (pension application W2706) repeated that he had been with Henry Allen at the storming of Stony Point, that Allen did not apply under the pension act of 1818 because he "was in good circumstances having a large tract of land & a good deal of personal property," and that the only other Henry Allen in Culpeper County was his son, Henry Allen, Jr.

On 7 Aug 1839 Catharine Allen applied under a later pension act. A Treasury-Department document shows that the administrator of Catharine Allen received the final pension payment up to 26 July 1840, the date of her death.