

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Altorn (Alton, Altom) ¹ W21611 Sarah Altorn f57NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 7/9/11 & 7/23/14

[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 South Carolina, Greenville District

On this __ day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open Court the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the District aforesaid, now sitting, James Altorn a resident citizen of the District of Greenville in the Said State of South Carolina, who was born in Baltimore County in the State of Maryland on the 25th December 1752 and who will be Eighty years of age on the 25th day of next December, and 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 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated. That he does not recollect with minuteness the dates but he first was drafted for a three months [tour], in Guilford County in the State of North Carolina where he then resided, and under the command of General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] and Col. [balance of line illegible] marched to the West against the Indians, crossed the Swannanoa [River], went on to Watauga [River], thence down to the big bend of Tennessee [River], and Scott & Hicks were taken prisoners with many Indians, served out the three months and was discharged at the Fort at Catawba River in North Carolina on his return home; that he was frequently under arms, upon active duty in pursuit of Tories and Indians, the particulars of which, time has almost entirely taken from his memory.

That afterwards he volunteered and entered the Service of the United States for a term of nine months under the command of Captain John Nelson & Lt. [?] Alexander Nelson of the New levy Troops as they were then called, in the latter part of the year 1778: and marched to Moon's Creek near Dickson' ferry on Dan River, then received orders and marched to the South and joined head quarters at Purrysburg [Purrysburg] on the Savannah River, not far above the City of Savannah, where the "new levy Troops" or that portion to which the applicant belonged, were put under the command of Captain Chapman an officer of the regular Army; from this place, he was marched up to Augusta, crossed the Savannah River and went down on the Georgia Side, and after spending some time Scouring the lower parts of Georgia, returned by way of Augusta to the neighborhood of Purrysburg, to a place called the "Two Sisters" on the said Savannah River where head quarters were established for a while, occasionally marching out to Support and defend other points on the River, Supposed to be vulnerable and liable to attack by the enemy; That when he joined head quarters at Purrysburg General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] had the command assisted by Colonels Little [sic, Archibald Lytle], & Thackston and Majors Armstrong [John Armstrong] and Dickson [sic, Henry Dixon]; that in the Spring of 1779 he was marched from the Savannah River and was on the 20th June 1779 in the battle at Stono in the State of South Carolina where Colonel Thaxton [James Thackston] had one of his fingers shot off, during all this period he was commanded by the said Captain Chapman of the regular Army; that he Served out the whole term of nine months faithfully and was honorably discharged at Salisbury North Carolina by

¹ BLWt24167-160-55

Major John Armstrong. That he has lost or mislaid his said discharge if he ever had one so that he has no documentary evidence now at his command to testify his said Services nor is there within reach any person that he knows of by whom his said Services could be proved in open Court, but in line Submits to the best evidence in his power.

And he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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 and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid. S/ James Altom [sic], S his mark
S/ J McDaniel, CCP

[William King, a clergyman, and David Blythe gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On April 24, 1845 in Pickens District South Carolina, Mrs. Sarah Altorn, aged 85 years last May, made application for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of James Altorn, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him September 9, 1781;; that they were married in Guilford County North Carolina by Charles Bruce, Esquire,; that her name prior to her marriage was Sarah Spurlin; that she had 13 children, namely: Richard, Elizabeth, John, Mary, James, Anna, Sarah, Joseph, Hiram, Patsy, Thomas, Mahala & Jesse; that if her oldest child were still alive he would be 61 years old last January and that the youngest was 42 years old the 26th of December last; that her husband died April 15, 1833 and that she remains his widow; that she and her husband continued to live in Guilford County until there 5th child was born she thinks about 12 years; then moved to Lincoln County North Carolina where they lived 32 years; then moved to Greenville District South Carolina. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 16: In her bounty land application filed April 25, 1855 in Greenville District South Carolina, the widow gives her age as 93 years; she states the same facts she has previously stated in her pension application except that she spells her maiden name "Spurling" in this application; she states that her husband died April 15, 1833 in Greenville district South Carolina.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]