

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Allen W25344

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia, to wit:

At a Court of Quarterly Session, held for Nelson County, at the Courthouse on Tuesday the 27th day of May 1828:

Be it remembered that on this 27th day of May 1828, personally appeared in open Court, being a court of record for the County of Nelson, made so by an Act of the Legislature of Virginia, William Allen, resident in said county, aged seventy eight years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the Acts of Congress of the 18th March, 1818, and the 1st of May 1820. That he the said William Allen enlisted for and during the War on the — day of — in the year 177— in the state of Virginia, in the company commanded by Thomas Taylor, in the regiment commanded by Col. Fountaine [sic: William Fontaine], in the line of the State of Virginia, on the continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps, until the [blank] day of [blank], when he was discharged from the service in Winchester in the State of Virginia; that he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, that his name is not on the roll of any State except Virginia; and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension, — that he has, while able, endeavoured to support himself and family by his own labour and exertions, but that he is now, by reason of age and infirmity, unable any longer to do so.

And, in pursuance of the Act of the 1st May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed:

Schedule of William Allen’s property.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 180 acres of poor piney-wood land, valued by the Court, at | . . . \$180.00 |
| 1 horse, valued by the Court, at | 25.00 |
| 3 sows and a few pigs, valued at | 10.00 |
| some few knives & forks, a dish &c &c, all valued at | 3.00 |
| A claim on John Scruggs (nappy) being for money paid as | } |
| security for him — who is known to the Court to be insolvent }.. | <u>100.00</u> |
| William hisXmark Allen | \$318.00 |

My occupation heretofore has been that of a planter and farmer, but, from age and infirmity, am unable to pursue it. I have a wife, name Dolly, (being my second wife), aged about forty four years, in bad health. I have seven children living with me, the eldest a boy, aged about eighteen years, another boy aged about thirteen years, the third about ten years, the remaining four children under the age of Eight years. There are five boys and two girls, all together, unable to support my family.

That since the 18th day of March, 1818 the following changes have been made in my property:

| Description of Property | Name of the persons to whom disposed of | Time of Sale. | Amount of money or description of property received in return. |
|---|---|------------------|---|
| 172 Acres of land. | John Mosby | 1820. Nov. 27 | \$400. of which \$250 was paid for the purchase of land now owned, and \$100 to pay a debt as security for John Scruggs, – the remaining \$50 to pay sundry small debts, contracted for necessities for the use of my family. |
| 230 acres of land, being the quantity purchased with part of the proceeds of the above mentioned 172 acres. | 50 acres sold to Francis Harvey | 1827. May 28 | \$100 applied to the payment of sundry small debts, and the purchase of the horse mentioned in the schedule, and the balance for the support of my family. |

“Nelson County, to wit:

This day Samuel Arrington [pension application S8033] personally appeared before me Wm. H. Digges a Justice of the Peace for said county & made oath that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and served as such in the years 1779 & 1780 at the Barracks in Albemarle County Virginia guarding some British prisoners, that William Allen served as a soldier in the same Regiment from some time in the Spring 1779 untill about Christmas 1780, that he, this affiant was at that time marched to some other quarter & left the said Allen there on duty. that a Colo. Fountain commanded the Regiment from some time in the winter until sometime in the Spring of 1779 and Francis Taylor commanded the Regiment thereafter, – the said Allen drew pay and rations as a Regular soldier, & farther saith not. Given under my hand this 29th day of August 1828.”

State of Virginia } S.S.
Nelson County }

On this 25th day of September 1832, personally appeared before the County Court of Nelson, William Allen, a resident of said County and State aforesaid, aged Eighty two 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 provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832: that he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1779 with Captain Porter, and served in the Regiment of guards stationed at the Barracks in Albemarle County, in said State, under the following named officers; Col. Frank Taylor, in a company commanded by Captain Porter [possibly Thomas Porter], that he enlisted the 16th of June 1779, and was discharged the 22nd day of May 1781 – that he resided in the County of Amherst when he entered the service. He was in no battle – that he marched from the Albemarle Barracks to Winchester, and from thence to the New barracks in the County of Frederick, from five to seven miles from Winchester, where he was stationed from June 1780 till the spring following, in the said Company commanded by Captain Porter. That he has no documentary evidence of his service except the certificate of Hudson Martin [pension application S7175], paymaster to said Regiment of Guards.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.
Interrogatories made by the Court, and answers of the applicant:

William hisXmark Allen

Question. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was told by my parents that I was born in the County of Amherst (then Albemarle) but the County of Albemarle was afterwards divided and is now Nelson. I was born, as I was told the 3rd day of October 1749.

Question. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. There was a record in an old Bible, but I can't tell what has become of it.

Question. Where were you living when you entered into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I lived in the County of Amherst and have continued to live there till the County was divided, and still live in the County of Nelson, being a part of Amherst.

Question. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute?

Answer. I enlisted in the Regiment of Guards in a company commanded by Captain Porter, at the old barracks in Albemarle.

Question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you were stationed, such continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. There was a Captain Garland, Burley or Bundly or some such name [Garland Burnley], there was another Captain [Richard P.] White, Maj. Burton, one Captain [George] Rice, but I think he resigned, Lieutenant Pettis, Lieut. Porter – there was a Capt James Garland who commanded a company of Militia, he was killed on the Grand rounds, by a young man on post, by the name of Mansfield. Col. Frank Taylor and Capt. Porter with whom I served – they served at the Barracks with me. I served as Guard to the barracks in Albemarle, and then marched the prisoners to the barracks near Winchester, where I served the balance of my service.

Question. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I received a discharge, I think signed by Col. Frank Taylor. the discharge was delivered some years after to one John Bryant who undertook to get back pay for several soldiers – since which I have never seen Bryant, nor knows what he done with the discharge.

Question. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. William Harris and Joseph Matthews.

“Nelson County, May 22nd 1830.

This may certify that from a return made of Capt. Porters Company of the Regiment of Guards now in my possession. That William Allen a soldier in the said company enlisted the 16th June 1779 and was discharged the 22nd day of May 1781, during which time he drew of the public clothing 1 Coat, 1 Vest, 2 pr Breeches, 4 Shirts, 3 pair Stockings, 7 pair shoes, 1 hatt, 1 stock, 1 pr Buckles, 1 blankett, 1 pair overalls, & 1 hunting shirt. Given under my hand the date first above.

Hudson Martin, then paymaster to the Regiment of guards appointed by Patrick Henry esq'r. Governor of Virginia.”

NOTE: On 31 May 1854 in Kanawha County VA Dolly Allen applied for a pension as the widow of William Allen. As supporting evidence the file includes an original family record certified by William H. Allen and Landen Allen, and transcribed below. On 31 Oct 1855 Dolly Allen applied for bounty land, certified by James M. Allen. On 11 April 1866 she applied for restoration of her pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War.

William Allen and Dolly his wife was married December 16th 1807

Barbara L. Allen Daughter of Wm. & Dolly Allen was born December 16th 1807

George W. Allen was born March 26th 1810

Jesse J. Allen was born July 16th 1813

William H. Allen was Born June 14th 1816

Landen C. Allen was Born June 6th 1819

Sally B. Allen was Born May 9th 1822

James M. Allen was born July 8th 1825

Elizabeth M. Allen was born April 14th 1828

Andrew Jackson Allen was born June 10th 1831

William Allen died March 6th 1838 at Nelson C. H.