

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

Pension Application of William Asherst W25361

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky, Caldwell County SS.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court, before Wm Lander James C Miller and Morton A. Rucker, justices of the county court of said county, now sitting, William Asherst, a resident of said county and state, aged about seventy 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 7 1832: That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. That in the county of Augusta state of Virginia, in the latter part of the year 1780 he was drafted in the militia of that state for a tour of three months on an expedition to the Monongahela to guard and protect that frontier – that in this tour he served under Captain James Trimble & Lt. Bell that no officer of a higher grade commanded in this expedition, that he now remembers; but the provisions of the troops were provided by Colonel Matthews [sic: Sampson Mathews] (whom he knew well.) That after serving out this tour of three months, he was discharged, and on arriving at home he again stood his draft for another tour of three months, and was drafted. This was in pursuance of orders received to raise militia immediately to join Genl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] who was then in command of the Suthern Army, and was retreating into North Carolina before Cornwallis. That as soon as the draft was made, we were ordered to rendezvouze at Colo. Taze's [probably Teas's] on South river near Rockfish gap, where the horses of the troops were valued. That Capt. Geo. Moffitt [sic: George Moffett] commanded his company to the place of rendesvouze, after which he was under the command of Capt. Christie [probably Christian]. That owing to various circumstances, they did not join Green until a few days before the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. That when they joined Green, Capt. Christie's company was attached to the Regt. commanded by Col. [William] Campbell. By this time the most of the militia expected had arrived, and Genl. Green took his stand at Guilford & there determined to await the approach of the army; and on the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of March, the British came up, and the battle of Guilford commenced, in which he fought, and feels he done his duty. That Col. Campbell's whole Regt. was engaged in this battle, and he could relate many of the circumstances of that engagement; but deems it unnecessary. He would mention however, that he does not remember at this time whether more than two Virginia militia Brigades were in that action, and they were commanded by [Gen. Robert] Lawson & Stephens [sic: Gen. Edward Stevens] as well as he remembers. After the battle Green's forces assembled at the Iron works on Troublesome Creek, the place appointed to rendezvous in case of a defeat. That he continued in this service until the full term of service was out, and was again honorably discharged, and was not again called out, having served two terms of three months each. He states, that he has no documentary evidence in his possession which would prove his service; and that he knows of no person now living who could do it – he served with one James Sprowl and Abel Ritchey and many others, but whether they are living he does not know, as he moved from Virginia many years ago, and has not heard from them for many years. That the said Sprowl moved to this State in an early time, but where he settled or whether he is now living he does not know. 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 whatever.

Question by the court1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in Hallifax [sic: Halifax] county, Virginia about the year 1762 as well as I can remember from the best information I have from my relations.

By the Court 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I have none – it is by tradition alone that I have any knowledge of it.

By the Court 3. Where were you living when you entered the service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live?

Answer. When I entered the service I was living in Augusta County, having moved there when quite young; and since the Revolution I lived awhile in Virginia – awhile in Tennessee, and for the twelve years in this County (Caldwell)

By the Court 4. How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer. I was drafted into the service.

By the Court 5. State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your services.

Answer. In my first expedition all were militia as I believe. In the expedition under Green, I did not have an opportunity to become acquainted with the Regular officers in Green's army. There were some Maryland troops under Col. [Otho Holland] Williams in this army, and Col. [Henry] Lee also. There was also a North Carolina militia Brigade under Genl. [John] Butler that I remember, and may be, others.

By the court 6, Did you ever receive any discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I received discharges from both tours of duty – the first was given by my captain (Trimble) the second, I think was given by Capt Christie; both of which are worn out & lost.

By the Court 7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I am known to the Hon. E. Lyon, Enoch Prince, James Clinton, James Perry, Jas Neely, James Morse Esqr and many others

Sworn to and subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

[signed] William Asherst

NOTE: On 15 May 1854 Mary Asherst, "from her best recollection nearly 65," applied for a pension stating that as a widow named Mary Nash she married William Asherst on 29 November 1831, and that "he went to the adjoining county of Crittenden in this State towards the latter part of January 1851 to see his son William, and was there taken ill and died at his son Williams residence on the 16th day of February 1851." In the file is a copy of a bond signed in Livingston County KY on 29 Nov 1831 by William "Asher" and James Nash for the marriage of "Asher" to Polly Nash, and the record of the marriage on the same date. One of the witnesses to her application was Floyd A. Nash, 34. On 19 Apr 1855 Mary Asherst applied for bounty land.