

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Allison W3207

Catharine Allison

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

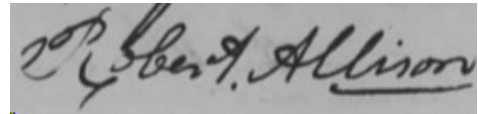
To the Honorable John Colhoun Esq. [sic: John C. Calhoun] Secretary of the Department of War.
The Petition of Robert Allison formerly a commissioned officer of the Revolutionary Army

Respectfully represents

That your Petitioner entered the service in 1775 as a private under — Doudle [sic: Michael Doudel] at Little York, Pennsylvania from whence he marched to Boston from thence he marched as a Volunteer under [Benedict] Arnold to Quebec. After the death of Montgomery [Gen. Richard Montgomery, 1 Jan 1776] he joined Conl Irwins [sic: William Irvine's] Reg't in Canada. Afterwards you petitioner served under Colnl Thomas Hartley in one of the 16 additional Regts. as Ensign, Lieutenant & adjutant and continued on in the 11th Pennsylvania Reg't untill they were consolidated into 6 Regts and continued in the third of said Regts as Lieutenant from the 16th day of March 1780 (as per commission bearing date the 22^d day of March 1780 taking rank from 16th signed Sam. Huntington, Presd't. of Congress attest Jos Carleton Secty Board of War) Said Regt being under the command of Colnl Thomas Craig untill the fall of 1783 when the army was disbanded at Lancaster in Pennsylvania. That your Petitioner never left the service from 1775 untill the end of the war, not even on furlough.

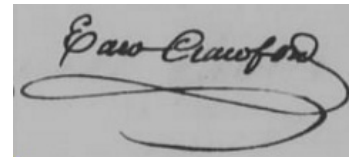
That our petitioner is a resident Citizen of the United States at Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. That your Petitioner is, "by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, in need of assistance from his Country for support."

You Petitioner therefore pray the Honorable the Secretary of the War Department, that if he be satisfied our petitioner comes under the provisions of the act of Congress, passed the 18th day of March 1818, such order may be taken upon his prayer as shall be warranted by said Act. And as in duty bound will ever pray &c



Franklin County Pennsylvania St

Be it remembered that Edward Crawford [pension application S12625] appeared before me the subscriber one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said County who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he was an officer in the Revolutionary Army and well knew the petitioner Robert Allison as an officer in said Army and that he continued therein as stated in his petition and further saith not this 27th day of March 1818



District of Pennsylvania Ss.

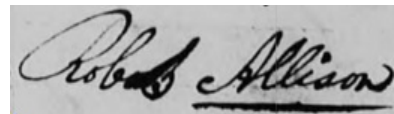
At a Court of Common pleas holden by adjournment at the Borough of Chambersburg in & for the County of Franklin in and State of Pennsylvania on the fourteenth day of June one thousand eight hundred and twenty before Archibald Bard & Isaac Eaton Esquires Judges of the said Court.

Personally appeared in open Court, the said Court being a court of Record by the Constitution and Laws of Pennsylvania, in and for the said County of Franklin. Robert Allison aged sixty two years resident in the Borough of Chambersburg in the said County who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows. That in March 1775 he joined Capt. Dowdles company of Volunteers raised at York Pennsylvania in Col. [William] Thompson's Regiment of Riflemen and Marched to Boston & was at the Battle of Bunker's Hill in June 1775 [17 Jun 1775]. In the

fall of that year he volunteered in the expedition to Canada and marched to Quebec in Capt. Smith's Company of Riflemen under the command of Gen'l. Arnold and was in the Attack on Quebec on the first of January 1776. In May 1776 he met the 6th Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Col. Irvin at St. John's in Canada and joined Capt. McCleary's Company in said Regiment and was at the battle of Three Rivers in June [8 Jun 1776] under Gen'l. Thompson and the attack of the Fleet on Lake Champlain in October under Gen'ls. Arnold & [David] Waterbury [11 Oct 1776]. He afterwards returned to Pennsylvania and in March 1777 enlisted in the continental established army in Capt. Bushe's [possibly Lewis Bush's] Company in one of the 16 additional Regiments then commanded by Col. Thomas Hartley. That he shortly after was promoted and became an Ensign. In June 1777 he was in the attack on the Enemy at Brunswick under Gen'l. [Anthony] Wayne. In Sept. 1777 he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] & Paoli [sic: Paoli, 21 Sep 1777] under Gen'l. Wayne and in October 1777 he was in the Battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777]. He was appointed Lieutenant in the 3^d Pennsylvania Regiment as will appear by his commission now in the war office. In June 1778 he was in the Battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], and immediately afterward, marched towards Wyoming [near present Wilkes-Barre PA] against the Indians & in August was at the defeat of Butler & the Indians below Wyolusing under Col. Hartley [see endnote]

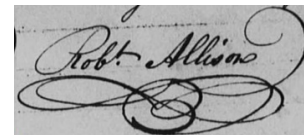
In June 1779 the said reg't. was incorporated with Col. [John] Patton's Regiment also one of the 16 additional Regiments & then became the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment & was commanded by Lieut. Col. A. Halley and Deponent was at the Defeat of the Indians in October 1779 under Gen'l. Sullivan [see endnote]. In 1781 He was again transferred into the 3^d Pennsylvania Regiment commanded by Col. Thomas Craig in which he continued until the end of the war & was disbanded at Lancaster Penn'a. in December 1783. He was at the Battle of Green Springs in Virginia in June 1781 [sic: 6 Jul 1781] under Gen'l. Wayne – also at siege of York & capture of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and in the Defeat of the enemy near Savanna 24th May 1782 [at Sharon GA] by Gen'l. Wayne. That his original Declaration was made on or about the twenty eighth day of March 1818 and that he has received a pension & his certificate is dated 30th June 1818 & numbered 1172.

And 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 persons 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. This Deponent further declares that he is by occupation a labourer but from age, pains & infirmities has long been unable to maintain himself & his family, & that he is now on the pension List of the United States & receives a pension of eighty dollars per annum from the State of Pennsylvania. That his family consists of his wife Katharine aged about fifty six years & very frail – three Daughters & one son his Eldest daughter Molly aged twenty four years – Margaret aged twenty two, Katharine aged seventeen years & his son William aged twenty three years now learning a Trade

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Allison". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Schedule of Income & property

The Declarant states that he has no other income except eighty Dollars per annum a pension from the State of Pennsylvania and that he has no property whatever with the exception of his clothing & bedding

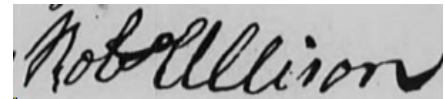
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robt. Allison". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act, entitled “an act for the relief of certain surviving officers & soldiers of the army of the Revolution” approved on the 15th of May 1828, I Robert Allison of Chambersburg in the County of Franklin in the State of Pennsylv’a. do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental Line of the army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the war, to the time when the arrangement of the army provided by the resolves of Congress of the 3^d and 21st of October 1780, was carried into effect, and that I was reduced under that arrangement, at which period I was a Lieut. in the third Regiment of the penn’a Line.

And I also declare that I afterwards received Certificates (commonly called Commutation certificates) for a sum equal to the am’t. of five years full pay; which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress of the 22^d of March 1783 instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October 1780.

And I do further declare, that I have received of the United States, as a pensioner, since the 3^d of March 1826 four hundred & eighty Dollars paid to me by the Agent for paying pensions, in the State of Pennsylvania.

Witness my hand this 6th day of June in the year 1828.



NOTES:

“in August was at the defeat of Butler & the Indians below Wyolusing under Col. Hartley” appears to be a reference to the defeat by Gen. John Sullivan on 29 Aug 1779 of Gen. John Butler, who had led the attack at Wyoming in the previous year. John Butler was defeated near Newtown NY (6 mi SE of Elmira), about 40 mi NW of Wyalusing PA. Allison also apparently refers to this engagement as “the Defeat of the Indians in October 1779 under Gen’l. Sullivans.”

On 17 Aug 1838 Jacob Snider stated that Robert Allison “had a command as Major or Captain in the army which that year [1794] marched to the west to suppress the Insurrection Pennsylvania called the Whiskey War.”

On 17 Aug 1838 Catharine Allison applied for a pension stating that she was married to Robert Allison in 1783 by James Long, a Presbyterian minister, and her husband died on 24 April 1836. She listed their children as follows: “John Allison Born the 11th day of Aug 1786 – Alexander Allison Born the 16th Dec 1787, Molley Allison Born the 7th Dec 1789 – Robert Allison Born the 21 Nov 1791 – Benjamin F Allison Born 21 February 1793 Margaret Stewart Allison Born 1 Nov 1795 – James & William Twins, born 1797 – Catharine Evelen Nov 1 1799.” On 22 Aug 1838 their daughter Molley Whetston certified her mother’s marriage. On 25 April 1843 Catharine Allison was said to be 73.

On 17 July 1844 Jacob Snider certified that Catharine Allison was a daughter of Charles McCormick. On 18 July 1844 Catharine Allison applied for an increase in her late husband’s pension and her own because he had served as a staff officer. On 16 July 1844 Michael Frederick (pension application S41552) certified that he knew Robert Allison to have been an Adjutant in the Revolutionary War, and that he was “a good and brave soldier but a very strict and severe officer – that he saw him one time shave a man with his penknife because he came on parade with too long a beard.”

On 5 June 1849 Mary Whetston applied for the part of her father’s pension still due at the time of her mother’s death on 8 Feb 1846. She stated that two other children also survived their mother: Margaret Kenedy and Emalina Allison.