

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Allen Blair W5833

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia

On this 15th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Justices of Amherst County Court now sitting Allen Blair a resident of the said County and State of Virginia aged 78 years on the 8th day of July last who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he was born in the neighbourhood of Rockfish River, then the County of Amherst (but now Nelson) on the 8th July 1754 a knowledge of which fact he derived from a Register kept by his father, in his lifetime, which Register was given to some of his family but where it now is he does not know. That sometime before the defeat of Gen'l Gates [Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780] (the month or year he does not recollect) he was drafted from the Militia of the County of Amherst where he then and has ever since resided to serve three months in that campaign and the company to which he was attached was commanded by Capt Younger Landrum and was ordered to march and to join the said Gates in the South. That he did not serve out this tour but shortly after he was drafted employed a certain William Bowman as his substitute who did. That in the year 1781 he was again drafted for a tour of three months as a private Soldier to go on the Guilford expedition and marched from the County of Amherst and served the said tour under the command of Capt Younger Landrum. That he was not engaged in the Battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], but was so close to to the scene of action that he saw the dead and wounded removed from the field of Battle. That he remembers seeing Genl Edward Stevens removed from the battleground badly wounded in the thigh. That in that expedition he saw the following officers of the Regular Army viz. Genl Nathaniel Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] Coln. William Washington Henry Lee and General [John] Butler. That he did not obtain any discharge from this service, that he recollects. if he did it has been lost and he does not know that there is any living witness by whom he can prove this tour of duty except Capt. William Turner [pension application W6321] a resident of this County who was the orderly sergeant of the company to which he was attached and whose examination is hereto annexed. That shortly after his discharge from the Guilford service he was again drafted into the service for a three months tour and marched from the County of Amherst early in the month of July 1781 under the Command of Capt John Loving and was marched to the town of Williamsburg, that shortly after reaching that place he was taken sick of fever, and was sent to what was called the long hospital near to Williamsburg, where he was confined for a considerable time; a short time before the close investment of York Town [Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781] he was discharged from the hospital and sent to what was called the new Barracks. Not long after which orders came to the commandant at the Barracks to march the forces stationed there to join in the siege of York Town. But before the troops marched thence he was discharged the service his time having nearly expired and his health in the opinion of the Sergeant [Surgeon?] being too feeble to undergo the fatigues of active service. That he set out for his home in the County of Amherst and reached it on the 17th day of October 1781. That from this service he did receive a discharge in writing which is herewith forwarded [not found]. That he served three months the second tour and three months the third making six months besides the tour for which he employed a substitute. That he has no other documentary evidence nor knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his said services but that before referred to. 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 any agency in any State

Allen Blair

Interrogatories propounded by the Court

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in 1754 on the 8th day of July in the County of Amherst, that part of which is now Nelson County.

2<sup>d</sup> Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

Answer. I have no record of my age, but I have seen the family register, but do not know what member of the family now has it.

3<sup>d</sup> Where were you living when called into service - where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living when called into service on Dutch Creek in the County of Amherst now Nelson. Since the Revolutionary War I have lived in the same County where I now live viz. the County of Amherst.

4th. How were you called into the services, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

Answer. I was drafted from my division every tour of service.

5th. 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 our service?

Answer. In answer to this interrogatory the applicant repeated the substance of his declaration and referred to that as his answer.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it?

Answer. I have no recollection of having rec'd a discharge from any tour except the last. I did receive a discharge from that tour which is signed by the Capt who commanded me Viz John Loving which discharge is herewith forwarded.

7th 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 Rev'd William Wright and to Capt William Turner and expect that they will testify to my good character and as to my services.

NOTE: On 21 Aug 1838 Mary Ann Blair, 76, applied for a pension stating that she married Allen Blair on 22 Dec 1778, and he died 23 Apr 1835. With her application is a copy of a bond signed 14 Dec 1778 by Allen Blair and John Staples for the marriage of Blair to Mary Ann Staples. Also in the file is a letter from her son, John S. Blair, dated Lynchburg VA, 20 Oct 1838.