

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

Pension application of Albrittian (Albertain) Drake W8676 Ruth fn78NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 3/12/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 67]

State of Kentucky Muhlenberg County

On this 29th day of September 1832 personally appeared before me William Campbell a Justice of the peace for the State and County Allbritain Drake a resident of Muhlenberg County aged 73 years who being 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 seventh of June 1832 - that he entered the Army of the United States as a private in the year 1777 under the following named officers and served as herein stated that [he] entered the service for three months under Colonel Long does not recollect who commanded the company we were marched to six runs on our way to Moore's Creek to drive the Tories from that place General Caswell defeated the Tories before we arrived & we did arrive at that place but on receiving information of the defeat we returned home & were discharged he entered the service of the United States under General Jones Hardy Gaddy commanded the company your affiant was Lieutenant and Ensign not recollected were started to South Carolina & were marched [to] Charlotte where General Jones refused to cross the line into South Carolina but permitted his troops to enlist in the United States service which many of them did we were stationed in Charlotte until about the expiration of our [time] and marched back & then discharged that shortly after our return home the Governor of North Carolina called out late light horse of Nash County to guard him from Roanoke River to Fayetteville the seat of government in North Carolina the Captain of the Company was William Avint your affiant Lieutenant cornet not recollected we guarded the Governor until he considered himself says we were then ordered to march to the Red Field Ford to surprise & take Colonel Fanning who commanded the Tories & was doing much mischief at that time we could not find the Fanning we were placed under Colonel Maybin [Mebane?] by General Griffin who marched us through the Country to take Fanning officers we were then marched to Hillsboro & were marched to a mountain & surrounded it and took one of Fanning's men & hung him the name of the Mountain not recollected we were then marched home your affiant being one of the County light horse was not discharged we were continued in the service in Nash County as Rangers to suppress the Tories about one half of the County being of that party & continued in that service during the war was frequently called out of the County upon short periods of service he was in no battle but in skirmish with Captain Beard who commanded the Tories in which your affiant and his Father was attacked by Beard and his company in which your affiant his father were taken prisoners we were released immediately after by the light horse company commanded by Captain Troutman Captain Beard was taken that night & hung after we were released that he moved from Nash County North Carolina to Robertson County [sic, Robeson County] in same

State 1787 that he moved from Robertson County Carolina to Muhlenberg County Kentucky in 1809 where he has resided ever since. That he has no documentary evidence of his service that his discharges are lost or mislaid. 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/ A. B. Drake

[fn p. 4: family record]

Ruthy Collins, after wife of Albrittian Drake was born Nov. 12th 1765

John Drake was born May 26th 1786

Sophia Voluntine Drake was born January 5th 1789

Silas Drake was born Nov 4th 1791

Mosley Collins Drake was born May 5th 1795

James Perry Drake was born Sept. 15th 1797

Benjamine Michael Drake was born Sept. 11th 1800

William Drake was born December 14th 1804

Edmund Drake was born May 21st 1807

Lewis Parker

Silas Drake Son of Albritain Drake and Ruthy Drake His wife was born November the 4th Day in the year of our Lord 1792 wrote by Silas Drake this the 29th Day of July 1810

Martha Wills Was born December the 25 day in the year of our Lord 1791

[fn p. 13]

State of Kentucky Muhlenberg County

On this 23rd day of October 1833 personally appeared before me William Campbell a Justice of the peace for said County Allbriton Drake a citizen of said County aged seventy-four who being 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit

He entered the Army of the United States as a private in the month of October 1777: as a volunteer for three months [in] the Regiment commanded by Colonel Long the name of the Captain in my first declaration I stated that I did not recollect, but I now recollect that it was Captain Gaddy . We were marched to the six runs on our way to Moore's Creek in North Carolina in order to drive a large number of Tories that had embodied near said Creek. General Caswell there engaged them & defeated the Tory Army before the Company to which I was attached joined Caswell. We were in hearing but could not get up in time to take a part with the General in this engagement the bridge was destroyed. We were discharged for that tower [tour] of duty by Colonel Long. And about the first of January 1778 he again entered the service of the United States as a Lieutenant in a company commanded by Captain Avan the Battalion by Major Peoples all under command of General Jones. We were received as three months volunteers. We started for South Carolina we were marched to Charlotte on or near the State line. Here General Jones after keeping the troops sometime refused to cross the State line and march into South Carolina the Tories had become very troublesome in North Carolina was one cause I presume of his unwillingness to leave the State of North Carolina, but he nevertheless published an order that all those who are willing to enlist in the regular service might do so and many of them did

enlist in that service those that did not were stationed at Charlotte until about the time of the expiration of the three months when we were discharged by order of General Jones.

Shortly after I returned home say April 1778 the Governor of North Carolina called out the light horse troops of Nash County to guard him to Fayetteville the then seat of government. The Captain was Avent myself Lieutenant. The Governor ordered Maj. Griffen (who commanded our troops then) to march to the red field ford in order to surprise the Tories commanded by Colonel Fanning & who was doing much mischief at that time but failing in our enterprise we were placed under the command of Colonel Maybin [Mebane?] by General Griffen who marched us all through the Country in search of Fanning. We went to Hillsboro & from there to a mountain which we surrounded & took one of Fanning's men & hung him the name of the mountain not recollected. We were then marched home the last of July or first of August 1778. The company to which I was attached being the light horse of the County we were not discharged, but were kept up as Rangers being a volunteer Company in the service of the State. I was in no general engagement -- Had a skirmish with Captain Beard & his Tories. This deponent and his Father were taken prisoners but were shortly released by the Company of Captain Trouten and Captain Beard was taken prisoner & hung. He is not certain as to the length of time that this service continued but he will say that he was not discharged until sometime in the fall of the year 1782 and was not at liberty to engage in any civil pursuit during the time. He removed from Nash County in North Carolina to Robertson County [sic, Robeson County] in the same State in the year 1787. That he removed from Robertson County North Carolina to Muhlenberg County Kentucky in the year 1809, where he has resided ever since. That he has no documentary evidence of his service and has lost all of his discharges. 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. And if the department requires his Commission he cannot produce it as the same is so lost or mislaid that he cannot reduce it, therefore claims his pension as a private. He knows of no person but Mr. Horn that he can prove any of his services by.

S/ Alb. Drake

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ W. Campbell, JP

1st Where & in what year were you born

I was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina in the year 1760.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it

I have none nor never had I have kept my age by that of my wife as she was born & raised near my father's & there is only five years difference in our ages.

3rd Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war & where do you now live

I was living in Nash County North Carolina when I entered the service I then removed to Robertson County North Carolina and from there I removed to Muhlenberg County Kentucky where I now reside

4th how were you called into service were you drafted were you volunteer, or were you a substitute

I was always a volunteer

5th State the names of the regular officers or some of them who were with the troops where you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect

The length of time is such that I can't recollect any other officers than those already named except General Davy & Captain Hogg

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

I received a discharge from Colonel Long & from General Jones or Major Peoples which are lost

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution

Maj. M. Wells The Honbl. Alney McLean James Weir Edward Rumsey & Col. Francis P. Pennington are of that number

[Isaac Bard, a clergyman, and Charles F. Wing gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 25]

Nash County: Mr. Albrittain Drake one of the Light horse for said County is hereby Discharged of a Tower of Duty Given under my hand the 13 December 1880

S/ Thomas Hunter, Capt.

[fn p. 28]

Nash County: you are hereby to impress two good horses two saddles and bridles and two good guns all the swords and cause them to be delivered to one of the Commanding Officers at Nash Court house on Thursday 30th instant. Given under my hand and seal August 26, 1781

S/ Thos. Hunter, JP

To Brittan Drake
to Execute

S/ Hardy Griffin, JP

[fn p. 46]

The amendment of Albarton Drake to his declaration for pension under the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832

He would amend that part of his declaration on the subject of discharge. He will explain year that he was a Lieutenant in the Company as stated in his Original declaration that they served a tower of ninety days that after returning to their place of rendezvous such part of the company that wished to be discharged received and those that were willing to reenlist did so and the company again made up of enlistments for the further Term of ninety days and in this way he continued in the service without receiving a regular discharge for the full length of time as stated in his Original and amended declaration.

S/ Albrittain Drake

[fn p49: On October 16, 1832, in Simpson County, Kentucky, John Copeland gave a supporting affidavit saying that he was in service with Drake for 2 years or upwards, but the text of his affidavit is mostly too faint to decipher.]

[fn p. 60]

The amendment of Albriton Drake to his Declaration for a Pension

He states explicitly that he entered the service of the United States he thinks in May 1777 and served his full tour of three months as stated in his Original declaration under Captain Gady. That in the commencement of 1778 he entered the service in a troop of light horse as a private and served three months he thinks when he was promoted to the office of Lieutenant in the

Company as stated in the aforesaid declaration and he continued to occupy that office commanded a part of the time by Captain Clinch who was a Colonel in the Militia. The Company was afterwards commanded by Captain Ellen and lastly by Captain Avent attached to war under command a part of the time of Major Peoples and the other officers stated in his Original declaration until after the surrender of Cornwallis and until November 1781.

As to the seven interrogatories propounded by the department he answers as follows

I was born in Edgecombe County North Carolina and lived there until the division of the County when my father was stricken off to Nash County. I can't tell certainly having no record of my age but I entered the service young not exceeding 17 years old at the time I was living in Nash County North Carolina when I entered the service I left school for the purpose of serving my Country as a soldier. I was always a volunteer, believing it to be every young man's duty to defend the liberties of his Country.

I have in my Original declaration stated my Officers as near as I can now recollect them; together with what is here given.

I can now state that Major M. Wells, Honbl. Alney McLean, James Weir, Edward Rumsey, Col. F. P. Pennington all persons who are my neighbors and who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my Services as a soldier of the Revolution.

This deponent states unhesitatingly that he was constantly and actively employed during the whole time stated in his declaration in the service of the United States and was not engaged in any civil pursuit. He states that from his infirmity and age he cannot at this late period recollect days & periods of time together with any transactions that took place at the time. Nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove them. From the foregoing statements he concedes that he ought receive from the Government the provision that his beloved Country has made for the Old soldiers, but should it be withheld long this deponent will be altogether deprived of its benefits as he cannot expect to linger here much longer.

S/ A. B. Drake

Commonwealth of Kentucky Muhlenberg County

This day Albriton Drake at his own house in the County aforesaid made oath before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for said County that the matters and things stated in the foregoing Amended declaration are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Given under my hand this 6th day of June 1833.

S/ Strother Jones, JP

[fn p. 64 is a certificate given by Silas Drake to the reputation of Nathan Horn to whose affidavit this certificate is attached—I could find no affidavit given by Nathan Horn.]

[fn p. 53]

State of Kentucky Logan County

I Grigsly Rush a citizen of Logan County in the State of Kentucky being called on do hereby certify that I have for a number of years been well acquainted with old Mr. Albrittain Drake of Muhlenberg County in the State aforesaid and old Captain Nathan Corn of Simpson County and state aforesaid. And a camp meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Kennerly's Cappel [sic, Chapel?] in the said County of Logan some twelve or fifteen years past the precise time not now recollected the above named old Gentlemen were there attending said meeting. Drake during the interval sang a song. Sworn when he was done singing inquired of the bystanders for his name and being informed that he was Albritton Drake walked off with him some thirty steps from where I was standing and sat down on a log together. And after setting

some time together and conversing embraced each other and seemed to [indecipherable word] freely since that time frequently in conversation both with Horn and Drake separately and a part. They have both stated to me that after taking their seat on the log that Horn asked Drake if he knew him he answered no. Horn then asked him if he knew who was trumpeter and fifer of the horse company of some certain Regiment in the revolutionary war (the Regiment I do not now recollect). Drake answered that he was one and Nathan Horn the other but surely this was not Nathan Horn. Horn replied yes the same Nathan Horn after which they embraced each other as above stated I have also heard them state other circumstance at different times. During their said service in the horse company they went once to try to catch an outlier the morning being wet in charging a fence Horn got thrown on a log pile which had been set on fire and gone out and having on a white hunting shirt got very much smutted when they got to the house the man's wife abused Horn very much and made many grave remarks about his hunting shirt about which said Drake frequently plagued & laughed at him during their Service aforesaid in the Army these all the most remarkable circumstances which I now recollect to have heard them state in regard to their revolutionary Struggles. I believe them both to be reparable man on whose statement with the utmost confidence may be reposed.

Given under my hand this 17th day of June 1834

S/ Grigsby Rush

[Veteran died November 14, 1835. Ruth Drake, widow of the veteran, died March 4, 1847]