Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Aldredge S16308 f22NC
Transcribed by Will Graves 6/13/07 rev'd 7/11/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: the pages as filed are scrambled: I've transcribed them in what I believe the proper sequence.]

[p 10]
Georgia, Wilkes County

On this 22nd day of July 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Superior Court of said County now sitting William Aldredge a resident of said County and State aged Seventy nine years the 26th day of January 1833 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 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated. He volunteered under Captain Colwell [David Caldwell] in the Spring of 1776: that there was a Regiment of volunteers to which he belonged commanded by Colonel Fulsome [?]: that he volunteered for three months though he cannot recollect the day he volunteered; that he continued to serve under this engagement for at least two months when his company was sent or to return home to protect the country from the Indians (Cherokees) but this applicant having been taken Sick could not march with the corps that was sent against them. That he resided in the County of Rowan at the time of entering the service. He cannot recollect the precise time when he left the Service, and it was in the Summer of 1776: that he was in no engagement during this term of Service: that he marched first to a place called Cross Creek (in what County he does not know but believes it was at the place where Fayetteville now stands) in [p 11] about a mile, or half a mile, from Cape Fear River N.C. That the object of his company having been marched there was as he understood, to keep the Tories in subjection, who had, somewhere in that neighborhood shortly previous been defeated (he thinks by Caswell [Richard Caswell]). That during this term he came in contact with no regular troops or officers.

That the winter afterwards two regiments volunteered to go to Charleston S. C. that this applicant volunteered under the same Captain Colwell, the time not exactly recollected, though, it was early in 1777, say about the first of January, he recollects it was in that month. That he then lived in the same County (Rowan N. C.) and volunteered for three months that he cannot recollect the names of any other officers in his Regiment, except Captain Colwell and Colonel Lock (Francis he thinks was his first name) [Francis Locke] who commanded the Regiment this applicant was in: that he was in no battle during this engagement. That he marched to a place called the Pine Tree [Camden South Carolina] on the road to Charleston S. C. within a few miles of the Wateree River where his Regiment received orders to stop, where they halted, and remained there until they were regularly discharged: that he Served in this tour of three months, and left the Service (he thinks) about the last of March 1777. That during this engagement he frequently saw the soldiers and officers of the fourth Regiment of continentals but does not recollect the names of any unless it be Captains Cole & Smith (as he thinks were their names).

[p 8]
That after he returned from the tour last above named he remained at home as a minute man, doing Service in an irregular manner, against the Tories in short tours, of from one, to two & three

weeks, as a volunteer under various officers (Captains Hall [Hugh Hall], Cleveland [perhaps Benjamin Cleveland] & General William Davidson [William Lee Davidson] only being now recollected). The time that he entered the Service he cannot recollect, neither can he the time of quitting it. All that he can now say is that it was between 1777 & 1781. That during this irregular service he was in no engagement but recollects to have guarded about three hundred prisoners to Salisbury some short time before General Davidson was killed on the Catawba River [Davidson was killed at Cowan's Ford: February 1, 1781]. That this Service was rendered in North Carolina in the neighborhood of Rowan County – that he cannot say how many months he Served during this irregular Service but can safely Say it was as long as one month all put together.

That afterwards he thinks about March 1781 he volunteered under Captain Hugh Hall in a horse company for one month-- that he Served out Said month – that at the time of entering this Service he resided in Rowan County N. C. -- That during this tour he was under General Pickens [Andrew Pickens], and went in pursuit of Tarleton [Banastre Tarleton] towards Hillsboro and while in pursuit of him, his company fell in with, and had an engagement with a body of Tories on one evening, in the neighborhood of Haw River, at a place called Holts race pathes [sic, Holt's Race Paths],[1] near a small Creek called (as he thinks) Alamance Creek [p 9] and on the next morning they pursued Tarleton nearly to Hillsboro, and then returned home. That he has no documentary evidence of his Service, unless exhibit (A) hereto annexed, be considered such; and which was given him by Captain Graham & Lieutenant Mitchell & the company of militia to which he belonged, after the war; and the other citizens of his then neighborhood; and attested by David Caldwell, then (JP) & who was the same Captain Caldwell under whom he served as above stated: and that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his Service.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension He whole of the Agency of any State.

S/ Wm Aldredge

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year first aforesaid in open court

Attest: S/ John H. Dyson, Clk

Georgia, Wilkes County

[Wyche Jackson, a clergyman, and Thomas Wootten gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 6]

Interrogatories propounded to William Aldredge by the Court on his application for a pension and his answers to the Same.

1st: Where and in what year were you born?

In Rowan County N. C. on the 26th day of January 1754 as he has always understood and believes

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

Ans: I have none, except what I have made myself, & which is now at home.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: When called into Service, I lived in Rowan County NC. Since the Revolutionary war, I moved to Spartanburg District, S. C., where I resided about six years. I then, about the year 1793, moved to Columbia County, State of Georgia, remained there three years; then moved to Augusta, State of Georgia, lived there four or five years, and then removed to Wilkes County, State of Georgia where he now resides.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

---

1 The applicant is referring to the engagement more commonly called “Pyle's Defeat” or “Pyle's Massacre” which occurred on February 25, 1781.

Ans: I volunteered every time.
5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and [p 7] Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.
Ans: I have answered this Interrogatory as fully as my memory now serves me, in the declaration above made, except, that Colonel, or General Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] was at the battle with the Tories near Haw River, at Holt's race paths above mentioned, with his troop of dragoons.
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?
Ans: I never received a written discharge.
7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.
Ans: Thomas Wootten& Wyche Jackson

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court this 22 July 1833.

S/ Wm Aldredge

S/ John H. Dyson, Clk

North Carolina, Rowan Countey [sic] These are to sartif [sic, certify] that the Bearer hearof [sic, hereof] William Alrigde [sic] Served in this Company for som [sic] cornsiderable [sic] time past During the present ware [sic, war] and has allways [sic] behaived [sic] himselfe [sic] as a true friend to his Country and as a hounist [sic, honest] man given under our hands this Seventeenth Day of March 1784

S/ Dd Caldwell, JP

(Exhibit A)

S/ John Graham, Capt.
S/ Jesse Mitchell
S/ Thos Young
S/ Archibald McConnell [? McCormick?]
S/ John Bradmore [?]
S/ Daniel McCollum

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of $20.83 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the infantry & cavalry for 6 months in the North Carolina militia.]