

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph John Alston S6498

f35NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 11/27/10 & 7/23/14

[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.]

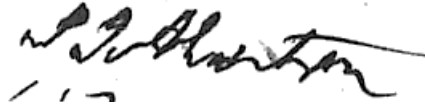
State of North Carolina, Halifax County

On this 21st day of February 1844 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Halifax now sitting Colonel Joseph John Alston a resident of the said County aged Eighty one 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 7th of June 1832. That he is a native citizen of Halifax County and was born on the 13th day of June 1763. In the month of February the 15th day 1781 he was mustered into a troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Joseph Hawkins, and marched with the troops thus raised to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene]; This Troop of Cavalry was not regularly attached to those sent to join the Army, it was employed in collecting forage; and information on the enemy then pursuing General Greene we were in this service up to the battle of Guilford; and after it we were employed for some time in collecting the militia dispersed in that action; and in obtaining provisions for our Army and preventing the enemy's foraging parties from doing so. We were employed in this service and remained with or near the Army until it passed back into South Carolina. Lord Cornwallis had marched to Wilmington and on his marching back to Halifax and then into Virginia; we were recalled and continued near the enemy to prevent them from committing depredations, and foraging until they marched into Virginia. We were still in service in and near the Town of Halifax and the surrounding Country up to the first of December Lord Cornwallis having surrendered in October of the same year. I was in service in 1781 for nine months and received a discharge for it from Major Hogg [possibly Major Thomas Hogg] who was stationed at Halifax. Between the 15th & 20th of March 1782 we were again called into service and marched near to the Town of Wilmington to prevent the enemy from committing depredations in that section of Country; and also to prevent the Tories from giving them aid and assistance. We were in this service for four months, while in this service the Troop was mostly with and under the direction of Colonel Thomas Brown of Bladen, who had command of the militia of that County. For this service I received a discharge from Colonel Branch stationed at Halifax. From the close of the Revolution up to the year 1831, I resided in the counties of Halifax & Franklin in this State. I then removed to the state of Tennessee and resided there up to the year 1835. I then returned to the County of Halifax North Carolina and have continued to reside in it up to the present time. On my removal to Tennessee in the year 1831, I left in the possession of my son in Franklin County North Carolina a number of my papers and among them, the two discharges I received for my services in the Revolution. On my return to reside in this State I found on examination that most of my papers were mislaid or destroyed; and with them the discharges; no value being attached to them by my son or myself. For I can solemnly say that until lately I have never had the least thought or desire to ask of the Government a pension for the services I rendered, and nothing now but necessity and having been deprived of most of a large and ample property induce me to do so. It is well known that before misfortunes came on me, That I have been importuned to make this demand and always refused. At that time there were many alive who

could have testified to the service I rendered, death and removals from this section of Country render it impossible for me now to do so. My application must stand or fall upon my statement and the traditionary evidence of those around me.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except this, and declare that my name is not on the pension Rolls of any State.

S/ J. J. Alston



[Thomas Willcox (Wilcox), clergyman, and Mark A. Allen gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

I certify that I am personally acquainted with Colonel Alston – who is the Brother of Willis Alston,¹ late member of Congress & nephew of Nathaniel Macon – that he is a man of high character & I doubt not what he states is strictly true.

S/ R. M. Saunders

State of North Carolina, Warren County

The affidavit of James Durham² a Citizen of Warren County, and a pensioner of the United States, who having been duly sworn according to law, testifies and saith as that he has lived near and known Joseph J. Allston, all his life; he knows that the said Joseph J. Allston also is now applying for a pension, belonged to a troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Joseph Hawkins and that he served with him during the close of the Revolutionary War; the precise dates of the Service, or its length, he cannot now state, but he well knows that Joseph J. Allston was in the Service at the time of the battle of Guilford, and after it at Halifax and Tarboro; The company of Captain Jos. Hawkins was employed in preventing the enemy from foraging and committing depredations, and also for the purpose of collecting the stragglers after the battle of Guilford. This affiant further states, that he knows, and can say with as sure certainty as he can of anything whatever, that Joseph J. Allston was in the service, and that he is the identical man is now applying for a pension, and he is fully convinced he served as long as he claims in his declaration, a greater portion of which he has a personal knowledge. This affiant has from time to time, conversed with the said Joseph J. Allston about his Services in the Revolutionary War, and heard him speak of them to others at various times, and he never heard them questioned, by any person who was acquainted with him – he further states that the said Joseph J. Allston has omitted heretofore to assert his claim to a pension because he did not stand in need of it – but his circumstances of late, have become reduced, and he therefore claims that to which, I know he is justly entitled.

S/ James Durham



¹ ALSTON, Willis, (nephew of Nathaniel Macon), a Representative from North Carolina; born near Littleton, Halifax County, N.C., in 1769; completed preparatory studies and attended Princeton College; engaged in agricultural pursuits; member of the State house of commons 1790-1792; served in the State senate 1794-1796; elected as a Republican to the Sixth and to the seven succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1799-March 3, 1815); chairman, Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business (Thirteenth Congress); again a member of the State house of commons 1820-1824; elected to the Nineteenth and Twentieth Congresses and reelected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-first Congress (March 4, 1825-March 3, 1831); chairman, Committee on Elections (Twenty-first Congress); was not a candidate for reelection to the Twenty-second Congress; resumed agricultural pursuits; died in Halifax, N.C., April 10, 1837; interment in a private burying ground on his plantation home, "Butterwood," near Littleton, Halifax County, N.C.

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=A000167>

² [James Durham S8371](#)

[Veteran died January 10, 1847.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$54.16 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 13 months service as a private of cavalry in the North Carolina Continental line.]