

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Alexander Aston (Ashton) R286¹

fn22NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/23/11

[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. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Alabama, Lawrence County

On this 15th day of July 1833 personally appeared before me James B. Wallace, Judge of the County Court of said County of Lawrence, at a stated session of said Court, now sitting at the Court house in said County Alexander Aston, a resident of the County & State aforesaid aged eighty-four years first 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. That he entered a volunteer and served in the Army as early as the year 1775 in the militia under the command of Captain Joseph Dixon [Joseph Dickson], Robert Craughn [?] Lieutenant and James White Major & Colonel Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], commanded the Regiment. This was in the County of Rowan State of North Carolina where he was born and raised. [His] first march was to a place called Snow Camps. After serving under these officers for three months, he was appointed and commissioned Lieutenant of the Company in which he had served, to fill the vacancy of this said Lieutenant Craughn resigned. His commission is lost and he does not [illegible word]. The Company continued in service for five years and he continued to hold his Lieutenantcy in the Company until disbanded, from the day of his promotion (say three months from the time he entered the service until promoted) he served as Lieutenant four years & nine months. He was not discharged until after Cornwallis's defeat, which was some time after the battle at Guilford North Carolina his [illegible interlined text]. His memory is defective & he cannot state with certainty the time & date his company (then commanded by Captain James Huggins) was disbanded. He was in a battle called Ramssower Mill [sic, Ramsour's Mill] fought against the Tories, who were commanded by Colonel Moore. He was at Gates [Horatio Gates] defeat [Battle of Camden], near Camden South Carolina, where General De Kalb was killed. He was at a Skirmish at Cowan's Ford, on the Catawba River, Rowan County North Carolina – at the time the British were crossing the River under Cornwallis, on his march to Guilford. His commanding officer General Davidson [William Lee Davidson] a Continental officer who was killed, at this place. Col. Rutherford was taken by the British a prisoner, at Gates defeat – and after his release declarant went as Lieutenant to Wellington to destroy the Tories there. He has no documentary evidence to prove his Service but his brother James Aston, can testify that he was in the Army of a private Soldier & officer as above stated, during the Revolutionary We. He resided after the war about four years in the State of North Carolina. He then moved to Abbeville district South Carolina, where he lived four or five years. He then moved to Spartanburg district in the same State where he continued to reside until the year

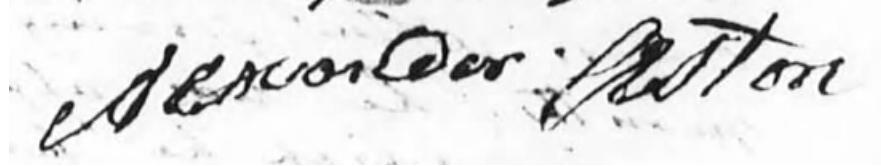
¹ Ben Rubin points out that this is almost certainly the same veteran whose application was assigned another number under a slight variation in his name in [Alexander Austin R314](#).

1818. He then moved to Tennessee Franklin County and remained one year – from thence he moved to the place where he now resides – Lawrence County Alabama and in which County this declaration is made and was not during the Services of his [balance of interlined text is illegible]. 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/ John I. Gregg, Clerk

S/ Alexander Aston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander Aston". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

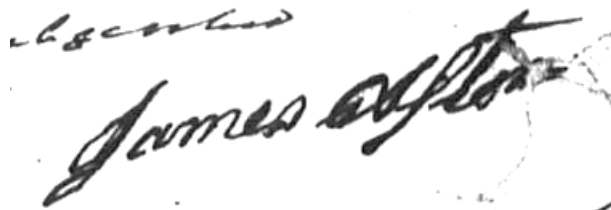
[Hugh Barr, a clergyman, and William Jones, neighbor, give the standard certification of reputation for veracity, age and belief in the neighborhood of the revolutionary services of the claimant.]

I James Aston² of the County of Lawrence, Alabama do hereby declare and make an affidavit in open Court that my brother Alexander Aston, the above declarant, volunteered in the service of the United States at or about the commencement of the revolutionary war, and served as above stated by him, I saw him in the service at the Snow Camps – and was with him at the Battle at Ramsour's Mill & at Cowan's Ford & Tarrances [sic, Tarrant's Tavern or Torrance's Tavern] and also the said Alexander Aston, Served as Lieutenant in the Company, [as] stated in his declaration, from 1775 until the year 1780. He was promoted to Lieutenant [document torn and text missing] months after entering the Service was [document torn and text missing] & served in the same Company, the [document torn and text missing].

Sworn to and Subscribed in open Court.

S/ John Gregg, Clerk

S/ James Alston

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Alston". The signature is written in dark ink and is somewhat slanted to the right.

[the file contains a letter from William Hill the North Carolina Secretary of State in which he states that the records of North Carolina do not reflect service by Alexander Aston in the Continental line of North Carolina. The certificate is dated October 11, 1833]

The State of Alabama, Lawrence County,

This day personally appeared before me William White an acting Justice of the peace for the State and County aforesaid John Aston and Saith on his oath that he was personally acquainted with Alexander Aston the Claimant in the above Declaration in which he claims a pension [sic, pension] as being a revolutionary Soldier in the United States Service and he further Saith that he new [sic, knew] the said Alexander Aston of the frequently gone in the Service of the United States and Coming home and that the Said Claimant Served as a Lieutenant in the Service and that he has heard the Claimant with a great many others Say that he was a Commanding officer in the revolutionary war and further Saith that he knew the said Alexander Aston to be at the battle at Cowan's Ford on Catawba River in the State of North Carolina and at Tarrance's [sic, Tarrant's Tavern or Torrence's Tavern] in said State

² [James Aston R287](#)

and further the deponent Saith not.
November the 19th day 1834

S/ John Aston

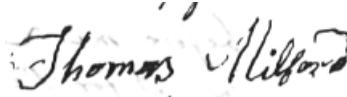
State of South Carolina, Abbeville District

Be it known that on this eighth day of June 1836, before me James A. Black a Justice of the Quorum in and for the District aforesaid personally appeared Thomas Milford³ (a resident of Abbeville District and pensioner of the United States) aged eighty years and upon being duly Sworn on his oath saith that he was well acquainted with Alexander Astin [sic, Aston] during the Revolutionary war, that the said Alexander Astin did reside in Mecklenburg County North Carolina during the times of the war, that to his personal Knowledge the said Alexander Astin was a good Soldier for the cause of liberty that to his certain Knowledge he did Serve in what was called the Snowy Campaign for the term of three months as he thinks in the year 1779 (as he thinks) he further saith that he was in the Camp with him in 1781 for about 15 days and was with him when the British under Lord Cornwallis crossed the Catawba River, on the day that General Davidson fell – that to his Knowledge he was frequently out in the Service and part of that time he served as a Lieutenant that he always maintained the character of a good & faithful Soldier.

Sworn to and Subscribed this eighth day of June 1836 before me.

S/ James A. Black, JQ

S/ Thomas Milford

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Milford". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted to the right.

³ [Thomas Milford S21375](#)