

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

Pension Application of William Armistead S10326

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization and punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Alabama }

Clark [sic: Clarke] County } SS

On this Twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight personally appeared William Armistead a resident in the county of Clark and State aforesaid aged Seventy Six years, before me William Hill a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, 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 herein stated: viz

The deponant William Armistead, states on his oath that he was Born in Elizabeth City in the State of virginia that his Parents died while he was quite a little Boy, that he resided in Elizabeth City as afforesaid when he entered the service. That he entered the service at Williams Burg [sic: Williamsburg] in the State of of Virginia as afforesaid under Capt. [Benjamin C.] Spiller & sent in the Fall of the year 1777 to the best of his recollection. after remaining some time in the camp, at that place he was marched to Valley Forge. that at the time he entered the service he was about Fifteen years old, was enrolled he thinks, with Virginia State Troops as a musician. That when he arrived at Valley Forge under officers as afforesaid, they were attatched to Mulenburgs Briggade [sic: Peter Muhlenberg's Brigade] and was there enoculated [inoculated for small pox]. That in the summer of Seventeen Hundred & Seventy Eight he marched in persuit of the British as they retreated through the Jersy[s] [New Jersey] after the evacuation of Philadelphia [by the British, 18 Jun 1778], that he was in the Battle at Monmouth [28 Jun 1778]. That he was not long afterwards detached from Muhlenburg's Briggade and attatched to Troops under the command of General Wane [sic: Anthony Wayne] and Major Fleury [François Louis de Fleury] and marched to the Hudson River and was stationed between West Point and Stony Point for sum time, that he was at the storming of Stony Point under the command of the said last named officers in the year 1779 [16 Jul]. That he was after sum time and a long service marched to Brunswick on the Rariton [sic: Raritan] River, then to Philadelphia that he remained in Phiadelphia some time, that he afterward was marched back to Williams Burg and was there with other troops regularly discharged after having served the whole term of three whole years. That he being then still yong and thoughtless he took no care of his discharge neither doth he now recollect who it was that granted it. That some time after the close of the war he received his certificate for pay and Land Warrant at Richmond (Virginia) That during the term of three years as afforesaid he was constantly in garrison or in the field and was not emploid in any civil persuit.

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 afforesaid [signed] Wm. Armistead

Pine Hall. 7 miles from U. P. Tree [Upper Peach Tree AL] Wilcox County April 22 1838

Hon F. S. Lyons [Member of Congress]

Dear Sir. Yours of the 14th of February has been duly received together with one from J. L. Edwards, Esqr of the Pension Office, having also enclosed the necessary instructions to enable my Father (William Armistead) to file his declaration to obtain a Pension for his Revolutionary services &c &c.

I feel Thankful to you, sir, for your attention to the business and tho a stranger to you (having only been a Citizen of this state Two years) yet such favors will not on my part be soon forgotten—

My Father is now quite an aged man, and has latterly become very infirm, and is not in a condition to go off from home, he now resides at the place where he first settled on coming to the Country, where he has lived for Twenty years past. and sir it is now owing to my urging him the necessity of his claiming the compensation for which he so dearly purchased in the Revolution, that he now presents himself as an applicant for a pension I have just returned from his residence having bestowed a few days in arranging his delaration and the necessary certificates seals &c and as his name is on the Virginia Rolls I think it will all be satisfactory and that nothing in addition will be wanted to place him on the Pension Roll of his Country, but to the contrary, should it be otherwise, any thing in addition can be added if in the opinion of the Pension officers an amendment as to form &c is necessary. An attorney could not be obtained conveniently to draw his declaration, consequently it has been drawn by one who is not a professional character and contains a short statement of facts in as concise a manner as it was possible for him to draw it I have but little doubt, that you are acquainted with the old man, or with my Brother Westwood Armistead, and can (if necessary) speak of the case agreeable to the opinions you may have made up as to the respectability of the applicant and of Those certifying in his favor. I should not of said a word on this matter was it not for the great distance to Washington & the consequent delay, and risque of the papers on this way, should it meet a favorable reception you will please correspond with me on the mater and if his Certificate is allowed endeavour to have the draft made payable at the Land office at Demopolis, it being the most convenient point for him to receive his pay of any other where publick moneys are kept

Sir a Tremedous Revolution is taking place in your district respecting the derangement of the currency of the Country, the people here are woke up and I do assure you that all other political distinctions are now buried then the all absorbing question (viz) the Currency. your state and in fact sir the whole american people are sick, groaning Bleeding & Dying for a sound uniform Currency Such Currency, the people will have, and in the opinion of Thousands of free men in this state nothing but a National Bank can afford such a Currency, as the necessity of the times so [illegible word] calls for. The sub Treasury sitem is not the [illegible word] The People sir don't like it

Any dockets or communication from you will be thankfully received
write to me as early as convenient

I have the honor to be sir yours respectfully &c &c Jno K. Armistead

NOTES:

On 22 Jun 1838 William Armistead explained the reason why he had not applied earlier for a pension: "That he alway while blessed with health and strength, thought, he would not apply for a Pension, That latterly, having become verry infirm and illy able to attend to his domestic business, and knowing too that what pay he rec'd. at the termination of the Revolutionary War for his services was of verry little advantage to him he came to the conclusion, that in as much as it was a gift, freely offered from the Country which he had fought for and defended, he would accept of it That he while in good health thought but little about pay for revolutionary services, being alwas well contented and happy on having been instrumental in delivering his country from bondage, and but for the above reasons, viz, old age, infirmity and Bad Health, never should have become an applicant for a Pension, unless some other mighty cause might have prompted him to have done so."

A document in the file states that Armistead died on 1 Mar 1842 leaving no widow but the following children: "John K. Armistead, Robt S. Armistead, Jane Smith, Westwood Armistead, heirs, Martha Waddells, heirs & Elizabeth Morriss heirs." S. Forwood, a grandson-in-law, was executor.