

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Alexander Beggs S32114

NC PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Illinois } Declaration in order to Obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th
Union County Sct } 1832

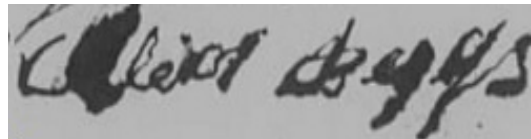
On this 16th day of 1832 [sic] personally Appeared in open court before the Hon. Thomas C. Browne Judge of the Circuit Court of Union County & State of Illinois, now sitting, Alexander Baggs a resident of said county & state aged 79 years on the 20th May next having no record of his age, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his Oath, make the following declaration, in order to Obtain the benefit of an Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named Officers & served as herein stated. This applicant states that in the year 1776 he resided in Chester County Pennsylvania, & that some time in September of that year, he Volunteered in the Militia Service under one Captain Lee who at that time lived in philadelphia. That he was of an artillery company, having with them four pieces brass cannon, two 12 & two 6 pounders. That he marched from Philadelphia under Capt Lee, to Amboy on North River & lay here two or three weeks. That after this he was marched to Fort Lee higher up the same River opposite New York. That after remaining here a few days, thence he moved to Trenton New jersey, & thence again to Bristol on the Delaware River. That from Bristol they crossed the River to Trenton then in the possession of the Brittish. It was in the night they passed the River and landed on the Trenton shore below the town Commanded by Cadwallader [sic: John Cadwalader] as and [James] Ewing commanders one division of the army commanded in Chief by Washington Gen. Here many prisoners were taken [Battle of Trenton, 26 Dec 1776]. That from thence they moved lower down the River, to a little town the name of which he has forgot, under Calwallader where he continued until New years day when he was discharged. He further states that one Col Richard Thomas, with whom he lived at the time of his entering the service, got his discharge & he could did not get it, & does not know what has become of it. That as soon as he was discharged from this tour, he again volunteered under one Capt Neil commanding one Company of the Pennsylvania Blues State Troop. That he was at the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], where the American forces met the Brittish commanded by [William] Howe. He recollects that he & some others were sent, in the morning before the battle, to fell trees in the road for the purpose of obstructing the march of the enemy. Here he thinks each party kept their ground & that in the night the American troops moved off, to the left of the road, & camped at a place called the Red-lion Tavern. That he & some more were taken prisoners at Brandywine, but made his escape that night, came back to his own country men. That on his return he went to his Col. who told him he did not wish him to join him again, because should he be retaken by the Brittish he would be hung. He here states that after he was discharged from the first tour he served one month under the Capt Neil he has already spoken of, & then he entered with or joined the Pennsylvania troops with whom he fought at the Brandywine, where he was take prisoner as aforesaid. That he was under Capt Lee from the time he was discharged from his months Service with Capt Neil, until after the battle Brandywine That for the reason above stated he left the army after serving about seven months with Neil & Lee (being his second tour with Lee) together, & went to North Carolina, after his arrival in Carolina, he again Volunteered under Capt [James] White, of a rifle Company & served a three months tour. One Malburny [probably Francis Marquis de Malmedy] or some such name a Frenchman was their col in this expedition. He lived at this time in McCaneburg [sic: Mecklenburg] County N.C. That during this tour probably in 1778 [sic] he marched to & fro over different parts of the South C. country, & had but one engagement, called Stono or Stonough [Battle of Stono Ferry, 20 Jun 1779], in which they were defeated & had to retreat from before the Fort Stonough [sic: three redoubts] & encamped about 3 miles distant. That on the next morning after the battle they returned to the Fort & found it evacuated. nothing particular transpired after this during the rest of the 3 months, at the end of which he was discharged & returned home. That he got no discharge this time, but as soon as they returned home they all went up to Salsbury [sic: Salisbury], where Capt

White met them & they were paid off.

That after this he married, & he thinks it was two years or thereabouts, before he Volunteered again. That to the best of his recollection some time in the year '81 he volunteered again under on Capt Joseph Shin [sic: Joseph Chinn or Shinn] & Col [Robert] Smith, [Griffith] Rutherford being their General. That the object of this expedition was to defend the country against the Tories, which they did, occasionally taking some prisoners, without having any battle worth naming. That during this tour, while they lay about 20 miles below a little town named cross creek [present Fayetteville], between that & Wilmington they heard of the Surrender of Cornwallis [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781]. Upon hearing this joyful news they returned home after having been out in this Service three months & upwards, & was again discharged. That for this tour he received neither written discharge nor pay. That they received orders from some source or other to march to where Cornwallis was taken, little York, but that is Capt & other men refused to go & returned to plough their corn, which was suffering. That besides the Officers above mentioned, Cadwallader, Ewing, & Washington & Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], he was acquainted with [Israel] Putnam Gen Gen [Daniel] Morgan & others. He further states that he continued to live N. C. until 1800, when he removed to Kentucky near Lexington, where he lived 2 or 3 years, then he moved to Washington County K. Thence to Butler Cty Kentucky. Thence he removed in '16 to this County, Union, & State of Illinois, where he has resided ever since & still resides.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence & that he knows of no person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any state.

[Certified 13 Nov 1832]



Union County } The affidavit of Alexander Beggs, supplementary to an affidavit or declaration
State of Illinois } made by said Beggs before the Hon Thomas C Browne Judge of the Union
County Circuit Court Illinois, on the 16th day of October 1832: in the matter of an
application for a pension under the late Law of Congress of 7th June 1832. And also the answers, on Oath,
to certain interrogatories prescribed in such cases by said Law.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned a Justice of the peace in & for the County & State aforesaid Alexander Beggs, who being duly sworn, deposes & saith, that reason of old age, & the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, & in the following grades. For four months (under Lee 1776) one more month (under Lee ditto) year From Christmas 1776 until the battle of Brandywine 1777 October For ten months (under Neil Capt.) For three months under Captain White (year 1778) For three months (under Captain Shin) & four days 1781. I served as a private and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed this 29th May before me a justice of the peace Alexander hisXmark Beggs
W. P. W. McCall JP

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department to be put to applicants in cases of the application for pension

1st Where & in what year were you born? Ans. In Ireland, Antrum County in 1754

2^d Have you any record of your age, & if so, where is it? Ans. none. 3^d Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, & where do you now live? Ans. In Chester County Pennsylvania, removed first to N. Carolina, thence to Kentucky, thence to this state & county where I now live.

How were you called into the service, were you drafted, did you Volunteer or were you a substitute? 4th
Ans. I Volunteered.

5th State the names of some of the Officers, regular, who were with the troops, where you served; such Continental & militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services? Ans Rutherford Col Smith. Gen'l Morgan Gen'l Green & Washington the Cap-sheaf of human perfection.
Alexander hisXmark Beggs

NOTE: A note on the pension certificate states that Beggs died on 4 Feb 1837.