Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Ambrose Haley S8689 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 6 Jan 2015.

State of Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

On this 6th day of May, 1839, personally appeared in open Court, before the court of Charlotte County now sitting, Ambrose Haley, a resident of the County of Charlotte and State of Virginia, aged 80 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 June 7th 1832— That before the commencement and during the Revolutionary War, he was a resident of Lunenburg County, Virginia, and marched from the same county – That about the month of May, 1779, as well as he recollects, he was first drafted in the Militia from Lunenburg county, for the term of three months, under Capt Anthony Street, with a view of being stationed at Portsmouth, Virginia. He recollects that the British Navy suddenly and unexpectedly made its appearance in the Chesapeake Bay [9 May 1779], and burnt and destroyed the provisions and stores of the Army deposited at Portsmouth, Norfolk and Suffolk, which occasioned the draft for Troops - That upon reaching Petersburg they understood, the Enemy had left the Bay, and as such, were stationed for the remainder of their term of service at that place. Col. Nicholas Hopson commanded the Regiment to which he belonged. He served the said term faithfully and was regularly discharged in writing, which discharge he has lost or mislaid. That he was again from the same county drafted in the Militia in the early part of the summer of 1780 under Capt. [Sylvanus] Walker, for the term of three months and marched to North Carolina, and was at Gates' [Gen. Horatio Gates's] defeat near Camden in August 1780 [Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]. General [Edward] Stevens commanded the Regiment to which he belonged, and General Gates commander in chief. The Baron De Kalb was killed, he recollect, during the engagement [died three days after the battle]. General [Richard] Caswell commanded the North Carolina Troops. He served the said term faithfully, and received a discharge in writing, which he has lost. That he was drafted again from the same county in the early part of 1781, in the Militia, for the term of three months under Capt Walker, and marched into North Carolina, thence to Haw River and on the Guilford, where he met the enemy, and was engaged in the battle [Battle of Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781]. After the battle they retreated to the [Troublesome] Iron works, and as soon as the troops were collected, pursued the direction the Enemy had taken as far as Deep River [to Ramsey's Mill in Chatham County], where he was stationed until his term of service expired. Peter Stokes was Lieutenant and Frederick Browder Ensign in Capt Walkers company. Col [Nathaniel] Cocke and Gen'l Stevens were commanding officers of the Regiment. Gen'l Stevens was wounded in the battle, and then the command devolved on Gen'l [Robert] Lawson. General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was Commander in-chief. He recollects the names of Genl [Isaac] Huger, Col [Henry] Lee and Col [William] Washington, who were present on the occasion. He served the said term faithfully and received a written discharge, which he has lost.

He was drafted again from the same county for the term of 6 or 8 weeks (he does not recollect which) in the summer of 1781, under Capt Knight, to march to Yorktown. At the time the company marched he was very sick, insomuch, Capt Knight granted him a furlough to remain untill able to join his company. So soon as he recovered and gained sufficient strength to march, he pressed on to Yorktown, but did not reach there until after the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781]. On this occasion he received a verbal discharge. That the reason he has so long delayed an application for a Pension was the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory evidence in regard to the earlier periods of his service. He has recently obtained some evidence for a portion of that service. That most of the soldiers who served with him are dead or moved to parts unknown to him. That he is now very old, sick and feeble, and needs assistance from his country. He merely claims a Pension for six months service in the whole – that may in a measure inable him to pass the remainder of his days in comfort and ease. He has no documentary evidence. There is no Clergyman residing in his neighbourhood. 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.

Virginia: Lunenburg County to wit:

I do hereby certify, that I was acquainted with Ambrose Haley in the War of the Revolution. According to my best recollection and belief, at this time, the said Ambrose Haley was drafted from the county of Lunenburg under Capt Street, and marched to Petersburg in Virginia where the Troops were stationed. Mr. Ambrose Haley has reminded me of circumstances during this service, which convinces me most clearly, that he did serve this tour of duty under Capt Street. How long Mr Haley served I am unable to say; but suppose he was drafted for three months, it being the length of time for which I was drafted. This service was rendered about the time Suffolk was burnt by the British – the month and year not recollected. I was a soldier of the Revolution at the time.

[Certificate dated 25 Feb 1839 refers to Capt William Stokes]

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

I Seth Farley of Charlotte, do hereby certify, that I was acquainted with Ambrose Haley in the War of the Revolution, both of us being in the service together from Lunenburg County. We were drafted in the Militia under Capt Walker from Lunenburg in the early part of the year, 1781, for the term of three months, and marched to North Carolina, and were engaged in the battle of Guilford. He served the said term faithfully, and was always considered a good and true soldier to his country. I farther certify, that he was drafted, as I understood, once or twice before in the Militia, and marched to Petersburg, but I was not with him on those occasions and can furnish no particular information. At Guilford, Col Cocke and General Lawson commanded our Regiment. I am in the 81st year of my age, and was a soldier of the Revolution.

[26 March 1839]

Virginia: Charlotte County to wit:

I William Dupree of Charlotte County, being a Justice of the peace in and for said County, do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Ambrose Haley in the War of the Revolution, and recollect distinctly seeing him at the battle of Guilford in North Carolina in the year 1781. He marched from Lunenburg under Capt Walker, and was drafted for three months, and served his tour of duty faithfully. I was not attached to the same company, but had frequent opportunities of meeting with him, during the time we were in service together. He was a good soldier and served his Country faithfully. I have understood he rendered other service in the War of the Revolution, of which I have no doubt. He is a man of good character, and his statment is entitled to the utmost confidence. Given under my hand this 1st day of April 1839.

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