

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Alvis (Allvis) W1203
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Kentucky

Fayette circuit & county Sct.

On this 18th day of June 1835 personally appeared before the Judge of the Fayette circuit court John Allvis a resident in said county & state aged 78 years past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 —

That he enlisted about three years before the end of the Revolutionary war, in Hanover county Va. for two years, under an officer whose name he has forgotten & does not recollect the Regt, but he knows he remained only a very short time with him, when he and some other soldiers, – Hensley Grubbs & James Grubbs became dissatisfied & shouldered their muskets & went to the Barracks in Albemarle county Va, where the prisoners [mainly Hessians captured at Saratoga, 17 Oct 1777] were stationed & enlisted with Capt Dick or Rich'd White [Richard P. White] & R. Pollet Lieutenant & Val Meriwether Ensign, for & during the war – [Francis] Taylor was Col. & Col Crockett came there with a Regt of riflemen while we were there & staid a short time [Joseph Crockett, Apr 1780 - Feb 1781]. I remained at the said barracks till the end of the war. He was discharged at the end of the war, when the prisoners were sent away. I do not recollect to have received any discharge in writing–
He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present and he declares that his name is not on any pension list or roll of any agency in any State —

John hisXmark Allvis

State of Kentucky }
Fayette County }

I F. McLear a Justice of the peace for the county of Fayette have examined A person named John Alvis A revolutionary soldier respecting the reason of his not applying for a pension, before his present application, he states that the reason he has not made a previous application, is that he had formed a resolution never to apply till he could not live otherwise, he says that heretofore he could live without calling on his country for a pension, but now his Children have left him that he is getting old & unable to work. His name on the Revolutionary list of pensioners is spelt Allvis, but the way he spells his name now is John Alvis, he also takes oath that he is the person named John Allvis on Capt Whites muster roll of the revolution, that he knows of no person by whom he could make proof of the fact.

Sworn & subscribed before me F. McLear J.P

John hisXmark Alvis

this 5th September 1836

I Waller Bullock of the State of Kentucky and County of Fayette have resided in the same neighbourhood with John Alvis for the last twenty years and a part of the time a very near neighbour and I am well acquainted with him he is a poor man with a large family of children and I have no doubt of his moral Integrity and have ever considered him a man entirely above asking for any thing that was not rightfully his due he removed hear from Virginia some twenty or thirty years since and I have frequently heard him speak of his serving in the Revolutionary War and I have not the least doubt but what he is entitled to a pension from the Federal Government the said Alvis is a proud illiterate man and I believe nothing but his poverty and age would induse him to put in a claim for his legal pension Given under my hand this 11th day of October 1836 [signed] Waller Bullock

We concur in the above statement

Harrison Veal

Amos hisXmark Johnson

Lexington Ky November 9th 1836

John Alvis states on 1st quest. do you know what year you first enlisted? Ans. I at that time was young and do not remember what year. I was an apprentice & enlisted from my master 2^d ques'n. under whom did you enlist first? – I do not know I was so young at the time. – What Reg't. or division? I do not know that either – You speak of two enlistment Mr. Alvis? – Yes – under whom did you enlist last, and 2^d how long did you remain under your first enlistment, 3^d where were you stationed and, did you march any? – to first ques – I enlisted last under Capt Dick White – 2^d. I do not know – was it 3 mos or 8 or a year? – well I cannot say it is so long ago and I don't want to say nothing I don't remember exactly 3^d ques as to the army stationed under first? – I was stationed down on York river in old Virginia. 4th did you march? – We march'd from Portsmouth and in & through that section of country – did you fight any battles or were you in any engagements – these questions are still relative to his first enlistment? I never was in no engagement but in one little brush on York river when the British made an attempt on Yorktown. well sir is this about all you know of your first enlistment? Yes it is – One question more who received the pay from Virginia for your services? – I do not know what you mean by that I never received any thing but what I got at the time of service. – One more. What number of men were in the army when you first enlisted? – well I do not know. – was there any reinforcement that you recollect of? well the only one I recollect of was Col Crocket who commanded a company [“Regt” interlined above] of rifle men who were called the ragged Reg't, and these were the raggedest set of men I ever saw – recollect Mr Alvis I am now speaking of your first enlistment? Oh Col Crocket did not come until after my last enlistment. I recollect that – Now Mr Alvis I will ask you something of your last enlistment – do you recollect when you enlisted last? – no I do not – what was the reason of your enlisting the 2^d. time? – Why you see I first enlisted for 2 years under my first Capt. – what was the reason of your leaving your first Capt? – The reason was he was no soldier and I did not like him and I spoke to Jas. Grub & Hensly Grub of Capt White and they agreed to go with me and enlist with Capt. White for the war – why did you wish to enlist for the war? – because I had to do it to break my first enlistment. you see we were considered deserters and we risked our lives to get under a good Capt. – was Capt White a good Capt? – Yes – how did you know that? – because I knew him before the war – did he live in the same town you lived in? – no – where did he live? – he lived in the next county [sic] – what was the name of the County Capt Whit lived in? – Well I think it was Halifax – what was the name of the County you lived in? – Hanover – if you knew Capt White was a good capt why not enlist with him at first? – I did not know Capt White was in the service at that time – What time of day did you start to go to capt White? – it was after dusk and we traveled all that night and next day – What distance did you travel? – I do not know but we went from York river up to Albemarle Barracks where the prisoners were [about 100 miles] – what prisoners – the Hessians & the Dutch [i.e. Germans] – do you know by whom these prisoners were taken? no I do not – who commanded the army while you were there? – I do not know there was Colo Taylor I don't know his given name and there was another Col but I forget his name – did you stay at Albemarle Barracks long? – I do not know – Can you say was it 1 - 2 or 3 or more years? – I can not say I am now so old that it has sliped by memory I enlisted for the war and I did not charge my memory with it – was Yorktown taken while you were at the barracks – I d't know as to that but I was there when Cornwallis was taken [at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] – do you know by whom Cornwallis was taken? – by Genl Washington and Lafayette was there & some more Genls down on the big waters – were any of the British prisoners sent to Albemarle Barracks – no but they took them down to Winchester so I heare – do you remember any thing particular that took place at the Barracks as it respects yourself or others? – why I cannot say any thing particular but one thing may be it is no use to say any thing about I shot my Ensign while I was on sentinel I hollowed to him to come to and he did not and I puled away at him and shot him in the belly with an ounce ball & ten or twelve buck shot – what was your Ensigns name Vaul Merreyweather yes I was the death of Vaul Merryweather - that was the name he went by at any rate.

John hisXmark Alvis

NOTE: On 27 Apr 1848 Nancy Alvis, 71, petitioned Congress for a pension, stating that as Nancy Bingham she married John Alvis on 29 Aug 1795, and he died 29 Mar 1847. She stated that she was unable to see. The petition was necessitated because pension laws up to that time provided only for widows who married before 1794. As proof of her marriage she submitted a copy of the return by Rev. Henry H. Mallory of Hanover County for the following marriages:

1794 – Join'd Robert Alvis B[achelor]. & Polly Crittenton S[pinster]. 18th Dec'r

1795 – Do John Alvis B. & Nancy Brigham S. 29th Aug't.

On 9 Oct 1848 as a resident of Athens in Fayette County she applied under a later pension act. In an application for bounty land dated 19 Mar 1855 her age is given as about 79.