

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

Pension Application of John Almy W1531

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Rhode Island, Ss.

County of Newport, Town of Little Compton, Sc.

On this seventh day of January, A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the Court of Probate of Little Compton, in the county and state aforesaid, at a special session thereof, John Almy, Physician, a resident of said Little Compton aged seventy four years, 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:

1. That the particulars of his first entering the service are to the following effect, viz. Having lived with his parents until he was between thirteen and fourteen years of age, he adopted the profession of a mariner. The voyage before he entered the service of the State of Virginia, was in a brig belonging to Anthony and Cahoone of Newport, which was sunk in the harbor of Antigua, in the West Indies. She was commanded by Capt. Hezekiah Anthony. After the sinking of the brig, this declarant proceeded from Antigua to St. Eustatia, and took passage in a schooner, (belonging to old Guttridge) for Norfolk in Virginia; but as the English were at Norfolk [Royal Governor Dunmore until 1 Jan 1776], this declarant landed five miles below, on the opposite side of the river, with three others, that had brought a boat from the West Indies for this purpose. After being there some time, declarant went to Hampton, and not finding employment, Feby. or March 1776, enlisted into a rifle company in the State service, commanded by a Captain West, and in Col. Weeden's [sic: George Weedon's] regiment, belonging to the back part of Virginia. After doing duty for some time in Hampton, the regiment was marched to the Potomac river, below Alexandria, and abreast of the English fleet [Dunmore, about July 1776]. From thence the regiment was marched to General Washington's army. While on the march to said army, declarant was taken with a fever and ague, and from that, a continual fever; and was left in the hospital at Trenton. After getting better in about two or three weeks, he set off for the regiment and travelled to Princeton

There he had a return of the fever and ague; and after remaining about as long as he did at Trenton, went on to Fort Lee, and crossed, as he thinks, to York Island, where he found his regiment encamped near Fort Washington. The same evening there came orders for all the sick, that were able to walk, to make the best of their way in the direction that the baggage went. Fort Washington being taken, and the army obliged to retreat, declarant kept on with the sick, until he arrived at the White Plains, but could not keep so far ahead, but that they would bring the wounded to dress where he had stopped to shake with the ague. The shot from the enemy's artillery frequently passed over his head. When he arrived at the White Plains, he found a few loads of baggage; no provision, or any kind of convenience for the sick: – of consequence, the sick straggled out to the farm houses, and begged. Declarant continued to wander about, but failed in his health, and could hear nothing of his regiment. He then wrote a letter to his father in Tiverton in the State of Rhode Island, with little hope that it would reach him, but he received it, came on, went to the encampment of the sick, there saw one of the company to which declarant belonged, who told him, he did not know where declarant was, or what had become of him. After making diligent search, declarant's father set off on his return; by accident, took a wrong road, where he found declarant in the road, and with some difficulty conveyed him home. Fever and ague grew worse, continual fever set in; and declarant did not get well in six months time, nor does he think that he ever got over it. Declarant has no papers to ascertain the precise time of his enlistment in the regiment of Virginia riflemen, but is confident from circumstances that it must have been in February, or March of 1776. He arrived home in November or December of the same year. Declarant claims to have served in said regiment a period of nine months – and he claims also his pay for the six months ensuing

his return to Rhode Island, as he was disabled that time, by diseases contracted in the service, making in the whole fifteen months in this portion of his military service.

2. Declarant further avers on oath as aforesaid, that after he had so far recovered from the effects of the fever as to be enrolled in the militia, he was called upon by the proper authority to serve as a private in the company of militia, commanded by Captain Isaac Cook of Tiverton, for the purpose of guarding the shores of that town from the incursions of the English at Rhode Island: – that he was selected out, with twenty five others, on account of their knowing how to row, to be employed in going on to Rhode Island, in the night, to get information, and to take a Hessian patrol of about twenty five men. Said detachment was under the command of Captain Israel Church, and went on three times: – saw nothing of the patrol of Hessians, but took two dragoons, who came that night in their room and brought them off. In this company of militia declarant served different tours of duty, as guard, in the whole eight months actual duty.

3. Declarant also further avers on oath as aforesaid, that he served a further term of six months, according to the best of his recollection in several other companies of militia in said town of Tiverton, during the occupation of the Island, by the British – but that he is unable to state particularly the officers under whom he served.

4. Declarant claims therefore to have served in the Virginia regiment, & at other times in the militia of Rhode Island, during the Revolutionary war – a period, in the whole, of twenty nine months. He does not remember, that he ever received a cent for any of the above services, except a rifle frock made of tow cloth, and whether gratis, or charged to him, he does not know

5. Declarant further avers, on oath as aforesaid that he was born in the town of Tiverton in the then Colony of Rhode Island, March 3rd, 1758: that a record of his birth is to be found in the town clerks office of said town, a certificate of which, with the attestation of the present town clerk is hereto annexed; that he was commorant at the time of his entering the service, as aforesaid, in Hampton in the State of Virginia, though his home at that time was Tiverton, Rhode Island; that he has lived in said Tiverton and in adjoining town of Little Compton, since the Revolutionary war – that for the last thirty [blank space] years he has resided in said Little Compton, and that he now lives there: that he is unable to fix with more precision than he has herein done, the day, month, and year, when he entered the service, or when he left the same; that he never received any written discharge from either of the companies in which he served as aforesaid; nor was it usual in the Revolution to grant such discharges: that he has no documentary evidence of the services he has sworn to, nor did he ever possess any; that as to the manner of his being called into service, and the names of the officers under whom he served, they are succinctly stated in the preceding part of this Declaration.

August 7th 1833} By leave of court Declarant amends his declaration and avers on oath that he knows of no living witness to the facts stated in the foregoing declaration.

6. Declarant refers to William Howland and Amasa Gray, as persons to whom he is known in his present neighbourhood, who can testify to his character for veracity, and to their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

7. 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 in open court, the day and year before written.

[signed] John Almy

Supplementary Declaration.

State of Rhode Island Ss.

County of Newport. Town of Little Compton Sc.)

On this seventh day of August, A.D. 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of Probate of Little Compton in the county and State aforesaid, at a special session thereof, John Almy, a resident of said Little Compton, physician, being the same John, who made his declaration to this Court,

on the seventh day of January A.D. 1833 (in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832) and having been duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following Supplementary declaration to be annexed to his original declaration and duly authenticated.

That with regard to his service in the Virginia regiment of Riflemen, as set forth in his original declaration, he will state as precisely as he can the date of his enlistment in that regiment, and the time that elapsed before he was carried home by his father, as stated in the original declaration. It was either on the 28th [29th?] day of February, or on the first day of March A.D. 1776, that he enlisted, as a private, in Col. Weeden's regiment at Hampton Vir., in the company commanded by Captain West whose lieutenant as he recollects was one Taylor, a native of that State, with eyes asquint. Declarant has stated, as near as he possibly can recollect, all the particulars of his service in that regiment and of the misfortunes which overtook him therein in his original declaration. In one particular, however, he is persuaded he was mistaken. The letter he wrote to his father must have been written some time previous to and not after the capture of Fort Washington. That fort was taken November the 16th 1776, and declarant was overtaken by his father, in the manner described in his original declaration, at or near the 28th of November in the same year a few miles to the eastward of the Connecticut and New York line: and from that time in about one week more he reached home – making it the second week of December 1776, when according to the decision of the Commissioner his service in the Virginia regiment would terminate. Thus according to the narrowest construction he served nine months and one week in the Virginia regiment.

Declarant further avers on oath as aforesaid that with regard to his second period of service as mentioned in his declaration, he was called into service in Captain Isaac Cooks company of Tiverton militia, June 1st 1777, and that he performed eight months actual duty in this company in various different tours as guard. Declarant was never enlisted in the boat service – but was employed as a militia man in the management of the boats in the detachment commanded by Captain Israel Church at the time of [Gen. Joseph] Spencer's expedition in the autumn of 1777 and during his above mentioned service in the Tiverton militia. The Colonel of the regiment to which Captain Isaac Cook's company was attached was Nathaniel Church. Declarant was discharged from said company September 1778. Philip Coney was his lieutenant in Cooks company.

It ought to be understood by the department that no such thing as a regiment was ordered out for the defense of Little Compton, during the occupation of Rhode Island by the British. Companies were ordered out, which belonged to regiments, and in one of these companies the declarant was enrolled – but it was rare, if ever, that a Colonel had a command in the field of actual duty.

Declarant further avers, that he actually served six months in other companies of Tiverton militia as stated in his declaration; but he is unable to state any additional particulars, excepting that Peleg Simmons was one of his captains.

[signed] John Almy

NOTE: On 12 Mar 1849 Abigail Almy, 74, applied for a pension stating that she married John Almy on 3 July 1796, and he died 20 Mar 1844. The marriage record reads as follows: "This may certify that Doct. John Almy the Son of Gideon & Sarah his Wife of Tiverton, & Miss Abigail Bailey the Daughter of Isaac & Sarah his Wife of L. Compton, were joined in Matrimony by me Mase Shepard, Clerk"