

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

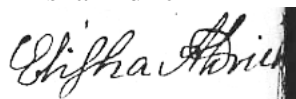
Pension application of Elisha Aldrich (Aldrick) W20811 Content Burlingame¹ f59RI
Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves 9/20/23

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4]

The application of Elisha Aldrich of Foster in the State of Rhode Island who being now in the 62nd year of age – says – that in the month of October A.D. 1779 he entered as a mariner on board the Frigate *Providence*,² a Vessel of War then in the service of the United States & Commanded by Abraham Whipple³ Esquire, when this applicant entered said Vessel was lying in Boston & bound a voyage to the southward, = the Frigate sailed from Boston in November & after a cruise of some months in the West Indies arrived in Charleston South Carolina, in December, of the year aforesaid – the Frigate lay in Charleston until that city surrendered⁴ to the enemy sometime in May 1780 = when this applicant together with all the Crew were made prisoners of War – That soon after the capitulation of Charleston, in the month of June, according to his best recollection, he was sent in a Cartel to Philadelphia & from thence he came home, having been about almost ten months – That at Philadelphia he received orders to draw provisions upon the Continental stores until his arrival home, & afterwards he received his wages from the time he entered [on] board until he arrived in Rhode Island – in the month of July about the middle of the month, or the latter end thereof – This applicant further declares that by reason of his reduced circumstances he now stands in need of the assistance of his Country for support

Elisha Aldrich



¹ former widow

² Providence, 28 guns, 1777-1780. GWA: 701, ND3:90, 902, ND4:1194, ND5:367, 1172, ND6:1399, ND7:1304, ND8:28, ND9:922, ND10:823, Capt Samuel Tomkins, mid 1776. Connor: 167 fn (1878), Buel: 87, Smith:80, 170, 245, 249, ND11:723, DaviesXIII:71, Fowler:107-110, Continental Navy frigate, 28 guns, Capt Abraham Whipple in 1777, operated in English waters in 1778. FW3: 836, Smith: 247, SchV: 54, Blatchford: 101, this frigate was placed at the harbor entrance to protect Charleston in 1780, but was later captured there 12 May 1780. C333-334, it had been the flagship for Capt Abraham Whipple. Manley: 95, it was put in service in the British navy, then sold 14 Mar 1784. Ford 1778: 29, 1779:1342, Ford1780: 584. JA5: 126, 6: 358, 7: 150, 8:28, 9: 224, others. Davies XIII: 71ii. Vol: 90, 91, 132, Silverstone: 3. Paullin: 516, served 1775-1779. Chapelle: 73, 96. Coggins 203, <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20P.html>

See also: https://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=2421

³ <http://gaspee.org/AbrahamWhipple.html>

⁴ Battle of Charleston [city fell to the British May 12, 1780] <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/800401-charleston/> & <https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/10/britains-last-throw-of-the-dice-begins-the-charlestown-campaign-of-1780/>

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United States of America
Rhode Island District

County of Providence Court of Common Pleas December Term, A.D., 1820.

On this 15th day of December 1820, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record within and for said County Elisha Aldrich age 63, residing in the Town of Foster in said County who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: That he served upwards of nine months on board the Frigate *Providence* A. Whipple Esquire commander that he made a previous declaration on the ___ day of ___ 181_ , and that he has received a certificate for a pension, being No. 17894. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed, and this affirmation I make on the pain of the Penalty of Perjury

Elijah Aldrich

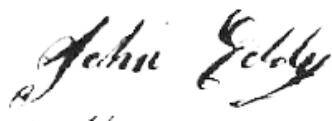
A Schedule of Property and Income (necessary clothing and bedding excepted) of Elijah Aldrich – viz. one hog – 6 Chairs, 2 Kettles & 2 Pots, 1 Tea kettle, 2 Tables, 9 cups & saucers, 6 knives, forks 2 Tubs 1 looking Glass – And this declarant further saith that he is a labourer but is unable to do much work in consequence of Infirmities – that he has a wife aged Fifty six years – that he is also involved in debt; under all the circumstances he thinks himself entitled to a continuance of his Pension

Elijah Aldrich

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hi John Eddy⁵ of Foster and the County of Providence of Lawful age and Engaged according to Law Testify and Say that I Entered aboard of the Ship *Providence* the 29th Day of September A.D. 1779 according to the date of my Discharge and was Discharged on the 11th day of July 1780 then in the United States Service under the command of Commodore Abraham Whipple and Soon after I entered aboard of said Ship I became acquainted with Elisha Aldrich then Corporal of the Marines ^{Department} and said Aldrich Sailed in the Ship *Providence* with me from Boston to Charleston and While We Was Stationed in the Fort in Charleston He Was taken Prisoners With me, then We Was Put aboard a cartel and Sailed to Philadelphia then received our Passes to Come Home, and I got my Discharge and said Aldrich lived a greater Distance from Philadelphia than I did and on What Day Said Aldrich got home I Cannot Tell and I Received My Pay for the Time That I Was Entered aboard the Said Ship until the Day of My Discharge – The Deponent Further Saith Not

John Eddy

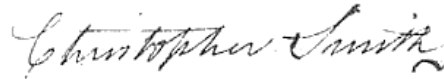


⁵ W14105

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The Deposition of Christopher Smith⁶ of Scituate in the State of Rhode Island who being engaged according to law testifies & says that in the month of September 1779 – he entered on board the Frigate *Providence* commanded by Abraham Whipple Esquire as a mariner, – said Vessel was then lying in Boston, – Soon after this Deponent enlisted he will recollects that Elisha Aldrich now of Foster in said State entered on board said Frigate also in the capacity of Corporal of Marines, – The Frigate sailed from Boston in November on a Cruise together with a number of Vessels all under the command of said Whipple = after a cruise of several months, the fleet arrived in Charleston South Carolina – where they continued until the surrender of that City to the British. – This Deponent & the said Elijah were then made prisoners of War, & were put on board the same prison ship, – where they continued until the latter part of June when they were sent in a cartel to Philadelphia, after they landed at Philadelphia, this deponent & the said Aldrich were separated & he saw no more of him until he saw him at home – This Deponent arrived home in August 1780 – he presumes it must be about that time before said Elisha arrived home

Christopher Smith



28 April 1819

[p 8: Affidavit given on June 27, 1837 in Providence Rhode Island by Mary Martin, 67, stating that she is the sister of Content Burlingame who married Elijah Aldrich of Smithfield in Providence County in the month of September 1781; that they were married by the Rev. Joseph Snow of Providence, now deceased; that they lived together as man and wife until 12 or 13 years since when Aldrich died; that Aldrich was pensioned for his service in the revolution at the time of his death.



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[p 12: An Affidavit given July 6, 1837 in Providence Rhode Island by Simon Hopkins stating that he was present at the death of Elijah Aldrich in the month of July 1825 and that said Aldrich was the husband of “Cantente Aldrich”.]

[p 14: On July 11, 1837 in Providence Rhode Island, Content Burlingame, 73, of Foster made application for a widow’s pension under the 1836 Act stating that she was the wife of Elisha Aldrich late of Foster who was a pensioner for his service in the Revolution at the rate of \$96 per annum; that she married him on September 23, 1781; that he died July 12, 1825; that she married Benjamin Burlingame of Killingly Conn. on December 14, 1826 and that he died May 29, 1834; and that she remains a widow.



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[p 18: Power of attorney dated May 14, 1853 given and Providence County Rhode Island by

⁶ S39845

Asia C. Law [signed her name Asha C. Law] of Gloucester County and Anthony S Aldrich in which they allege they are the only children of Elisha Aldrich and his widow Content Burlingame.

Asha C. Law
Anthony S. Aldrich

[Facts in file: The widow died June 2, 1839]

[Veteran was pension at the rate of \$8 per month commencing January 14, 1824 service as a mariner aboard the frigate *Providence* in 1779 & 1780. His former widow was pensioned in a like amount.]