

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Allen X878

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 17 November 2023.

[The file jacket is labeled "R—." The designation X878 is assigned by HeritageQuest. The file does not contain a pension application.] [A note in the file of John Allen R12048 states that the papers of three different soldiers named John Allen have been intermingled. I have not attempted to sort them out. The reader should consult the following other pension applications: John Allen R12048 and John Allen VA12.]

I, John Spooner Epes, of the county of Prince George, now in the fifty fourth year of my age, do, upon oath depose: that the late John Allen was a near neighbour to my father; that he was personally known to me, from my boyhood, to the day of his death, at which time, I was with him. I have often heard Capt. Allen speak of his having been in service at Hoods Fort, in this county, when the British vessels went up James river, in the revolution war. I have heard Capt. Allen, Capt. Sterling Gary, William Weeks, and others, who were in service at Hoods, recount the occurrences when they were in service with Capt Allen.

Capt Allens residence was not more than six miles from Hoods.

[signed 12 June 1849] John S. Epes

[From Virginia Half-Pay records on fold3.com. Some documents in the file are illegible.]

I hereby certify that Capt. John Allen of the State Artillery was ordered to Hoods in May 1780 with a detachment of the Artificers belonging to that reg't. under his command, to carry on the building barracks, magazine &c at that post, & to command what few soldiers might be sent there, till a superiour officer was ordered to take command; and that although Major Cocke was afterwards appointed to the command, Capt. Allen was still continued there to command the artificers wile I remained in office.

Richmond.

George Muter [VAS803]

Feb'y 7, 1782

In Council March 16th 1782

Capt Allen has been considered in the service of the state until the determination of the Board of Officers ordered to meet some time in February last.

Benj. Harrison

Executive Department/ Richmond Va. June 11th 1827.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies from papers on file in this department.

Wm H Richardson

First Auditors Office Va./ June 23 1847

It appears by the original return of Col. Marshalls [Thomas Marshall VAS494] regiment of artillery made to the Board of officers which assembled in Richmond in February and April 1782 that Captain John Allen's commission bears date the 16 april 1780. Jas E. Heath 1st Aud

NOTES:

The pension file contains a copy of John Allen's last will and testament dated 13 Dec 1815 with the following items: "to my daughter Polly Allen a negro girl Elva that has been brought up by her," as well as furniture and cattle. "The residue of my estate, I wish to be divided equally amongst my other children Viz: Thos Allen, Wm Allen, Lilly Fenner and Anthony Allen."

A typed summary in the half-pay file includes the following:
Resided in Henrico County, Va. removed soon after the war to Gloucester, now Camden County N. J.

Died in 1803, unmarried.

A brother William Allen had son, Barzillai, who died, and left sons Joseph B. Allen and Asa Allen.

The half-pay file also includes a power of attorney by Joseph B. Allen of Camden County NJ dated 13 June 1847 to prosecute a claim for half pay for life, as well as bounty land, for the services of John Allen in the State Regiment of Artillery from 6 Feb 1782 to "the period of his death, sometime in the year eighteen hundred and three." Another document certifies that Joseph B. Allen was administrator of the estate of John Allen, "late of the County of Gloucester, now Camden."