

## **Pension Application for Athelston Andrews**

S.1620

Declaration of Athelston Andrews.

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

State of Tennessee

Henderson County SS.

On this sixteenth day of August 1832 personally appeared before John Adams, Robert Baker and Adam M. Brown Esquires Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quartes Sessions for said County now Sitting Athelston Andrews aged seventy one 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 provisions made by the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he enlisted in the army of the United States late in the fall of 1775, being within two months of fifteen years of age, under Captain Richardson in Salem Massachusetts. The number of the Regiment he does not recollect. He enlisted for one year, the winter after he enlisted he was stationed at Winter Hill, where he remained that winter. Sometime afterwards he was transferred to Captain Brown's Company on Capt. Brown took the command of the company, the division of the army stationed at Winter Hill was commanded by Genl Lee. He was afterwards early in the spring removed to Cambridge when Genl Washington commanded in person. There he remained until the British evacuated Boston.

He was very shortly after the British evacuated Boston marched to New York, when he arrived in April, land was stationed at York Island, and commenced immediately to erecting Fort Washington. About three months afterwards, the British [?] the command of Genl Howe and Admiral Howe who I think were brothers arrived at New York. The British landed on Staten Island, from thence they moved to Flatbush on Lond [Long?] Island. He was engaged one whole night in August afterwards in rowing the American troops from Long Island to New York, when Genl Washington commenced his retreat from that place.

Genl Washington went to Fort Lee on the Jersey shore oposite [opposite] Fort Washington. We had sunk obstruction in the river to prevent the British fleet from passing up, he had left one place for our own vessels to pass. He was left at Fort Washington under the Command of Col. Otho Williams. The British fleet passed the fort in the evening and the next morning the British attacked our picket guard between the city and the fort, and between the fort and Kings Bridge, with their positions had works thrown up and mounted with Cannon. He was posted at the picket near Kings bridge, which was attacked by the Hessians and carried, we retreated to the Fort, and the Fort Surrendered.

We were all taken and put in close confinement. I was confined at Bridewell until some time in the winter when he was exchanged and his time having expired, he returned to Salem Massachusetts. This declarant has no recollection of receiving a written discharge from the service, and if he did, has lost it. This declarant is not certain of his own memory whether he enlisted under a Continental officer or under an officer

of the State of Massachusetts, being so very young and not having had occasion to make particular enquiry since.

This declarant was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1761 in North Hampton County North Carolina, where his father died when he was about twelve years of age. Shortly after his father's death an old acquaintance by the name of Butnon, a seafaring man came to where I lived and petitioned my elder brother to let me go north said Butnon to Salem and he promised to educate me, and with this man I sailed with him to Salem, land from thence on a trading voyage to Nova Scotia, and after our return to Salem I was put at shore, and was at School at the time I enlisted with the consent of my patron who was a great patriot.

After I was exchanged as before mentioned I went to sea under my patron in a vessel owned by a man by the name of Booke. We sailed to Bermuda, and there we were taken by a British man of war called the Nautilus commanded by Capt Collins. Capt. Butman, with the most of the men were sent to New York and the British returned me and one other who was a [as] young as I was, they told us we were too young to be Revels and they would turn us to serve our King. I was afterwards transferred from the Nautilus to the Reasonable a sixty four gun ship and compelled to do duty.

After the fleet returned form Charleston and the Southern Coast to New York I deserted by concealing myself in a merchant vessel sailing from New York to Nova Scotia, commanded by Capt. Wright, at Nova Scotia a [and] left the merchant man and arrived at Salem by a circuitous rout [route] through the country. When I got to Salem I found my old patron was dead. I remained there until after peace, when I returned to North Carolina and lived at [?] at Louisburgh at Warrenton, at Halifax and in [Gransvill?] County in all about twenty eight years, where I removed to Williamson County Tennessee where he lived eight years, then moved to Wilson and lived four years, then to Smith and lived there one year and about the year 1824 removed to this county where he has lived ever since.

I have no record of my birth. It was recorded in a book kept by my father, which book my brothers in law took with him to Georgia. He gave me a copy from the book, which I have now in my possession, by which means I believe I was born at the time I have stated.

I do not know of any person living who can prove the performance of my services nor have I any documentary evidence. I refer to Jacob Bartholomew and James Howard who can state my character and reputed services.

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, and has never applied for a pension before this. (Signed) Athelston Andrews.

Sworn to and subscribed in open court on this sixteenth day of August 1832.  
Jno. McClellan &c.