

**REVOLUTIONARY
SOLDIERS BURIED IN
ALABAMA, PP. 527-572**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649199235

Revolutionary soldiers buried in Alabama, pp. 527-572 by Mrs. Patrick Hues Mell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MRS. PATRICK HUES MELL

**REVOLUTIONARY
SOLDIERS BURIED IN
ALABAMA, PP. 527-572**

X. REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN ALABAMA.

"Names that adorn and dignify the scroll,
Whose leaves contain the nation's history."

—*Fitz Greene Halleck.*

BY MRS. P. H. MELL, Clemson College, S. C.
Late State Historian, Alabama Division, Daughters of the
American Revolution.

The writer offers these brief biographical sketches of Revolutionary soldiers, pioneer settlers of Alabama, with the hope that they may prove of interest to the citizens now living in the State. These soldiers came to Alabama when this country, now so rich and populous, was a wilderness of dense forests and swamps, peopled by savages and wild animals. Trees fell before the sturdy strokes of their axes, lands were cleared and cabins built; so homes were made and bravely defended, and law and order began to reign over the land.

In studying the early history of any country it is of importance to know the characteristics of the settlers; not only the popular leaders, but representatives of all walks of life, for the sum total of individual histories and individual opinions makes up the history and politics of the State. When the majority of the first settlers are law-abiding, patriotic men of good sense and firm principles, then the State will find her growth and prosperity assured.

For a period of years after the Revolution, Alabama was anything but "a land of rest." The French struggle was over, but Spaniards, English, Americans and Indians contended for the mastery of the territory. This is probably the reason why there are no Revolutionary land grants to be found in the State. During the Revolution the white inhabitants of Alabama were loyal to the crown and therefore they were not entitled to bounty lands. The thirteen original States gave liberally to their soldiers. Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee were thickly peopled with old soldiers and their families who settled on bounty lands. But there were no free lands in Alabama, prices were high and in 1819 public lands

sold for as much or more at the sales in Huntsville and St. Stephens as the same land would bring to-day.

We therefore know that only a few hundred Revolutionary soldiers settled in Alabama, while there were thousands in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1840, Alabama has a list of only one hundred and eighty-nine in the United States *Census of Pensioners*, while Kentucky has over nine hundred and other States correspondingly large numbers.

The Alabama Daughters of the American Revolution are endeavoring to locate and mark as many of the graves of these soldiers as possible and also to learn something of the history of each soldier. This is a difficult task, for early histories of the first years of the State are condensed and bare of details, only prominent men and notable events being described. To find out anything about these heroes involves researches in family records, old newspapers, the few local histories which have been published, and inscriptions on tombstones in city cemeteries, country churchyards, and old plantation family burial grounds. This work will be continued from year to year until Alabama has been thoroughly explored for the last resting places of these pioneer heroes.

In preparing these sketches the writer is indebted for valuable information to Hon. Thomas M. Owen, Secretary of the Alabama Historical Society, and Director of the Department of Archives and History of Alabama; to the regents and members of the Alabama Daughters of the American Revolution chapters and also to the descendants of some of the soldiers.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM ARMISTEAD.

"Though mixed with earth their perishable clay,
Their names shall live while glory lives to tell
True to their country how they won the day."

The grave of this soldier is described in Ball's *Clarke County, Alabama*, pp. 475-6. We learn that a Capt. William Armistead of Virginia and three sons, Robert, Westwood and John, became citizens of Clarke. The father was a man of strong peculiarities, a gentleman of the old school, wearing knee buckles and retaining English tastes. He was twice married and had three sons and three daughters. One daughter married John Morriss, in North Carolina, and moved to Alabama; another daughter

married Edmund Waddell, in North Carolina; the third married Dr. Neal Smith, a gentleman of prominence in his day.

The grave stands alone, neatly enclosed with rocks and pickets on a hill near Amity church in the family burial ground, on the plantation bequeathed by him to his son-in-law, Dr. Neal Smith, about eight miles from Grove Hill.

The following is a copy from the marble slab:

In
memory of
CAPTAIN WILLIAM ARMISTEAD,
a soldier of the
Revolution, a native
of Virginia,
who departed this life
March 1st, 1842,
aged 80 years.

The following notes on the family and ancestry of Capt. William Armistead are taken from the *William and Mary Quarterly*,³ vols. vi, vii, viii:

Capt. William Armistead was doubtless a son of Anthony Armistead and brother of Anthony, Robert, Westwood and Alexander Carver. Two of his brothers were killed in the Revolution.

³It is to be regretted that so exhaustive and learned a genealogy as President Tyler has prepared should be marred by so palpable an error as his suggestion that Captain William Armistead was the son of Anthony Armistead⁴; since he gives from the records the names of the latter's children by Mary, his wife, who long survived her husband (as the wife of one Williams), and William is not one of them; the supposition that he married, secondly, Elizabeth Lee, is out of the question.

Tyler's genealogy is so complete that he not only proves Capt. William Armistead *not* to have been a son of Anthony⁵, but not even a grandson of Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony⁶.

There is no doubt in my mind that our Revolutionary soldier was a grandson of Anthony Armistead, of Warwick, son of William, a brother of Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony⁷—for the locality of his birth, the names of his children (Westwood and Starkey), the ownership of land in North Carolina by that branch of the family and his own removal thither, are strong presumptive reasons for the belief; and they are clinched by the evident impossibility of his having been the grandson of Anthony⁸, of Elizabeth City. Note, especially, that while the Westwoods were kinemen of both the Elizabeth City and Warwick families, the Starkeys were kin to the latter alone.

It must be remembered that Elizabeth City and Warwick counties are adjacent, and together form but a small territory.

I hope to be able, in a short time, to contribute a note clarifying the question: who was Capt. Armistead's father?—W. B. NEWMAN, of Talladega, Ala.

He saw his brother Westwood killed at the battle of Brandywine; and he himself joined the army when only sixteen years of age. We will give his line of descent from this interesting Virginia family.

(1) ANTHONY ARMISTEAD, of Kirk Deighton, Yorkshire, and Frances Thompson, his wife, of the same place, had issue:

(2) WILLIAM ARMISTEAD, baptized Aug. 3, 1610, in "All Saints Church," the only church in the parish of Kirk Deighton. He emigrated to Virginia about 1635, and obtained large grants of land in Elizabeth City county, and subsequently, Gloucester county. He died before 1660. He married Anne ——— and had issue, among others:

(3) ANTHONY ARMISTEAD, ancestor of President Tyler, resided in Elizabeth City county. He was one of Sir William Berkeley's court-martial in 1676 to try the Bacon insurgents, justice of the peace, and captain of horse in 1680, burgess in 1693, 1696, 1699, and one of the committee in 1700 to report a revision of the laws, which was approved by the general assembly in 1705. Capt. Armistead married Hannah, daughter of Dr. Robert Ellyson, of James City county. This Robert Ellyson appears in the Maryland records as early as 1643 as "barber-chirurgion" and after holding the office of sheriff of St. Mary's, emigrated to Virginia, where he was high sheriff of James City county, sergeant-at-arms of the house of burgesses in 1657-58, and a leading burgess in 1656, 1659-60, 1660-61, 1663, with the rank of captain. The wife of Capt. Anthony Armistead survived him, her will being proved in Elizabeth City court in 1728. They had issue, among others:

(4) ANTHONY ARMISTEAD, lieut.-col. of militia in 1724, justice and high sheriff of Elizabeth City county, married, it is believed twice; first, Anne, who united with Anthony Armistead in a deed in 1717; second, Elizabeth Westwood, sister of William Westwood. Anthony Armistead's will was proved Dec. 18, 1728. He had children; several daughters who were affectionately remembered by their nephew, Capt. William Armistead. One of his sons:

(5) ANTHONY ARMISTEAD married Mary, daughter of Anthony Tucker and Rosea, his wife. It is thought that there was a second marriage to Elizabeth Lee and that Capt. William Armistead was a child of this marriage. A family of Lees has long re-

sided in the neighborhood of Elizabeth City county. Issue, among others:

(6) WILLIAM ARMISTEAD, the subject of this sketch, born 1762, died 1842. We append a copy of his Revolutionary services taken from the archives at Washington and sent to us with other information by his descendant, Mrs. Sallie Jones Feathers-ton, of Rome, Ga. After the Revolution he moved to Warren, thence to Randolph county, North Carolina, and married (1) Rebecca Kimbell, near Warrenton. The family Bible gives authentic information for the births of their children: 1. Westwood, born Aug. 24, 1791; 2. John Kimbell, born Dec. 16, 1792; 3. Elizabeth Lee, born Oct. 13, 1794; 4. Martha, born Sept. 1, 1796. He married (2) Elizabeth, widow of John Morriss and daughter of Mr. Lewis and his wife, Jane Westmoreland, of Halifax county, Va. His second wife had one son by her first husband, John Morriss. Issue by second marriage with Elizabeth Lewis: 5. Robert Starkey, born Nov. 5, 1800; 6. Jane Westmoreland, born April 10, 1802.

Capt. William Armistead moved in 1819 to Clarke county, Ala., and died there in 1842. His son, Westwood, married Elizabeth Boroughs, daughter of Bryan Boroughs and Sally Waddell, in North Carolina, came to Alabama and died in 1845. His children were James W., Bryan, William W., Robert S., Emma, who married ——— Cunningham, Elizabeth, married her second cousin, John Kimbell.

The second son of Capt. William Armistead, John Kimbell, married Julia Gaines. They lived in Wilcox county, Ala., thence he moved with his family to Mississippi about 1840. Issue: William, James, Gen. Charles Armistead, of the Confederate army, John, and Dr. E. R. Armistead, of Prescott, Ala.

The third son of Capt. William Armistead, Robert Starkey, married Ann Carney, moved to Texas in 1835, and died in 1866, without issue.

The oldest daughter of William Armistead, Elizabeth Lee, married his step-son, John Morriss, and lived in Alabama; and his second daughter married Edmund Waddell of North Carolina, an uncle of Westwood Armistead's wife.

The youngest daughter of Capt. Armistead married in Alabama in 1821, Dr. Neal Smith, a native of Moore county, N. C.,

son of Malcolm Smith. Malcolm Smith, and Malcolm Smith, Sr., were soldiers of the Revolution and though of Scotch descent, their worst foes were the "Scotch Tories." (See Ball's *Clarke County, Ala.*, and Brewer's *Alabama* for sketches of Dr. Neal Smith.) Issue: Julia Elizabeth, married (1) David White, a native of Virginia, (2) James M. Jackson; Sarah Louisa married John B. Savage; Margaret A. married (1) Kirkland Harrison, of South Carolina, (2) Asa M. Lewis, of Texas; Robert Neal married Miss Watkins, from Virginia; Jane married James D. Bryant, of Wilcox county, Ala.; Martha Rebecca married (1) Richard Starkey Jones, of Selma, and (2) Mr. Rixey; Catharine Jeanet married Dr. H. G. Davis; Mary Caroline married Thomas Boroughs, Jr.

The Revolutionary services of Capt. William Armistead, copied from archives at Washington, D. C., Record Book E, vol 8, p. 9:

"William Armistead was born in Elizabeth City, Va., about 1762. He entered the U. S. service at Williamsburg, Va., under Captain Spiller Dent, 1777, Virginia State Troops; marched to Valley Forge, joined Muhlenburg Brigade; pursued the British on their retreat through Jersey; was in the battle of Monmouth; afterwards detached from Muhlenburg Brigade and attached to troops under command of General Wayne and Major Lewry; marched to Hudson river; stationed between West Point and Stony Point for some time; was at the storming of Stony Point, 1779. After long service marched to New Brunswick on Raritan river; remained in Philadelphia some time. After serving three years, marched back to Williamsburg, Va., and was there with the other troops regularly discharged."

William Armistead, of Clarke county, Ala., is down on the U. S. Pension List for 1840.

The following additional facts as to his family are supplied by William B. Newman, of Talladega:

John Morriss and his wife, Elizabeth Lee Armistead, had four children:

(1) William Armistead, married Nancy, a sister of the late William J. Hearin, of Mobile.

(2) Rebecca Kimbell, married Thomas Boroughs, brother of Westwood Armistead's wife.

(3) Washington.

(4) Martha Jane, married Samuel Forwood, a Marylander,

who was executor, with Westwood Armistead, of William Armistead's will.

Rebecca Kimbell Morriss had by her husband, Thomas Boroughs, the following children:

(1) Anne Elizabeth, married (1) Henley W. Coate, first judge of probate of Clarke; (2) James Addison Newman, of Orange county, Virginia.

(2) William Morriss, married Laura Jenkins, of Monroe county.

(3) Thomas, married his cousin, Mary Caroline Smith.

(4) Martha Jane, married her cousin, Captain Thomas Isham Kimbell, of Clarke.

(5) Rebecca, married Frank Stallworth, of Falls county, Texas, a native of Conecuh county, Ala.

(6) Mary Louise, died unmarried.

(7) Bryan, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Shelton Dickenson, a member of the second Confederate congress.

REUBEN BLANKENSHIP.

"Simple they were, not savage; and their rifles
Though very true were yet not used for trifles."

Reuben Blankenship is mentioned in the list of Alabama pensioners in the U. S. Census for 1840. His age then was given as seventy-three; so he was born about 1767 and was a youth during the Revolution. In 1840 he was living in Coosa county, and he was buried at Poplar Springs church in that county.

This information was given by D. B. Oden, of Childersburg, Ala.

THOMAS BRADFORD.

"The night dew that falls though in silence it weeps
Shall brighten with verdure the grass where he sleeps."
—*Thomas Moore.*

The following description of the grave of this Revolutionary soldier was copied from Rev. T. H. Ball's *Clarke County, Alabama*, p. 476. The writer has endeavored vainly by correspondence and advertisements to obtain information of the life and descendants of Mr. Bradford. Apparently he is totally forgotten by the world and "in this secluded nook where peace and quiet reign,