

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Joseph Dobson W19187
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary

fn67NC
rev'd 3/6/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina, Burke County

On this 22nd day of October 1832 Personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Joseph Dobson, Esq. a resident of said State and County aged 76 years. his age was recorded in a large Family Bible by his Father which Bible the said Joseph now has and which states that he the said Joseph “was born on the 4th day of June 1756” who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.--He first Volunteered in the month of March 1776 for __ months under Capt. John Hardin, Lt. James Brittain; our Regt. was commanded by Colonels Beakman (or Bateman) & Charles McDowell afterwards Gen. McDowell. Gen. Alexander Martin (afterwards Gov. Martin) commanded the expedition. I volunteered in this (Burke) County (then Rowan County). We were marched down to Cross Creek now Fayetteville against the Scotch Tories. The foot troops under Gen. Martin did not get on in time to aid Gen. Caswell [Richard Caswell] in whipping and taking the Tories. He, Caswell, had a battle with them on Black River our Horse got on and was in the battle. We were then marched down to Wilmington where we remained some time. We were then marched back to Lincoln County N. C. & discharged by Col. Beakman as well as I can recollect we were discharged in July or August. I was between 4 & 5 months in the service. I next volunteered under Capt. Joseph McDowell in the fall of the year 1776. He believes Frank Lock [sic, Francis Locke] was the Colonel. The whole commanded by Genl. Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford]. We marched to the Valley Towns in the Nation. There was no general battle fought and scouting parties & spies a number of skirmishes. We destroyed their Towns, crops &c & took a considerable quantity of plunder. We returned & our company was discharged near the head of the Catawba River in Burke County N.C. During the campaign I was transferred from Capt. McDowell's Company to Capt. Thomas Lytle's company of spies and served under him for some time. He believes there was no written discharge given to the any of his company but they were just dismissed by the officers & directed to return home.

He next volunteered at Sherill's Ford in Lincoln then Rowan County N.C. and was placed under the command of Capt. Thomas Donoho, Col. Archibald Lytle & Genl. James Thaxton [James Thackston]. I volunteered for nine months & was marched

through N.C. across Dan River into the edge of Virginia. Our officers then received orders to return to this State which they done & took up quarters at Moon's Creek & remained there till the Legislature which was then sitting at Hillsborough broke up. This he thinks was in the month of November (I think 1778). The men were then furloughed till next March. We rendezvoused at the expiration of our furloughs at Charles Ward's in Lincoln County N.C. (then Rowan County) and were marched to South Carolina. We crossed Savannah River & were put under Genl. Ashe [John Ashe]. We were attacked at Briar Creek & defeated by the British. We retreated as fast as we could. The attack was before day & some of our troops were thrown into such confusion that every man had to fight for himself. There was a number of us that got to a Flat on the Savannah River & commenced crossing but before we could cross the British got to the bank & fired upon & killed six or seven men & wounded some others. We collected together on the South Carolina side and were then marched to George Town [sic, Georgetown]. We were shortly after marched back towards Charleston & to the Stono Battle which battle I was in under my same Capt. Donoho & Col. Lytle. From thence we marched up to Puriesburg [sic, Purrysburg] & discharged. This I think was in 1779. -- This service including my furlough was over Eighteen months.

He next volunteered under Capt. Joseph McDowell, afterwards Genl. Jo. McDowell, who commanded a company of horse. We started in February or March 1780 --& were kept ranging the Country after Tories till the 20th day of June 1780 -- when we attacked the Tories at Ramsour's Mills. This was where Lincoln Town [sic, Lincolnton] now stands. We commenced the action between daybreak & sunrise. We defeated the Tories & took a number of prisoners. He was wounded slightly in the hip & his right knee cap slightly cut with a bullet which passed through his horse & killed him. He is enabled to fix the precise date of the battle from a record made of his Brother John Dobson's death who was killed in the battle. John Dobson was a Captain at said Battle He continued under Capt. McDowell and was with him at the Skirmish with Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] men on the head of Cane Creek (now Burke County N.C.). We formed after that skirmish and another one at Allen's place on Muddy Creek both of which were in August 1780. That we were not able for Ferguson & we retreated across the mountains to Watauga River now Carter County Tennessee. We then joined Sevier [John Sevier] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] and afterwards fell in with Col. Campbell after recrossing the mountains. We then perused on after Ferguson till we overtook him at King's Mountain where we had a great engagement & gave him a total defeat. This battle was in October 1780. He was wounded by a ball passing through his right arm near the elbow joint and also by another which struck him on the left side & ranged round his back & lodged in his right shoulder & was cut out by a British Doctor who was taken prisoner at the battle. He was hauled in a wagon by Col. Johnson up into Lincoln County to the house of George Wilfong & there left where I remained for some days till I was well able to ride a horse. Mr. Wilfong then sent his son with me & loaned me a horse to ride home. I got no written discharge after that battle but was sent home as a wounded man. I was nine or ten months in service during this tour.

I was afterwards elected a Captain of a Light horse Company & went out (August 1781) [on] a short expedition against the Cherokees. Maj. Joseph McDowell commanded us. There was only 98 men went out. We took some prisoners & plunder & returned home after being a few weeks absent. I remained a Captain till the close of the

War. I was then under the orders of Gen. Charles McDowell and kept in service off & on as necessity required. At one time I commanded at Waford's Fort against the Indians & also at Cathey's Fort & was kept shifting about as the exigencies of the company required, some time on scouting parties & some time in the Forts. He had no regular commission as a Captain; was elected by his men and recognized as a Captain.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present one and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. Sworn and subscribed day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Dobson

Sworn to in open Court 22nd October 1832

Test: S/ J. Erwin, Clk.

[fn p. 36]

State of North Carolina Burke County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions October Term 1832

Personally appeared in open Court now sitting John Wilfong¹ and after being duly sworn in due form of law depose & saith. That he was in the Battle of King's Mountain where Ferguson was killed & his Army defeated that he was wounded in said battle and that Joseph Dobson Esquire of Burke County who signed & swore to the declaration to which this is annexed & who is now personally present in Court, was also in said battle at Kings Mountain and was badly wounded in said battle he shoulder was much injured, we traveled together to my father's Major George Wilfong's in Lincoln County -- he remained at my Father's for some time, & then proceeded home up into what is now Burke County. He was a true Whig & fought well and I have reason to believe that his statements as set forth in his declaration which I have heard red ink court is true. I have not seen Joseph Dobson for some time till yesterday & I had believed that he was dead & knows but no better till I met with him accidentally just before his declaration was read in court, and when I heard it read I perfectly recollected the circumstances of his being wounded as stated at King's Mountain. I now reside in the County of Lincoln not far from where I was born & raised.

Sworn to & subscribed this 23rd day of October 1832

S/ John Wilfong

Sworn to in open Court 22nd October 1832

S/ J. Erwin, Clk.

[fn p. 45: pension certificate issued to the widow of Joseph Dobson entitling her to a pension payment of \$66.66 per annum.]

[fn p. 62]

State of North Carolina Burke County

Personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for the County aforesaid Joseph Dobson Esquire a soldier of the Revolution who being first duly sworn makes the following as a true statement of the services performed by him during the Revolutionary War --

¹ [John Wilfong S7951](#)

I volunteered under Captain John Harden in the month of March 1776 and served until about the last of July in the same year. (4 mos.)

I next volunteered in September 1776 and marched under Captain Joseph McDowell and continued in the service until the 1st January 1777. (3 mos.)

I next volunteered under the command of Captain Thomas Donoho in or about the 15th of April 1778. I enlisted for nine months and remained in the service until November I think about the 15th when I was discharged at Hillsboro as stated in my Declaration – (7 months)

I again volunteered under the command of Captain Joseph McDowell about the 1st March 1780 and continued in the service nine months. (9 mos.)

I again volunteered under the command of Major Joseph McDowell and was elected by the Company a Captain although not commissioned I was recognized as Captain during the remainder of my Service -- This last service commenced as nearly as I can recollect about August 1781 and continued three months (3 mos.)

The services above stated were performed by me at the time and under the Authority of those I have stated as well as I now can recollect so help me God. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 4th day of November 1833.

S/ Joseph Dobson

S/ R. C. Pearson, JP

[fn p. 64]

State of North Carolina Burke County

When at October Term 1832 of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid Joseph Dobson a soldier of the War of the Revolution did make a Declaration to certain services rendered to the U S during said war and for which he claims the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, and whereas the aforesaid Declaration not being sufficiently satisfactory to the War Department to entitle him to the benefits of said Act hath this day comes before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law to the following tours performed by him.

I first entered the service of the United States as heretofore stated in the County of Lincoln in North Carolina under Captain John Harden in March 1776 and served four months or until the latter part of July in the same year.

I again served under Captain Joseph McDowell as stated in my Declaration commenced the service in September 1776 and continued in the service until the 1st January following (three months).

I again entered the service of the United States as well as I now possibly recollect about the middle (15th) of November 1778 under Captain Thomas Donoho -- I marched from home under my first Captain John Harden to Lincoln County near Sherrels Ford where we rendezvoused, then I joined Captain Donoho and marched shortly afterwards towards Virginia, after crossing Dan River at Dixes Ferry [Dix's Ferry?]. It was thought best to return to our own State (North Carolina) which we done and remained at Moons Creek until the assembly at Hillsboro rose at which time we were furloughed to meet again at

"Wards" the 1st of March. After I was discharged I returned home about Christmas and remained until the 1st March 1779 and about that time again met at, or near, Sherrill's Ford where I joined Captain Donoho under command of Colonel Thaxton [Thackston] and Archibald Lytle and Major William Nelson we marched from this place as well as I can recollect to Hillsboro and from there to Wilmington and Georgetown, during this tour I was engaged in battle with the British & Tories at Stono on the Edisto River. I am not able to say precisely the time of this battle but think it was the fall of the year after March when we left home -- Captain Donoho was the Captain the other officers were Major Nelson and Colonel Lytle and General Thaxton. After this we marched to Wilmington and from there to Brier Creek where we were again attack by the Light horse of the British and retreated across the Savannah -- I am not able to state with precision the time of this battle but know that it was shortly after the attack at Edisto perhaps not more than one month -- from the time I first volunteered under Captain Donoho until I was finally discharged by him the time as stated in my original Declaration was at least 18 months yet I was not in actual service near all this time. From the loss of memory in my present old age I am not able to say with more precision the nature of my service under Captain Donoho that I have done, As well as I recollect the time I was engaged in actual service, that he is constantly marching from place to place as directed by Captain Donoho was from November the 15th or thereabout until Christmas which was six weeks and from March afterwards I was engaged as heretofore stated at Stono on the Edisto, Georgetown, & Brier Creek, and was discharged as stated in my original Declaration -- I am sure my actual service from March (the time I volunteered or returned to Wards on furlough) until I was discharged would amount to six months -- (6 months).

I again volunteered under Captain McDowell and served as stated in my former Declaration -- I was under his command reconnoitering from about March until October when I was at the Battle of King's Mountain -- my actual service under him at the Battle of Ramsour's and Kings Mountain was from June until October -- (4 months).

I performed one other tour of three months as stated in my former Declaration under Major Joseph McDowell commencing about August 1781 and ending the winter following in December --

Sworn to and subscribed before me this second day of Jan: 1834.

S/ Joseph Dobson

S/ R. C. Pearsall, JP

[fn p. 12: On March 22, 1844 in McDowell County North Carolina, Mary Dobson [her stated age is illegible] made application for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Joseph Dobson, deceased of Burke County North Carolina, a pensioner of the United States for his services in the revolution; that she married him March 1779; that her husband died November 21, 1836; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 15: copy of the family register]

Joseph Dobson was born on the fourth day of June 1756

Mary Dobson was born on the 10th day of December 1766

Joseph Dobson and Mary were married on the 18th of March 1779

Nancy Dobson was born on the ninth day of March 1780
Rebecca Dobson was born the 16th April 1782
Catharine Dobson was born 28th of April 1784
Ann Dobson was born the 19th May 1786
Joseph Dobson Junior was born the 17th April 1788
John Dobson was born the 15th of July 1790
Alexander Dobson was born fifth March 1793
Polly Dobson was born the 19th of April 1795
Washington Dobson was born on the 26 day of December 1797
Jefferson Dobson was born the 23rd November 1801
 Jefferson died the 29th of November 1801
 Washington died the 12th of January 1810

[fn p. 19: on March 22 come 1844 in McDowell County North Carolina, Caty Murphy, 81, testified that she was present and witnessed the marriage between Joseph Dobson and Mary McKey [McKay?] on March 18, 1779.]

[facts in file: the widow died December 31, 1845; except for the family register and the information contained therein, there is no other family data in this file.]