

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Almon Dunston W731

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 June 2011.

State of Virginia

Gloucester County Sct

On this fourth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before the Justices of the County aforesaid in open Court (being a Court of record for the said County of Gloucester) Almon Dunston a resident of said County aged Seventy years, who being 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 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the army of the United States in the year 1777 (the day and month he does not recollect) with Captain Philip Taliaferro of the second Virginia State Regiment of the State line commanded by Col. William Nelson. That he served out the term of his enlistment as follows Vizt, under Col. Nelson about one year and the balance of the term being two years) he served under Col. [William] Brent, the Command of the said Regiment being transfered to him. that Capt. Taliaferro having resigned, Lieut. Machen Boswell was appointed Capt. of the Company under whom the said Dunston served two years making three years the term for which he enlisted as aforesaid. That he was a resident of the said County at the time of his enlistment That he was engaged in the Battles of Powles Hook [sic: Paulus Hook NJ, 19 Aug 1779], Monmouth Courthouse [28 Jun 1778], and several skirmishes to the north.

That after he served out the said Term of three years, he again entered the Army as a substitute and served about eighteen months in that capacity to the south and until the end of the War, when he was honourably discharged

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state or (if any only on that of the agency of Virginia

[signed] Almon Dunston

[On 4 Nov 1833 Dunston deposed as follows regarding Peter Barnard (pension application S19356):] I enlisted myself early in the spring of the year 1777 as a soldier in Capt Machen Boswell's Company of Infantry, & marched with that Company in the spring of the year 1778 along with Capt Peter Barnards Company & many others, to the northern station, where I remained 'till the winter of 1780 or 1781 when I returned to Gloucester, and was discharged, having served out the term of three years, for which I had enlisted. The said Peter Barnard returned with his Company from the north at the same time I did. A short time after my return from the north, I reentered the service as a soldier and was at Yorktown, at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] – very soon after which I went out to the south under the command of Capt. Roy and remained there till the end of the war, when I returned to Cumberland Court House and was there discharged.

NOTES:

A size roll of noncommissioned officers and privates taken at Albemarle Old Courthouse lists the following: Alman Dunstan/ age 19/ height 5' 7"/ planter/ residing in Gloucester County/ entered service in King and Queen County for 18 months on 15 May 1781. Under the column headed "How Engaged" is written "Deserted."

On 4 Apr 1853 Alice Dunston, 57, applied for a pension stating that she married Almon Dunston on 17 Dec 1814, and he died 20 Jan 1837. William Bristow deposed that he had been present at the marriage of Almon Dunston to Alice or Elcy Bristow. On 3 Apr 1855 Alice Dunston applied for bounty land. A document in the file states that Alice Dunston died on 18 April 1865 leaving the following

children: Mary Ann Darnel, wife of William Darnel; and Alice Dunston. On 25 Feb 1867 William and Mary Ann Darnel and Alice Dunston assigned power of attorney to John P. Bristow of Middlesex County to obtain their mother's pension, which had been suspended during the Civil War. On 3 June 1867 Robert B. Bristow, with John P. Bristow as security, became administrator of the estate of Alice Dunston. Robert B. Bristow signed an oath of loyalty to the United States probably as a condition for receiving benefits as administrator. On 28 Aug 1867 John S. Groom and George W. Wiatt, former neighbors of Alice Dunston, deposed that she had remained loyal to the United States during the Civil War and judged that the claimants to her pension were also loyal, from the following circumstances: "William Darnel the husband of one of the heirs, left the Confederate States' service, returned to his home, some time after the troops left Gloucester Point, and never was in the Confederate States' service afterwards - was reported by the Conscript Officers as a deserter," and "the other heir and one of the claimants Alice Dunston left her home in Gloucester some time during the rebellion and went over to York County and there remained under the protection of the Union forces until the close of the war."