

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Robert Douglass S1510 VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee, } ss.  
County of McMinn }

On this 3 day of September personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said county, Robert Douglass a resident of said county and state, aged about 74 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

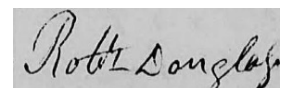
He entered the service as a volunteer in the Militia of Virginia on the 3d day of September 1775, for three months, in a company commanded by captain John Talbot, lieutenant Thomas Helms [sic: Thomas Helm], ensign Arthur Moseley. The troops met a company raised at the same time, & commanded by Captain J Dudley, at Captain John Hunter's on the road from Newlondon [New London, now in Campbell County] to the city of Richmond, on the 8th of September. They were marched to Williamsburg barracks, and were then attached to the regiment commanded by Col. [David] Mason, where we remained till the General assembly met, of which our Captain was a member. He went to the Assembly, and we were left in the command of our lieutenant. We were marched to Yorktown, and were then under the command of a Major Wilson, Col. Mason having remained in Williamsburg. These troops were raised to guard the coast against the depredations of lord Dunmore's fleet, which was then [8 Jun 1775 - 7 Aug 1776] in the waters of Virginia. We served out our tour and a few days more, until we were relieved by new recruits, after which we were marched to Williamsburg and paid and discharged. Declarant's messmates were Jesse Wood, Isaac Gilbert, George [George Cocke] & Wm. Cocke [probably William Cocke, pension application S3187] & Thomas Walker.

Declarant again entered the service in January 1781, as a volunteer in Augusta County, to serve until we should be discharged; the object of raising this force was to march to North Carolina. After the troops were raised, they were met on the top of Rockfish Gap, by Col. [Samuel] Vance, and ordered to march to Guilford, which they did accordingly. Declarant together with about 25 persons were sent out by General [William] Campbell under the command of lieutenant Dillard, on a foraging party, and not having reached the army as soon as they had been commanded they missed the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse, Thursday, 15 Mar 1781], nor did declarant & his detachment join the army till the Tuesday after the battle. declarant did not serve three months on this occasion, but was discharged and had credit for a tour.

Declarant again entered the service as a volunteer for 3 months or more if necessary. After this, on the same evening of his turning out his brother in law came to him, and said that his waggon and team had been pressed and requested him to take care of it, as he had volunteered. To this applicant agreed if Col. Vance would credit him with a tour. Vance consented to do this, and applicant accordingly drove a waggon and team, in the Campaign which brought the war to a close at Yorktown, and was present when Cornwallis surrendered [19 Oct 1781]. Declarant had written discharges perhaps for all of these tours, but has lost them, and cannot produce them. In this last tour, declarant was more than 3 months engaged, on the waggon which was pressed as aforesaid, was pressed of 6 months. declarant remained in Virginia till the year 1787, and then removed to Blount County where he lived till 1822, and then removed to McMinn county, where he now lives.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the 3d day of September 1832



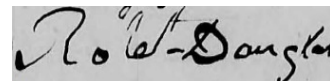
State of Tennessee }  
McMinn County }

On this 2d day of September, 1833, Robert Douglass personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of the County Court of the County aforesaid, and made the following affidavit, in Amendment of his declaration made before this court on the 3d day of September, 1832, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That said Robert Douglass being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that he served the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; For three months I served as a private in the year 1777 [sic], commencing in September, 3d day. I stated in my declaration that I entered this service in 1775, but I now recollect that it was in 1777, and I was then mistaken. For two months I served as a private, commencing in January, 1781, the same tour stated second in my declaration. For six months I served, as a private, 3 months of which time I served as a volunteer, and 3 months as a substitute for my brother in law Gasper Clemans. This was the service mentioned thirdly in my declaration, and which is not as fully stated there as I now can recollect. I served three months as a volunteer, commencing in June or July, 1781, – when this term was out my said brother in law was drafted – could not leave home and served his tour out of three months as his substitute taking care of his wagon and performing duty as another soldier, for which services of eleven months I claim a pension. – Affiant also makes the following answers to the Interrogatories propounded by the war Department. – 1. I was born in Augusta County Va. in the year 1758. – 2 I have the family record in the hand writing and kept by my father. – 3 I lived in Bedford County when I entered the first service, and in Augusta County when I entered the 2 & 3 tours, all in Va. I mentioned in my declaration where I have lived since the Revolutionary war & where I now live.

4. I entered the service as a volunteer in all the services I performed except the last 3 months which I served as a substitute for Gasper Clemans.

5. I do not recollect the names of any of the inferior officers of the regular service. I could state the names of some of the superior officers, and all would recollect them. Col. Campbell, Col. Mason, Captain Wm Long [William Long] Liut. Reuben Whitlock and Major Dixon, I think were regular officers, but I do not know the regiments to which they belonged. – 6. I think I rec'd a written discharge or discharges, but they are now lost. I have no documentary evidence. I know of no witness by whom I can prove all the service I performed. I could prove the second & third tours by one Christopher Liner [pension application W3699] but he is a man not generally known & though a credible man I do not know that I could now prove his credibility without much trouble. I can prove the performance of the last service by one John McMahan [S2808] who was in the army at the same time. – 7<sup>th</sup>. Obadiah & John Bolding both ministers of the Gospel, Joseph Cobbs & Thomas Gilbreath are some of my present neighbours who can prove my character &c.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court, the 2d day of September, 1833.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Douglass". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.