

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

Pension Application of William Dennis Hamilton (William Dennis) S37990

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

On this thirty first day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, before me Peter Johnston, one of the Judges of the General Court of Virginia appointed by law to perform the judicial duties of the thirteenth circuit, which comprehends the county of Lee, personally presented himself William Dennis Hampton, otherwise called William Dennis, of the county of Lee, in the State of Virginia, and on oath made the following declaration, for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress entitled, "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war, passed on the eighteenth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred & eighteen: That he the said William Dennis Hampton, otherwise called William Dennis, enlisted in the service of the United States in the year 1776, as well as he now can recollect, in the month of October, with Lieutenant John Marshall, of Captain William Blackwell's company, and of the eleventh regiment of the Virginia line, on continental establishment, commanded, according to his present recollection, by Colonel William Heth: That he was transferred from that regiment to the rifle corps commanded by Colonel Daniel Morgan, to the northern frontier: that he continued with that corps untill the reduction of Stony point [16 July 1779], and was of Captain Gabriel Long's company: That after the storming of the enemies works at Stony point, he was selected by Colonel Henry Lee for the cavalry service, and became a dragoon of the legion commanded by that officer, and was of the third troop of cavalry whose captain was Joseph Eggleston, afterwards Major Eggleston: that he continued in the Legion cavalry untill the close of the revolutionary war, and while he was in service was present at the capture of General Burgoyne at Saratoga [17 Oct 1777], at the battles of Edgehill [Edge Hill PA, 7 Dec 1777], Monmouth [28 June 1778], Somerset [possibly skirmish at Somerset Court House, now Millstone NJ, on 20 Jan 1777], & Stony point, to the north, and at the surprise of Colo. Piles [defeat of Loyalists under Col. John Pyle, 25 Feb 1781], the battle of Guildford [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], at the reduction of the British fort on Santee called fort Watson [15 - 23 Apr 1781], at Mrs Mott's [Siege of Fort Motte SC, 8 - 12 May 1781], at the fort commanded by Major [Andrew] Maxwell near Friday's ferry on the Congaree [Siege of Fort Granby, 2 - 15 May 1781], at Galphin's on Savannah River [Fort Galphin SC, 21 May 1781], and at the reduction of the British forts at Augusta in Georgia [Fort Grierson, 23 May 1781; Fort Cornwallis, 24 May - 1 June 1781], where he was wounded in a skirmish with the enemy; That he was regularly discharged at the close of the war after having been disable for service by the wound above mentioned nearly twelve months, but has long since lost his discharge: and that from his reduced circumstances he stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support. Given under my hand and seal, at Lee Courthouse in the State of Virginia, on the day and year first above written. Peter Johnston

I Peter Johnston, one of the Judges of the General Court of the State of Virginia appointed by law to perform the judicial duties of the thirteenth circuit, which comprehends the County of Lee, do certify, that it appears to my satisfaction, that the before named William Dennis Hampton, otherwise called William Dennis, did serve in the revolutionary war as stated in the preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for the period of a service extending at least to one year. I farther certify, that having served in the Legion commanded by Colonel Henry Lee, in the war of the revolution, for several years, I have a perfect recollection of the person of the applicant; that he belonged to the Legion cavalry; and that he was wounded at Augusta in Georgia in a skirmish with a party of the enemy, when the British forts at that place were invested by the American troops, in the month of May in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty one. I also certify, that the said William Dennis Hampton, otherwise called William Dennis, from his reduced circumstances stands in need of the assistance of his country for his support. Given under my hand & seal Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1819

Peter Johnston

Virginia Lee County towit,

On this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record, and Quarter Sessions established for said County by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia, William Dennis Hampton, alias William Dennis, aged seventy years, resident in said County, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, towit, That he enlisted as a private soldier in the Continental Army in the year 1775 [sic] as well as he recollects, under Lieutenat John Marshall in Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Virginia for three years or during the war. That he was placed in Captain William Blackwells Company in the eleventh Virginia Regiment Commanded by Col. Heath. That he continued in the said Regiment untill the spring of 1776 when he was transferred to Colonel Daniel Morgan's Rifle Regiment, in Captain Gabriel Long's Company. That he served in the Rifle Corps better than three years, during which time he was in several battles, among which were the battles of Bon brook & Middlebrook in Jersey [possibly skirmish at Bound Brook on 13 Apr 1777]; the battle of Brunswick [possibly skirmishing before Somerset], and several days fighting at Somerset; the battle of Piscataway [10 May 1777]; at the taking of Burgoyne; at the sally of the British out of Philadelphia at edgehill; & the battle of Stony point. – That immediately after the battle of Stony point, he was transferred to Colonel Henry Lee's Regiment of Legion Cavalry, in the Troop commanded by Captain Joseph Egleston. And that he continued in Lee's Cavalry untill the end of the war. That during his service in the Cavalry, he was in several battles in the south, among which were the battles of Guilford, the battle at Thompson's Fort [unknown]; at Mrs. Mottes; Graysons [sic: Grierson's] Fort, & Browns Fort [Fort Cornwallis, commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Brown] at Augusta, where he was wounded in the Foot, and lay about 12 months with the wound before he was able for duty. – That for the said services he made his declaration before the Honorable Peter Johnston Esquire, Judge of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Virginia, on the 21<sup>st</sup>. day of August 1819 to entitle him to the provisions of the law of the United States of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818. And obtained from the Secretary of War, a pension Certificate dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1819 Numbered 15.302. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress entitled, "An Act to provide for certain person engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818. And that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me; nor have I any income, other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed, to wit,

About forty five acres of Land, about twenty three acres thereof cleared, and mostly very much worn, and in bad repair. And all the good Land on the tract cleared. One Cow, eleven head of sheep; Two sows & fifteen pigs, & eleven shoats. One shovel plough & Coller. One Axe, two weeding hoes, one sprouting hoe, & one pair of gears. Two pewter dishes, seven earthen plates; One set cups & saucers, one coffee pot, one pot, & old oven, Two bowls, one table spoon, & six tea spoons. – Three knives & forks, four chairs, one flax wheel, two old piggins, one churn, Two small kegs, & one old still Tub; one Gun barrell, one hand Iron, one shovel, & two pair of pot hooks, & one small Table.

William Dennis Hampton alias William hisXmark Dennis

The said William Dennis Hampton alias William Dennis, also upon his Oath declared that he has no occupation but that of a farmer. And that he has been so infirm for several years, as to be entirely incompetent to do any labour in a form of any consequence. And that the product of his little Farm is mostly consumed in the hire of hands & horses to cultivate it. That his wife is about sixty years of age & very weakly & infirm. That the only family he has besides is two girls, Polly aged about 20 years, and Charlotte aged about 18 years. And one boy, Morgan aged about eleven years, but who has always been a very weakly Child, and from prospects, does not promise ever to be able to perform labour. – That he owes just debts to the amount of sixty five dollars which his necessities have compelled him to contract,

and which, if his Country withholds her bounty, he will be entirely unable to pay, without involving him in total ruin in the days of his age. And that he is in such reduced circumstances in life, as to stand in need of the assistance of his Country for his support.

NOTE: The file includes a letter to the Pension Office written from Cleveland TN on 10 Apr 1844 inquiring about obtaining bounty land for the heirs of William Dennis Hampton.