Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Diddle S5349 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia }
Augusta County } ss.

on this 24th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Jacob Sease, Joseph Brown, William S Eskridge, & William Young the Court of Augusta County now sitting, John Diddle a resident of the County of Augusta, and state of Virginia aged 87 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 as one of the Militia of Augusta County volunteered his services to go against the Cherokee Indians in the month of August 1776, that he with the other troops from Augusta County rendivouzed at David Steales in the said County of Augusta, that he was attached to the company under the command of Capt William Christian of the Augusta Malitia, Patrick Buchanan was Lieutenant of the same company, the name of the Ensign he does not recollect, this declarent was appointed a Sergeant of the company, they marched from their place of rendivouz to a little beyond New River, where they were put under the command of a Col William Christian of the Militia & from New River they marched to an Island on Holston River [Long Island of Holston at present Kingsport TN], where they lay untill they should be joined by additional men that were expected, when joined by the troops expected, they marched for the Indian nation, when they arrived near the French broad river, we were met by a flag, and was informed that a large body of Indians lay on the opposite side of the river, in the course of the day a ford was forced a few miles below where our troops lay, in the course of the night we crossed the river, with the intention of attacking them – but the Indians had fled, we then marched to their Towns where we lay for some time, expecting to be able to effect a treaty with them but they did not come in to hold a treaty, we then burnt their Towns and the troops were discharged & returned home in the latter part of November 1776 haveing been absent in the service about four months that he received no written discharge.

His next service was as one of the Malitia of Augusta County, an appeal was made to the Militia to turn out against the British, he volunteered his services, and with other troops from Augusta rendivouzed at Teases (now Waynesborough in Augusta County) [sic: Widow Teas's at Waynesboro] in the month of January 1781 – Col [Sampson] Mathews of Augusta took the command of the troops, the declarent was attached to Capt John Cunninghams company, they marched first to Fredericksburg where they lay a few days, and were then ordered toward Portsmouth, they crossed James River at Cabbin Point [sic: Cabin Point in Surry County], from Cabbin Point they proceeded untill they got below Suffolk to a place called Camp Carson, the service of the troops he belonged to was cheifly between that point and Porstmouth, he was in a scremage in which Capt Cunningham was wounded, and this declarent succeeded in takeing one of the British Yeaugers [sic: Hessian Yaeger] Prisoner before the close of the campaign, this declarent was transfered from Capt Cunninghams company to a company commanded by Capt Charles Cameron – that he was discharged with the other troops and reached home in the month of April 1781 haveing been absent about three months & nineteen days – that he has no documentary evidence of his service, but expects to be able to prove his first tour of service by Maj William Wilson [sic: William Willson pension application S6393] of Augusta County who was in the service with him – his second tour of service he expects to be able to prove also by the said Wilson and by John Thompson [S6223], both of whom were with this declarent on the said last tour.

He hereby relinquishes every claim 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 day and year aforesaid.

John his mark Diddle

The Court then proceeded to propound the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as follows.

1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the year 1744 and raised in the State of Pennsylvania, within seven miles of the City of Philadelphia.

- 2. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

 Answer. I have no record of my age, that was in a Family bible which was left in the state of
- Answer. I have no record of my age, that was in a Family bible which was left in the state of Pennsylvania when I removed to Virginia.
- 3. Where were you liveing when called into service; where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?
- Answer. I resided in Augusta County when I was called into service. I have resided in the same County since the Revolution and still resided in the County of Augusta about 16 miles south East of Staunton.
- 4. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer, or were you a substitute? Answer. I volunteered my services on both tours of duty.
- 5. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & Militia regments as you can recollect, and the general circumstance of your service. Answer. I remember that Gen'l Lafayette had the principal command, Gen'l [Anthony] Wayne had also a command. There were other Malitia officers I remember on the last tour that Col or Lt Col Wm Bowyer [William Bowyer] of the Augusta Militia and Maj Alexander Robertson of the Augusta Malitia. The General circumstances of my services I have in my above declaration set forth.
- 6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Answer. I never received any written discharge.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, who can testify as to your character for veracity, and belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I would refer to Claudius Buster & Lewis Wayland esquires Justices of the Peace for Augusta County

John his mark Diddle

(Maj) William Willson of Augusta County aged about 87 years appeared in open Court and being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, state that he was personally acquainted with John Diddle the above applicant for a pension, that he served with the said John Diddle both tours of duty he has in his declaration set forth – that knows well that the said Diddle did serve both said tours of duty as he has set forth in his declaration, and under the officers he has spoken of, that he remembers the name of the Ensign which the said Diddle does not recollect was Zachariah Johnston of the Augusta Militia – that he believes the said Diddle to be about 87 years old, that he has all ways sustained and justly the charater of a man of truth. Given under my hand this 23rd day of Oct. 1832.

John Thompson of Augusta County appeared in open Court and being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath state that he was a soldier in the war of the revolution, and was personally acquainted with John Diddle the above applicant for a pension. That he know's that the said Diddle did serve the last tour of duty he has set forth in his declaration which he has heard read in open Court, and was in the company and under the officers he has therein stated. That he believes the s'd Diddle to be about 87 years old. That he has allways sustained a good character. Given under my hand this 23rd day of Oct 1832.

John Thompson

State of Virginia. Augusta County. SS.

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace of the County and State aforesaid John Diddle who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and consequent loss of memory, he can not swear positively as to the precise length of his service; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades: For four months I served as a Sergeant in Capt. Wm. Christians company. For three months & fifteen days as a private, and for such service I claim a pension.

Sworn & subscribed to by John Diddle before me this 26th day of June 1833.

John his mark Diddle