

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Dixon W3522

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

I William Dixon of the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia do hereby declare, that I enlisted in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, for three years, and continued for about Two years, as well as he now recollects, at the expiration of the time he did serve, the War ceased, he was in the hospitle at the time or on furlow, he does not at this time recollect, & was a corporal in Capt. — Richardsons company & does not recollect in what Regement in the Continetal line as he was very young, when he enlisted, he was about fifteen years old, he does not particularly recollect the year when he did enlist, that he had then no learning, & that at this time he cannot read or write. he says he was within eight miles of the Guilford battle [Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] at the time of the battle, in the Army at the time, that he was sent off by the officers, in company with Leutennant Jones, & was piletted by a Dr. Briant to distroy the Canous & boats on Dan River at that time to prevent, as he was then informed, the negroes & torous [sic: Tories] from geting to the British - & that at the time of peace being known, he was in or near Hillsborough N.C. in the Hospitle or on furlow - he states that he was in the horse company nearly during the time he was in service.

I also declare, that I afterwards rec'd. a certificate, for the reward of — dollars, tho he thinks it was pounds, counted in that way, which he sold and got some money & some other things, which he needed and I further declare, that I was not, on the fifteenth day of May 1828, on the Pension list of the U. States & he further states, that he never was before or since on the Pension List — Given under my hand this 2<sup>d</sup> Dec'r. 1831.

The said Wm. Dixon further declares, that he did not know untill lately, that he ought to be entitled to a pension, that when he at first heard of their geting on the Pension list, understood that none could obtain, but those who was in desperate circumstances. he was then in tolerable circumstances, now he is old, and lost his property — he states that while or immediately after he was sent to destroy the vessels on Dan River, the british went on from Guilford to Doubbs[?] & through Halifax County Va.

The said Wm. Dixon further declares, that he served a part of his time on the Peadea [sic: Pee Dee] River in N.C. & near the Cheraw Hills, & drowning creek, while he was in the said Army — & he also states that he was station at [illegible word] Barracks near Sallsbury [sic: Salisbury] nearly one Winter in the said Army Given under my hand as above 2<sup>d</sup> Dec'r 1831

William hisXmark Dixon

State of Virginia                    }  
Pittsylvania County to wit }

On this 22<sup>d</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared before the Court of the County aforesaid William Dixon a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged Seventy 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 Provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832. That he enlisted for three years in the Army of the United States in the year 1780 (shortly after Genl. Gates defeat [Horatio Gates at the Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]) with one Wheatley a recruiting officer and served in Colo. Litterell's [sic: John Luttrell's] Regiment of the Continental line under the following officers. First Colo. Litterell who having been killed at Lindley's Mills [13 Sep 1781] was succeeded in command by Colo. Read, Major Douglass, Captain Richerson and lastly Captain Trenton, were the officers under whom he served until Peace was Declared. He belonged to the Cavalry. At the time of his enlistment he resided near Hilsboro in Orange County & State of North Carolina after which he was taken to Litterell's Barracks near Salsbury in the County of Rowan & State aforesaid where he passed the Winter of 1780 & 1781. He was frequently detached with his Company to suppress and put down the Tories and on one occasion was [illegible word] to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina, thence up the Pedee & Yadkin Rivers to the Island ford, where a part of Colo. Read's force had a brush with the Enemy. A few days before the Battle of Guilford he was detached with the rest of his Company to repair to

Hillsboro for the purpose of preventing the Enemy from taking possession of the ammunition. After the object of their Trip was effected they returned and reached the Main army at a place called the Troublesome Iron Works in Guilford County [now in Rockingham County] and State of North Carolina. the first or second night after the Battle of Guilford to which place the army retreated. It became necessary to destroy or sink the Boats and Cannoes on Dan River between Perkins [Berry Hill, estate of Col. Peter Perkins on Pittsylvania County, near where Dan River crosses VA-NC border] and Dix's ferry [in Halifax County VA where US-58 crosses Dan River], and with others was detached for this purpose being piloted by Dr. Bryant. When peace was declared he returned home. He does not know whether he received a written discharge or not, but recollects well that he received a Paper (the contents of which he did not know as he could not read) which he afterwards sold for some money & property. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a Pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state in the United States. He begs leave to refer to some additional evidence of his claim now filed in the Treasury Department, but which will be transferred to the Department of War. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

William hisXmark Dixon

[Certified by Thomas Gibson, pension application S39573.]

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the County of Pittsylvania in the State of Virginia William Dixon, who being duly sworn according to Law deposeth and sayeth that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise time off his entering the Service or to a day or month when he left the same but to the best of his recollection he enlisted in the month of September 1780. he well remembers it was soon after Gen'l. Gates was defeated near Camden in South Carolina. he continued in the said Service of the Revolution untill the close of the War in the Winter or Spring of 1783 and is confident that he served not less than two years and six months as a private and corporal in the War of the Revolution for which he claims a pension. he cannot say how long he acted in each capacity but believes he acted as a Corporal at least twelve months — as Witness my hand and seal this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1833 —

NOTE: On 13 Sep 1853 Sarah Dixon, 83, applied for a pension stating that she married William Dixon in 1790 in Pittsylvania County, and he died 23 June 1852. The Clerk of Pittsylvania County certified that William Dixon married Sarah Smith on 14 May 1795. An application for bounty land dated 19 July 1855 gives her age as 86, her maiden name as Sarah Smith, and the date of her husband's death as 26 June 1852.