

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Dew R2909

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

King & Queen County Va To wit

On this the 10th day March 1842 personally appeared before me John Lumpkin a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid Thomas Dew of said County aforesaid aged seventy eight years, who after being duly sworn according to law doth make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832 That he the said Thomas Dew did sometime in the spring of the year 1780 as he believes entered the united States service under Capt Edmund Pendleton of Caroline County That there was another company commanded by a Captain Philip Johnson [sic: James Johnson] both from Caroline That the said companies marched from Caroline County through Richmond to Hillsborough in North Carolina at this place we with other troops formed a brigade commanded by Gen'l. Edw'd. Stevens I recollect also that Holt Richeson [sic: Holt Richardson] was one of our Colonels it was at this place we were reviewed by Gen'l. [Horatio] Gates who was on his way to the South and we joined the main army under Gen'l. Gates at Ridgely's or Rudgeley's [sic: Rugeley's] Mill on the evening and next day [16 Aug 1780] were in the engagement known as Gate's defeat [or Battle of Camden] this was in August from this place we marched back to Hillsborough and from thence we were marched to Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina where I was discharged having been in service about six months after having been at home for sometime I again entered the service under Capt Henry Lumpkin. I think in April 1781 in the County of King & Queen and marched to Falmouth (it was at this place that Capt Lumpkin resigned) and I was put under a Capt [Roger] Quarles I think attached to Weedons [Gen. George Weedon's] brigade we march to Fluvanna County and joined Lafayette & [Anthony] Wayne. then we marched down to a place near Wmsburg and then back to Malvin Hills [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico County] below Richmond where my month expiring I was discharged I was discharged at Guilford Cthouse in the month of November I have never received the benefit of any Law of Congress passed for the benefit of officers or soldiers of the War of the Revolution

Given under my hand this the 10th day of March 1842

[signed] Thomas Dew

Bow[ling] Green Sep'r. 17th 1842

Dear Sir

I inclose you the Declaration of Capt Thomas Dew of King & Queen County for pension. If you should think it strange that the application has not been made before, I can from my own knowledge say that Mr Dew thought the amount so small as to be not worth applying for. Mr Dew is I suppose worth about \$200,000 00/100 and I believe now his object is to get it for some charitable purpose. Mr Dew is the Father of the President of Wm & Mary college Va. [Thomas Roderick Dew] and in point of standing as a Gentleman of veracity &c has no superior. He does not recollect a man who was with him in service now living he recollects a Mr Long but he is dead and I send on his simple Declaration believing that you will find it to accord with the Army Register and as you allow some claims on the Declaration alone. I am sure no man is more worthy of Credit.

Very Respectfully Fran's. V Sutton

NOTE: Dew's application was rejected with the following explanation: "The first term of service is erroneously estimated at 6 months - He belonged to the Militia whose term of service was limited to 3 months - It is moreover a matter of history that the Va. Militia who were engaged in the battle of Camden (Aug't 1780) were drafted for three months under the general law... it is very clear that in the two tours his service was less than 6 months [as required by the act of 1832]." This explanation is itself erroneous. Numerous successful pension applications state that Virginia militia were drafted in the spring of 1780 and were not discharged until September or later.