

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Dix R2970

Rebecca Dix VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 16 Dec 2014.

State of Virginia }
County of Pittsylvania } SS

On this 24th day of September AD 1853 personally appeared before me Greenberry Thornton a Justice of the Peace within & for the County and State aforesaid Thomas Dix Esqr a resident of the State and County aforesaid, aged 88 years the who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he was well acquainted with William Dix deceased, who was a Captain in the Revolutionary war. William Dix then lived on Dan River in the County of Pittsylvania, and was esteemed one on the most devoted patriots and active officers of his day. It is certain that both by precept and example, he exerted a powerful influence in the quarter of the Country where he lived, on every occasion when it was necessary in collecting together men to oppose the enemies of his Country and this course of conduct he continued to observe down to the proclamation of Peace between the United States and Great Britain. He remembers well that about the time that General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was sent on by General Washington to take command of the Southern Army [3 Nov 1780], That Capt. William Dix Volunteered himself, and by his activity and influence, and the confidence the people had in his skill and patriotism and bravery, he collected a company of 80 men, and that he and the men he had raised met at Whitlockes Store, the place appointed for the rendezvous of the troops, of the County, and that he being already in commission was appointed to the command of the company about the 1st of November 1780 and immediately marched and in the spring following joined General Green probably some weeks before the battle of Guildford which was fought 16th March 1781 [sic: Battle of Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. At that battle, he was permitted in fact Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson ordered him to ride to ride on horseback when it was necessary; and it is well known, and has been well known, throughout the County, that he was one of the most active officers on the field; encouraging his men, and fighting bravely, till ordered to retreat. It was currently reported that the nag he rode, was killed, either under him, or by his side by a british cannon ball And this fact is well remembered now. He remembers that he (Wm. Dix) continued with General Green when he pursued Lord Cornwallis till halted [at Ramsey's Mill, Chatham County NC], finding that Cornwallis had got the start of him so far, and believing that it was best for the public service that he should march in a different direction. Some time after that period Capt. Dix was permitted to return home which he did and when a call was made for men, he again Volunteered and again marched. He declares that he remembers well that Capt Dix was in service, and present in the command of his company under the Marquis Lafayette during the whole period of the invasion of Arnold [Benedict Arnold, Jan 1781] Phillips [William Phillips, March - May 1781] & Cornwallis seige of York [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], that he was present at the Surrender and Capture of lord Cornwallis and his army and that he was appointed with a suitable number of men to escort the prisoners, who were ordered to Winchester Virginia: but he thinks that he did not go further than the Rapahanack [sic: Rappahannock] River, when the news of the Peace overtook them.

He further declares it is his belief that Capt William Dix must have been engaged in active service, first and last, during the revolutionary War, for a period of not less that twelve months based on the two tours above mentioned and he has often heard that the nag he owned, & which was killed at the battle of Guildford, was one of the finest and most valuable nags, then in the Country. He further declares that he lived at the time about three quarters of a mile from the residence of Capt William Dix, and that one of his own brothers James Dix volunteered under him. He further declares that upon Capt. Dix's return home, he collected a large drove of Cattle, and He, and this deponents brother, James Dix, drove them to the camp of General Green, then in north Carolina for the use of the American army. He remembers that Col. Robert Williams was at the time spoken of, Col. Commandant of the County of Pittsylvania and that he embodied the Militia of the County, on Dan river opposite to Milton [in present

Caswell County NC], to oppose the passage of the river by the British under the command of lord Cornwallis [about 10 May 1781]: and he remembers to have heard the firing of the opposing forces across the River Dan, but very little damage was done. [signed] Thomas Dix

State of Virginia – Corporation of Danville} S.S.

On this 8th day of May in the year A. D (1854) eighteen hundred & fifty four before me Hugh W Holcombe a magistrate of the Corporation aforesaid & State of Virginia appeared John M. Dix, a resident of the County of Pittsylvania, aged about 61 years, who being duly sworn according to law, makes the following Declaration and oath of Identity in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the Act of Congress approved the 7 day of 18 and of the Act approved the 7th day of June 1832: the Act of 4th July 1835: Act 21st July 1848: Act of February 1849 and of 29th July 1849 and the Act of 3^d February 1853 That he is the identical John M. Dix, who is the heir at law, of his deceased father, William Dix who is dead, and who was a Captain of Militia, and served several tours of duty, in the revolutionary war, having been at that time, a resident of the County of Pittsylvania, and who, as he has been informed and verily believes, discharged the duties of a vigilant, active, and patriotic officer, during several successive years. He has been informed and verily believes after having been at least two previous tours in service raised a Volunteer Company of 80 men (and marched and served some months in Eastern Virginia joined General Greens Army, as he proceeded South, in the County of Halifax Va), about the last of October or 1st of November 1780) and marched with the army into the State of North Carolina, and was present and fought gallantly at the battle of Guildford, on the 16th March 1781 in which battle, while discharging the duties of a field officer, by order of his commander, General Lawson, he had a very valuable nag, called the English mare, said to have been worth One hundred Guineas, killed under him, by a british cannon ball. He has been informed, & verily believes it to be true, that his deceased father continued with the Army, during the whole period which elapsed from the day of the battle of Guildford, till the close of the siege of York Town, & the surrender of Cornwallis. He further declares that he has been informed and verily believes that his dec'd. father died at his own house in the County of Pittsylvania, in the month of March in the year AD 1799 leaving his mother, Rebecca Dix dec'd a widow; she the said Rebecca, having continued his widow and not having married after his death, and she continued to reside in the County of Pittsylvania, till the period of her death, which took place at her own house in the County aforesaid, on the 24th day of August A.D. 1836

He further declares that his father left, at the time of his death, three children by his said wife Rebecca Dix, who survived him, all of whom are dead, except the Declarant John M Dix and that he is the only surviving offspring of the marriage of his deceased parents.

He declares that neither his father, or his mother, ever received a Pension during their respective lives, and that this is the first and only application that has ever been made by him or any one else, to the best of his knowledge and he hereby relinquishes every other claim for any Pension on account of the military services of his dec'd father during the Revolutionary war or of his mother, Rebecca, the widow of his dec'd father.

John M. Dix

NOTE: On 3 June 1854 Nathaniel Wilson, 69, and James Warf, 75, stated that William Dix married Rebecca Booker in 1779 or 1780. On 11 May 1854 it was stated that William Dix was survived by the following children: John M. Dix, Patsy B. Dix, and Cary Dix, the last two having died since.