

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Dixon R2972 DE
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Capitalization partly corrected.]

State Of Virginia } On this 31 Day of December 1833 personally appeared before me
Wood County SS } William Mealy a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Wood
William Dixon a resident of said County Aged 73 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 of
the 7 June 1832 that he Entered the Service of the United States and served under the following named
officers as herein stated that in the year 1777 [last digit unclear] he thinks about 7[?] day of October of
that year at Wilmington in the State of Delaware he volunteered his service for a tour of six months under
Capt John James (in a company of Delaware troops Subaltern officers names he cannot recollect he
does not recollect the No of the regiment to which he belonged neither does he recollect the name of
the Col Commandant of the regiment but does recollect he was marched by his said Capt James from
Wilmington to a place called Dover remained here some considerable length of time Affiant cannot
state how long from thence to New Castle he now thinks) March 1778 he now thinks his first tour had
expired it being March or April 1778 He states that he again forthwith volunteered under the same Capt
James for another six months tour and was engaged this summer of 1778 in guarding and defending the
vicinities (New Castile Dover Newport) (Brandy Wine [sic: Brandywine PA] Christiana and Whiteley
Rivers & creeks Declarant thinks Philledelphia was evacuated [Philadelphia, by the British, 18 Jun
1778] and also thinks the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] was fought during his second tour some time
in the summer of 1778 he recollects there was much excitement among the troops in consequence of
these events but he is so infirm in both body and mind he cannot recollect the most important
transactions of the revolution so as to relate them with pricission but he states that he was in the service
when the above events took place Declarant states he was marched to many different places the names of
which he cannot recollect He was more particularly kept and stationed at and about the towns creeks
and rivers before named He states that he cannot recollect the name of all the points that he was ordered
to guard and defend Declarrant states that he recollects of being stationed at or near Wilmington during
the winter of 1778 and he further states that he was prevailed upon by his said officer Capt John James
to remain in the service during the momentious period of the revolution and from a pure devotion to his
countrys cause he did remain a volunteer soldier of his own free will and accord a full period of time for
upwards of twenty nine months a volunteer private soldier in the service of the United States in the
Delaware) line or militia (under John James his said Captain and that he served and performed the duties
of a good and faithful soldier during the two years and upwards in the War of the Revolution and
declarrant further states that he was not sooner discharged after he had first volunteered his service he
thinks October 1777 he is not certain of the fact that he entered the service precisely at that time
Declarrant thinks he did to the best of his recollection Declarrant states that the whole of his services
were rendered at and about Wilmington New Castile Newport Dover and Brandywine Creek
Christiana and Whiteley Creeks or rivers and he further states that he was marched to and fro in the
vicinity of all the above named places and further that all his services were performed in and near the
before mentioned places and declarrant fells conficent that putting all his service together he served
upwards of two years in the war of the Revolution to wit – from October 1777 untill about April 1780 at
which time he was discharged by his said Capt John James having served about 28 or 29 months a
volunteer private soldier at all the places before mentioned and many other places the names of which he
has forgotten during the lapse of fifty years and further affiant is so very infirm in body and mind he
cannot make scarcely an intelligable declaration at all declarrant does not even enjoy the use of his limbs
Affiant has been confined to his mansion the consequence of old age and bodily infirmity for the space of
about five years past is very poor and has no means of sustenance except the gratitude of his children

The before mentioned services were all that declarrant performed in the War of the Revolution He does not recollect the the number of any Regiment whatever He recollects of seeing General Washington at Newport in the State of Delaware He cannot recollect at what time precisely but during his service he served with Delaware troops He cannot recollect well enough to classify and distinguish regulars from militia or state troops but he distinctly recollects he served among and with the Delaware troops He has no documentary evidence of his service He does not know of any person living that he can prove his service by He is too old and infirm to attend court He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he 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 William hisXmark Dixon

The several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department declarrant answereth as follows

- 1 I was born in the year 1760 as I always heard and believe in New Castell County Delaware State I know nothing further in regard to my age
- 2 I have no record of my age
- 3 I was living when I entered the service at Wilmington)Delaware(I have lived since the war in)Delaware(and)Virginia(where I now reside in the County of)Wood(and state of Virginia) on Hughes River
- 4 All my services were those of a volunteer private soldier and I served as such
- 5 I knew and have seen General Washington at Newport in the State of Delaware I do not recollect the No of any regiment whatever I have seen many officers whose names I have forgotten I served with the Delaware troops I have detailed the circumstances of my service in my declaration as well as I can recollect
- 6 I did receive a discharge from the officer under whom I served My discharge is lost or mislaid many years ago
- 7 I am known to Allen Calhoun and Edmond Taylor who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my service as a soldier of the revolution

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid William hisWmark Dixon

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On this report Singleton wrote, "Not entitled."]

William Dixon Applicant.

Joseph Peck (of Wood County) a man of character stated to the undersigned on the 10th day of December 1834 that he had been acquainted with William Dixon for five years and has lived a neighbour to him all that time – that Dixon has for the last three years been quite childish – his mind is almost entirely gone. – that he happened to at the House of D[ixon] when William L. Mitchel [sic: William L. Mitchell] & William J. Lowther called to write a Declaration for him Dixon – Dixon attempted to detail his services – but could not recollect in what year or years he served where he served or under whom he served or any thing about his services. – Mitchell & Lowther asked him a great many questions such as, were yo not in such a battle – did you not serve under such an officer. Were you not at the Battle of Brandewine &c &c – to all of which questions the old Gentleman answered in the affirmative – without knowing what he said – Mitchell wrote something for the old man and may have read it – but Peck does not now recollect whether it was read or not.

Mrs. Martin also stated that the wife of Dixon had frequently told her within the last two or three years that her Husband had to be watched like a child – that his mind was entirely gone.

James Martin also stated that Dixon had become quite childish – his mind was gone.

Note haveing learned that Dixon was incaple of detailing his service (even if indeed he done any) I considered it useless to call on him – no one with whom I met & made enquiries knew any thing about Dixon's Revolutionary service. – the Declaration was written by William L. Mitchel, against whom there

several Indictments for forgery. Mitchel has left the country
Dec. 10 1834

W. G Singleton

Wood County verginnia

March the 21 1835

the falliing Statement I do Certify to be as neer the truth as I Can recolect I was Called on some time in the winter of 1834 to quallifi William Dixson as to his Statement as to his servises in the revelutionary warr in which statement he said he has Sarveed some wher near two year in the State of dellewar under a Captain James this I think was the name of his Captain that he had received a ragular discharge wich he had lost the date of his servisses I do not recolect but I think it was in the years of 1777 - 1778 he has mad the same statement to me at differant times onst something like twenty years ago this is as near as I can recolect but the statment made in this decleration was the same that he had always made Given under my hand the day and date above writen

William Mealey JP

NOTE: On 18 Nov 1854 Mary Dixon of Ritchie County VA, widow of William Dixon, Sr., assigned power of attorney to obtain "arrears of pay three months extra pay, forage mileage, for horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service, expences incurred, or money expended for organizing volunteer companies before being mustered into the service of the United States, or any money or moneys, which may be due me by the United States on any account...."