

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Donathan R3004
Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachael Donathan

f36GA

1/27/08 rev'd 12/5/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Virginia, County of Wayne

On this 4th day of December 1850 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County, Rachael Donathan, a resident of said County aged ninety-seven years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to attain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4th, 1836. That she is the widow of Elijah Donathan, who was a private in the Company of Georgia Militia minute service in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Bivins. That he was drafted or volunteered into the minute service of the United States in Wilkes County State of Georgia, on or about the sixth day of October 1776 or 1777. And was marched by Captain Hawkins under whom he was enlisted, from the County of Wilkes to a place (then called) Fort Hawkins in the State of Georgia where he remained in said Fort to Garrison the same until the month of May following, and that I went with him to the Fort and remained in the same during the time he was there stationed (owing to the Country then being inhabited by the Indians) (as well as now recollected) the time I remained in the Fort with him, was from September or October, to the same time in the month of May, following, making about eight months, and there being a requisition for an expedition to Florida, those stationed in the Fort, were called out, and marched (by what officers I do not know) to St. Augustine in Florida, where he remained in the service until the latter part of September or October 1777 or 1778, as well as I can now recollect, perhaps it might have been in the year 1778 (when he was marched from Fort Hawkins I did not accompany him to Florida but remained in Virginia and stayed with my friends, where I remained until his return from Florida, which was in the fall of the year 1778 or 1779). And further I have always been told by my husband while living, that he remained in Actual Service of the United States, under one and the same engagement for the term of two years and upwards. And that he was prevented from being discharged at the City of St. Augustine in Florida in the summer or fall of the year 1778 owing to sickness and permitted by Col. Clark [Elijah Clarke] to return without it and never did receive one, by reference to Captain Hawkins pass or certificate hereto annexed as part of my declaration. She further declares that she has no documentary, or record evidence of the Services of her husband. And therefore relies upon her own oath, and the evidence of Captain Maxwell and that of Captain Hawkins a part of which is torn off & lost in support of her claim. And refers to the Muster rolls of the War Department, and Adjutant Generals office, where she believes the name of her husband is enrolled, in support of her claim, and that her claim to a pension will be granted her, as she knows her claim to be a meritorious one. And being old, infirm and entirely blind she is in great need of the same, and has no means of her own, and has to rely entirely on the bounty of her friends. She further declares that owing to her blindness, and extreme old age, she is unable to attend Court, to make her declaration.

She further declares that she was married to the said Elijah Donathan, on the 4th day of October 1777; that her husband, the aforesaid Elijah Donathan, died on the second day of January 1824. And that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the

proof hereto annexed.

Sworn and Subscribed on the day and year above written before Samuel Webb a Justice of the peace for Wayne County and State of Virginia.

Erased and interlined before being executed.
S/ Samuel Webb, JPWC

S/ Rachael Donathan, X her mark

[p 7]

“This is to Certify that Mr. Donathan A Soger [sic, soldier?] has been at My house Very Sick for this four weeks past and is now Got Bitter [sic, Better] & by the Help of God is endeavoring to go Home.

By Me S/ Thos. Maxwell, Capt.

26th August 1778

Libery [sic, Liberty?] County”

*This is to certify that Mr. Donathan
A Soger has been at my house
Very Sick for this four weeks past
and is now Got Bitter & by the
Help of God is endeavoring to go
Home
Thos. Maxwell Capt.
26th August 1778
Libery County*

[p 9: Moses Wills, 80, brother of Rachael Donathan, gave an affidavit in support of her claim. He gave the affidavit in Lawrence County, Ky on January 14, 1851. He states that he knows that the veteran served 2 years and probably upwards having entered the service in Wilkes County Georgia under Capt. Hawkins in 1776, 1777 or 1778 (he cannot recollect which year). That the veteran was married to his sister Rachel Wills at the time stated in her application.


Moses Wills

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[p 14: This is probably the partial document Rachael refers to as having been given to her husband by Capt. Hawkins—it appears to be a document [largely illegible] which reads in part as follows: “State of Georgia, Wilks [sic] County

The barer [sic] hereof Elijah Donathan [is?] a friend to america [sic] And has been in our [illegible words] in the minet Servis [sic] and has Served his [illegible words] and was disappointed of geting [sic, getting] of a Discharge by Sickness and now Cant go to Col. Clark for his [illegible word] with ought [sic, without] being in danger of the ingins [sic, Indians] and he has a mind to travel to Virginia to his family and the [document cut off mid-line below this point]

State of Georgia
Wilkes County



The barer hereof Elijah Donathan a friend to
america [sic] has been in our [illegible words] in
the minet, [illegible] and has [illegible words] and
and was disappointed of getting of [illegible words] discharge by
sickness and now cant go to Col. Clark for his discha-
-arg. with ought being indanger of the ingins and he has
a mind to travel to Virginia to his family and the
is there [illegible]

[p 6]
Holson Donnathan [?] a son of Elidgah Donnathan was Born in year of our Lord 19 [illegible] 20 of
December 1778

Herben Donnathan a son of Elidgah
Donnathan was Born in year of our
Lord
the 20 of December 1778