

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Dula R3112 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of North Carolina } Ss.
County of Wilkes } }

On this 1st day of August 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas & quarter Sessions of the County of Wilkes & State of North Carolina now sitting William Dula, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged Seventy Seven 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 passed June 7th 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. Some time in the fall of the year 1776 [sic] this declarant entered the service of the United States in the County of Rockingham [formed from Augusta County in 1778] & State of Virginia, as a volunteer in a company of Infantry commanded by Capt [John] Hopkins, and very soon thereafter rendezvoused at Staunton in Augusta County, where they joined some other troops, and thence marched direct to the Levels of Greenbrier River, where they remained a few days and prepared for a further march against the Shawnee Indians. After making such necessary preparations as they could at that place, they continued their march to a Fort on the Ohio River at Point Pleasant, (the name not recollected [Fort Randolph]) where they had an engagement with the Shawnee Indians, in which they killed from sixty to One Hundred of the Indians, without losing but one man, who was an ensign. [See endnote.] Upon arriving at the Fort above mentioned, they found it in the possession and under the command of Capt [Matthew] Arbuckle, who had several Indian prisoners confined in the fort, who had been taken in a previous engagement, among whom was a celebrated Chief called King Cornstalk After remaining at the fort a few days, the son of Cornstalk made his appearance on the opposite shore of the Ohio River, and gave indications of a wish to cross the river and visit the fort, upon which an interpreter was dispatched and brought him over. Upon arriving at the fort he informed Capt Arbuckle that Gen'l. [Edward] Hand who was then at Pittsburg was much offended at him for detaining the Indians as prisoners, and attempted by artifice to obtain their release. This story however was disbelieved, and the son of Cornstalk was himself detained as a prisoner of War until after the engagement above mentioned, about the close of which, three exasperated individuals by the names of Macon McCown [sic: Sgt. Malcom McCown; see James Thompson VAS572], Garret Berry & Daniel Goldsby, rushed into the Fort and massacred the prisoners in a most horrid manner. [10 Nov 1777; see endnote.] In a few days after the engagement, Gen'l. Hand arrived from Pittsburg and remained with the troops a short time, until peace and quiet was apparently restored, when the troops to which this declarant was attached, were marched back, (Gen'l Hand accompanying them across the Alleghany Mountains) until they reached Staunton where they received their discharges and returned home. In this expedition this declarant served not less than "Three and a half months"

In a very short time after the return of this declarant, he again volunteered himself for the term of Eighteen months, and rendezvoused at Staunton when himself in company with four others, were furnished by some officer (whose name is not recollected) with proper passports, and directed to proceed to Philadelphia where they expected to join the main army. Upon arriving at Phila'a. however the army was not then at that place, and they continued their march until they reached the White Plains [NY] where they joined the company of Militia commanded by Capt. David Laird, and where the main army then lay. After being stationed for some time at the White Plains, a portion of the army (to which this declarant was attached) were marched to Fort Putnam in the State of New York [at West Point], and where they were employed during the whole of the summer and fall of the year 1777 (as he believes) in carrying stone, and constructing the fort. When the Winter set in & the weather became so cold that they could no longer carry on their operations at the Fort, they marched back to Middlebrook in the State of

New Jersey, where they took up their winter quarters & where they remained until the following Spring [1779]. The army during their stay at Middlebrook being under the command of Gen'l. Washington. Upon the opening of the Spring the army was marched about from place to place, generally within the states of New Jersey & New York, without meeting with any portion of the British Army, or otherwise effecting any particular enterprizes, until the term of service of this declarant, (to Wit Eighteen Months) expired, when he received his discharge somewhere near New York, and returned home.

In about sixteen or eighteen months after the return of this declarant from the Northern Army, he again volunteered himself for the Term of Three months, and joined the company of Militia commanded by Capt Jeremiah Beasly [Jeremiah Beazley], in the County of Rockingham, and marched forthwith with all possible dispatch to the Eastern part of the State of Virginia, where the British were at that time committing great depredations. Upon the arrival of Capt. Beaslys company at Jamestown in Virginia, they joined a considerable number of other troops, and on the evening of the same day an engagement took place between the British & American Armies at that place in which a great number were killed and wounded on both sides, the result of which was not very decisive on either side [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781]. {The names of the commanders in this engagement cannot now be recollected} After this event the British army retired to Williamsburg, whither they were pursued by the Americans, and where a slight skirmish occurred without producing any decisive effect. The army continued in the eastern part of Virginia without engaging in any other conflicts until the term of service of this declarant expired, when he received his discharge and returned home. This last tour closed the services of this declarant during the revolutionary War, with the exception of two or three short expeditions against the Indians, the particular periods of which and the circumstances under which they were performed cannot now be recollected.

This declarant further states that he wishes it understood that his recollection is very deficient as to the names of the Officers commanding at the different stations where he served, as he is uneducated, and has not had the benefit of any record or history by which his recollection could be refreshed.

This declarant was born in the County of Orange in the State of Virginia, on the 17th day of March 1756, as he was informed by his parents, but has no record of his age. He continued to live in the said County of Orange until he was nearly grown, when he removed into the County of Rockingham, where he was living at the time he entered the service of the United States. Soon after the close of the war he removed to the County of Henry in the same state where he lived for about three years, and then removed to the county of Wilkes N. C. where he has lived ever since & where he now lives. All the services performed by this declarant during the revolution were performed as a volunteer. His answer to the fifth interrogatory is contained in the body of this declaration. He believes he received written discharges for all the services he performed, three of which were signed respectively by Captains, Hopkins, Laird & Beasly, but all of which were burnt by the burning of his mothers house many years ago. This declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence to prove his service, nor does he know of any person living by whom he could prove it – nor is there any clergyman in his neighborhood whose certificate he could procure, but he refers to Walter R Lenoir, Col Thomas Lenoir as persons to whom he is well known in his present neighborhood, and who can testify as to their belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution, and as to his character for veracity.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid

William hsiXmark Dula

NOTES:

I could not identify the battle supposed to have occurred at Point Pleasant. There was a Battle of Point Pleasant against Chief Cornstalk, but it was before the Revolutionary War (10 Oct 1774) and with many more than one white casualty.

According to most accounts (e.g William Pryor S8979), Cornstalk, his son Ellinipsico, and Black Hawk were murdered while being held as hostages for the safety of soldiers at Point Pleasant. After Lt.

James Gilmer was killed while hunting turkeys, some American soldiers murdered the hostages. According to J. P. Hale, *Trans-Allegheny Pioneers* 3rd Ed. (Radford VA: Roberta Ingles Steele, 1971. Chap 35), Capt. John Hall was tried for the murder and acquitted for lack of witnesses.

A letter in the file dated 6 Sep 1852 reads in part as follows: "I have this day handed to S. Godwin Esq. a declaration of William Dula dec'd. of Wilkes County (now the County of Caldwell) North Carolina which declaration was once presented to the Pension Office and was sent back to Mr Dula – before his death – for some alteration or amendment, and Mr Dula being indifferent about the matter never attended to it. the same has never been presented to the Department since, and his Heirs now make the application." This application was apparently returned by the Pension Office to the unnamed heirs for dates of Dula's marriage and death, and it does not appear in the file.