

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Duncan, R3125

Ann Duncan

f73SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 2/12/10 & 12/8/20

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 48]

State of Alabama, Jackson County

On the \_\_ day of \_\_ 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Judge of the County Court aforesaid now sitting John Duncan a resident of the State and County aforesaid aged Seventy nine years the 10<sup>th</sup> day of last June who being 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 the 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, that early in the year 1776 he enlisted the service of the United States under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] Colonel Thompson Major Perdue [Field Pardue?], Capt. Hopkins [David Hopkins?], and served 18 months in Continental Service and was stationed near Savannah at or near the high hills of Santee, and at the end of 18 months the time for which he enlisted he was discharged, and entered service again under General Morgan [Daniel Morgan], Col. Shelby [Isaac Shelby?] and Capt. Small & volunteered in State of Virginia, marched from thence to the Cowpens in as he believes near the line dividing North and South Carolina and was in the Battle of the Cowpens [January 17, 1781]<sup>1</sup> under the above officers with the Britons under Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton] in which he Tarleton was defeated, and was discharged after serving 6 months, and entered again under Col. Preston and Capt. Chadwell and marched to Parrisis [sic, Paris' or Prince's Fort] and was there stationed and after serving 3 months was discharged again and entered again under Pickens [Andrew Pickens] Col. Anderson [Robert Anderson?] and Capt. Key as a volunteer and was in a battle with the Tories under Major Williams and Capt. Cornett was a private in each campaign. He resided in the district of Camblin [sic, Camden] South Carolina when he entered service, he enlisted the first campaign and volunteered the other campaigns, he has no documentary evidence to show his service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension rolls of the agency of any State. Where and in what year was you born? I was born Pittsylvania County Virginia on the tenth day of June 1755. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it? My age was in my Father's Bible and the house got burned shortly after the war. Where were you living when called in to service, where have you lived since the revolution war, and where do you now live? I was living in Camblin District South Carolina when called into service, I lived in said District about ten [years?] after the war, then removed to East Tennessee Hawkins County, thence to Green now Adair County it being divided, thence to Jackson County Alabama where I now live.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_cowpens.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_cowpens.html)

How were you called into service, were you drafted or did you volunteer or enlist? I enlisted for the first campaign of 18 months, the others I served as a volunteer. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. General Lincoln, Col. Thompson, Capt. Hopkins & Major Perdue who were the officers of the third Regiment which I was in, the other officers were militia and the number of the regiments I can not recollect; I was in the battle of the Cowpens under General Morgan and Shelby and also I was in a battle with the Tories commanded by Major Williams and Capt. Cornett. I was under General Pickens, Col. Anderson and Capt. Key in which we defeated them; I was also in a small scrimmage with the Tories 15 of us under Major Perdue and Lieut. Carson, we pursued 13 of Tories having with them five stolen Negroes and ten horses and some baggage we killed 12 of them, the other escaped we retook the plunder and returned it to the owners; I have stated the most singular circumstances of my service.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service if so by whom was it given and where is it? I received a written discharges from above officers at the end of each term of service which was burned in my father's house shortly after the war before I married. State the names of persons in your present neighbourhood who can testify as to your character for truth and honesty and good behaviour and your service in the revolution war. I am acquainted with Col. Samuel McDavid, Henry W. Roads Esqr., John Reed Esqr, Wm. Chambers and Capt. Thomas McKerley who I believe would testify to the above.

S/ John Duncan, X his mark

Sworn and subscribed to before me the day and year above written.

S/ Thompson M. Rector, Judge of the County Court.

[Steven Donathan, a clergyman, and Jesse McElyea gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Alabama Jackson County: This day personally appeared Peter Duncan and David Chadwell before Jesse McElyea an acting Captain justice of the peace for said County and being duly sworn deposeth and saith that early in the year 1776 the declarant John Duncan enlisted [in] the service of the United States as a private in the Continental service under General Lincoln Colonel Thompson, Major Pardue, Captain Hopkins and served eighteen months which was the term of his enlistment and was discharged by said officers, and that he served other towers in the militia but the length nor names of his officers not known.

S/ Peter Duncan, X his mark

S/ David Chadwell



[dated February 20, 1835]

[p 2]

State of Alabama, County of Jackson

On this 27th day of March 1843 personally appeared before me, Thompson M. Rector, Judge of the County court for said County of Jackson and State of Alabama, at the residence of Elijah Hansborough in said County John Duncan a citizen of said County, who from extreme old age and bodily infirmity is unable to appear in open court, aged Eighty Seven years, who being

duly sworn according to law, doth on this oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits 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. He volunteered or as he then supposed, enlisted under one Capt. John Dooley at a place called "Bachelor's" Hall in Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia, the said Dooley as the declarant now recollects, came to said County of Pittsylvania to raise Volunteers or enlist soldiers for the service of South Carolina. This was as this declarant now recollects in the month of May or June 1779 though he cannot State positively as to time. The time for which the declarant entered the service at this time was twelve months. He was marched by said Dooley through the State of North Carolina passing through a little town called Sallsbury [sic, Salisbury] in North Carolina to district 96 [Ninety Six District] in the State of South Carolina, where he was placed under the command of Col. Thompson. He remained with the Army in detached bodies of troops under various Captains, counteracting the smaller Parties of the British and Tories until his term of service expired when he was discharged at a place called Winnsboro, in the State of South Carolina, and in the summer or fall of the same year, cannot recollect the month, but thinks it was October 1780, he again volunteered or enlisted, he cannot recollect which, and joined the Army under one Capt. James Harvey at a point near Augusta, though in the State of South Carolina under the command of one Col. Hammons [sic, probably either LeRoy Hammond or Samuel Hammond], for a further term of twelve months. He remained with the Army or detachment of the same in the State of South Carolina, until this latter term of service expired, where he was again discharged at a place or Fort called 96 or within a few miles of the same.

He was in a number of skirmishes with the British and Tories during the terms of his said services but from the great length of time, his extreme age and consequent loss of memory, he is unable to relate these with precision, though he will mention some facts as they now recur to him which in chief, he declares to be true and which may to some extent corroborate this declaration.

At or near a place called White Hall in the State of South Carolina while under Capt. Harvey and Lieut. James Corsey [perhaps, James Coursey of the Upper 96 District Regiment] in company with Capt. Key<sup>2</sup> and his company, we went to the house of a noted Tory by the name of Capt. Roberts whom we had taken prisoner the day before and who we had set at Liberty on terms of neutrality to see if any Tories were there and if so, to disperse them and in the meantime intending to get our breakfast. Our troops approached the house from different directions. Capt. Harvey and his command taking one route and Capt. Key and his command another. This declarant was of the party of Capt. Key. Upon getting to the house of said Roberts, we saw no Tories. We lit from our horses and went in. We saw a beef, which was being slaughtered which was well understood by our commanders to be preparation for the Tories. Our Capt. asked Mrs. Roberts if we could get breakfast, she replied, "Yes, before you (meaning us) wanted it perhaps." This was a caution or cause to suspect danger, we then made for our horses where we were waylaid by a band of Tories, one of our men killed and six wounded. Capt. Harvey & his company being on the opposite side, came to our assistance, where after a severe conflict, the Tories under their Officers Majr. Williams and Capt. Cornett were repulsed, Capt. Harvey was shot through both thighs and in the shoulder. This declarant was afterwards sent with Capt. Harvey & his declarant's brother who was also wounded, to a place for the sick at the house of a widow Lady by the name of Maupin, as an attendant upon them. This was near the close or

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<sup>2</sup> Captains Henry Thomas Key, John Key, Shannon Key and Thomas Key all served under Col. LeRoy Hammond in the Lower 96 District Regiment.

expiration of his second term of service and at this same place for the sick, were a number of the wounded from the Battle of the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781].

When he first entered the service in the State of Virginia he marched to South Carolina on foot, where he was mounted and served as a mounted man during each term of his service. He was doing different times of said terms of service with many officers, some of whom he can recollect. Col. Shelby, Col. Campbell, Col. Hughs, Majr. Fields Perdew [probably Field Pardue], Major Tutt [Benjamin Tutt], Col. Pervis [probably John Purvis]. He was with Col. Shelby, Col. Clark, & Major Smith. The latter of whom was killed at a skirmish we had with the British and Tories at Ransowers Mill [sic, Ramsour's Mill, June 20, 1780],<sup>3</sup> where the Tory commander Dunlap was taken prisoner and one of the Americans, a true Whig by the name of Cobb shot him and pretended it was accidental. Declarant states positively that he served in the two terms by him before mentioned two entire years in the War of the Revolution and thinks the time he first entered the service was in May 1779 & in May or June 1780 was discharged at Winnsboro, in the State of South Carolina. Re-entered the service for another term of twelve months in the month of October 1780 and served the entire term and was regularly discharged at a place or near a place called 96—He has no documentary evidence at this time of his said term of service. His discharges were burnt in the house of his brother Peter Duncan which was consumed by fire about 47 years ago in the County of Hawkins in East Tennessee. His said discharge being then in the possession of his declarant's mother who lived with his said brother Peter and that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his said service, except his said brother Peter Duncan who now resides in Marshall County Ala., who was of age sufficient to recollect the same & by whom declarant can also prove the loss of his said discharges as above stated. Declarant states that in both of his said entire terms of service, he acted as a private soldier and during said entire terms of his said service, he was not employed in any civil pursuit. Declarant states that in 1818 when he resided in Adair Co. Ky., he made some exertions to obtain Pension & in 1826 in this State and County he also made an attempt to obtain the same & in the year 1832 or 1833, he made another attempt, this later attempt was also made in this County and State, in neither of the said attempts was he ever properly qualified neither does he know or believe his said declarations were ever properly authenticated or ever sent to the proper department.

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.

S/ John Duncan, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day & year first herein mentioned being the 27th March 1843.

S/ Thompson M. Rector

Judge of the County Court of Jackson County, Alabama.

#### **Interrogatories**

Where and in what year were you born?

Ans.: In Pittsylvania County in the State of Virginia, do not know what year, but think it was in the year A.D. 1756.

Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans.: I never had any record of my age.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_ramseurs\\_mill.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_ramseurs_mill.html) Smith

Where were you living when called into the service; Where have you lived since the Revolutionary war; and where do you now reside?

Ans.: I lived when called into the service in Pittsylvania County Va. when or shortly after the Revolution I settled in Chester County in the State of South Carolina, where I remained about ten years. Thence to Hawkins County, East Tennessee where I remained about eight or nine years. Thence I removed to Adair County in the State of Kentucky where I remained about twenty years. Thence I removed to this Jackson County in the State of Alabama, the neighborhood where I have resided for upwards of twenty years.

How were you called into the service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute; and if a substitute, for whom?

Ans.: On entering the first term of my service, I volunteered or enlisted as stated in my declaration here prefixed, & on entering my second term of service, I was a volunteer or enlisted, he can not recollect which.

State the names of some of the regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such continental and Militia Regiments as you recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans.: Shelby, Campbell, Pardue, Col. [illegible, looks like "Hammary"], Col. Hammons, Col. Thompson, Major Tutt, Col. Anderson, Capt. John Dooley, Capt. Game Harvey, Capt. Key, Col. Purvis supposes they were Militia Officers. His service consisted chiefly in doing duty as a soldier in what was then called scouting parties to do which or all other duties as a soldier. He was either actively engaged or in constant readiness.

Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given, and what has become of it?

Ans.: He received two discharges one from each term of his said service. He does not recollect who signed them but thinks they were signed by Capt. Hopkins or Pervis or perhaps both. He can not read nor write.

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood & who can testify as to your character for veracity & their belief of your service as a soldier of the Revolution.

Ans.: Gen. Joseph P. Frazier, Col. Absalom Coffee, Thomas Wilson, Greenbury Middleton, Alva Finley and many others (and not of the same neighborhood) Clement C. Clay, Sr.

S/ John Duncan, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 1843.

S/ Thompson M. Rector

Judge of the County Court for Jackson County Alabama.

[p 25]

State of Alabama, Jackson County

In the Matter of the Application of John Duncan a resident citizen of said County for a Pension.

The Deposition of Peter Duncan a Citizen of Marshall County Alabama to be read in evidence in the matter of the application of John Duncan for a pension. The said Peter Duncan this day personally came before me and after being first duly sworn deposes as follows: He is the Brother of the whole blood to the said John Duncan and that he is aged about seventy seven

years, that he Deponent has no documentary evidence of his own age, the register containing the ages of himself & family & also of the family of his Father was burnt in Deponent's house about 47 or 48 years ago, in Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee, and though wholly illiterate, he recollects distinctly to have seen and heard read the two discharges of his brother John Duncan that they were each for one year's service, & that they were consumed by fire in manner as stated by the said John Duncan. He Deponent well recollects that his said brother John was in the Army or joined the Army of the Revolution about the time he states and at the place he states, & that he John Duncan was absent between two & three years & when he returned from the Army he brought with him his said discharges which were each for one year, & which were could be known by fire as he the said John states in his annexed Declaration, in Deponents house in Hawkins County Tennessee, about 47 or 48 years ago. Deponent was about 10 or 11 years of age when his said Brother John entered the service of the United States, & he thinks about 13 years of age when he returned from the same. Deponent knows that in early life he was known by the community generally and not denied by any that the said John Puckett was a soldier of the Revolution and served as he states.

Sworn to & subscribed before me at [illegible word] in said County of Jackson this eighth day of April A.D. 1843  
S/ Peter Duncan, X his mark  
S/ Thompson M. Rector  
Judge of the County Court for Jackson County Alabama.

[p 40]

State of Alabama, Jackson County: the Amended Declaration of John Duncan

On this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843, Personally appeared before me William Walker McCutchen a Justice of the Peace for said County & State of Alabama, at the residence of his son David Duncan the said John Duncan who being wholly unable to appear in Open Court, caused by bodily infirmity & advanced age now about eighty eight years doth on his oath make the following declaration as an amendment to his declaration by him heretofore filed or made as above stated, who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following in order to obtain the benefit of said Act: Captain Dooley informed his men (according to Declarant's recollection) that he resided in the State of Georgia but was at that time from South Carolina. He was placed by said Dooley under one Captain Hopkins [David Hopkins] who he thinks was a Regular officer & who was as this declarant recollects afterwards made Colonel. Colonel Thompson was to the best of declarant's recollection of the regular Army & belonged to South Carolina. He does not recollect the names of the other captains under whom he was detached during his first years served. Colonel Thompson was a regular officer, he thanks.

As to the declarant's second Term of service he only knows that he served as he states, 12 months Principally under Captain Game Harvey & Colonel Hammons, he does not now recollect whether they were militia officers of the line of the State of South Carolina or whether they were regular officers, such information as declarant can get from the office of the Comptroller of South Carolina on this subject will be given.

S/ John Duncan, X his mark  
Sworn to & subscribed before me this 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1843.  
S/ Wm W. McCutchen, JP

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State of Alabama Jackson County: On this 16th day of May 1857 personally appeared before the Court of Probate in and for the State & County aforesaid Absalom Coffee a resident citizen of said County and the Administrator of the Estate of John Duncan Deceased late of the County aforesaid, and after being duly sworn as the law directs, declares upon his oath that the said John Duncan Deceased his said Intestor was an applicant for a Pension under the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832, and that he never obtained the same. He therefore makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the amount of pension which accrued to him the said John Duncan and also the amount of pension which accrued to his widow, Ann Duncan under the Act of Congress passed 7th of July 1838 for the use and benefit of the Heirs of the said John Duncan & his wife Ann Duncan. He further states that the said John Duncan departed this life in the said County of Jackson in the State of Alabama on the 3rd or 4th day of May 1844 leaving surviving him the said Ann Duncan his lawful widow and Relict and that she also departed this life in the said County of Jackson on the 23rd day of November 1846 -- leaving surviving her David Duncan, Robert Duncan and Peter Duncan her only legal heirs and representative as children, but, since her death the said David and Robert are both dead, they also had other children not above named but all of whom died before the said John Duncan and his wife the said Ann did, and that their children are now all dead except the said Peter Duncan who being the only surviving child of the said Deceased Soldier and his widow or either of them --

if He further states that the marriage of the said John Duncan to his wife the said Ann took place in the State of South Carolina about the year 1780 or 81, that he has learned from their own Statements to him made while they were living and from there on Statements to him made their oldest child if living now would be about 74 or 5 years of age.

Sworn to and subscribed before the Court of Probate on this day and date above.

S/ John H. Norwood

S/ Absalom Coffee  
Admin'r of John Duncan

[p 34: in a document dated August 17, 1854 and filed in Jackson County Alabama Jane Coffey, wife of Absalom Coffey, describes herself as a granddaughter of John Duncan deceased late of Jackson County Alabama.]

[p 36: indent in Book R No. 84 in the SC Comptroller General's office shows payment made to a John Dunkin, Sr., for 526 days militia service in 1781 & 1782.]

[The file contains a detailed listing of the indents paid by the State of SC to a "John Dunkin" for services in the Revolution.]