

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Alexander Dunn R3142

f19NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 3/15/10 & 9/23/22

[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' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 5]

State of Georgia, County of Monroe } SS

On this twenty third day of October Eighteen hundred two personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Christopher B. Strong Judge of the Superior Court for the County of Monroe which said court is now sitting, Alexander Dunn a resident of the said County of Monroe aged Sixty nine years and Ten months 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated—In the month of April, 1779, he was drafted for three months tour of service, in Rutherford County, North Carolina, he was mustered into service under Captain William Porter. The company marched to and was stationed in Mumford's Cove at Archibald Grant's. This company was called into service to guard against the incursions of the Cherokee Indians who had committed repeated depredations in that neighborhood. This Company was comprised of forty men besides officers and was divided into two divisions of twenty men each, and week about, performed the following service: one half of the company left the fort (which was called Fort Grant) on Monday morning and marched to Paint Rock on French Broad [River]; thence to the mouth of Muddy Creek, thence to the head of Muddy Creek, thence across the mountain to Green River and up the river to the Fort and when this service was performed by half the Company one week, the other half performed it the week following and this routine of service was regularly kept up to the end of the three months when Claimant was discharged.--

After claimant returned home from the above mentioned tour of service he volunteered, on the 15th day of November 1779, for three months tour of service to go on to Charleston against the British, and was ordered to meet at Charlotte in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina on the first day of December following, which complainant [sic] did and joined the army at that place under General Alexander Lillington. The company in which claimant volunteered and to which he belonged, was commanded by Captain Robert Gilky [Robert Gilkey]; after the troops had rendezvoused at Charlotte they marched to Charleston in South Carolina. Some time after the arrival of the troops at Charleston, General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] arrived there and took command. Whilst at Charleston there were fifty men drafted from the regiment to which claimant belonged, and put on board the 36 gun ship called *Brickcole*,¹ claimant was one among

¹ Sic, *Bricole*. According to Carl P. Borick, *A Gallant Defense: The Siege of Charleston, 1780* (Columbia, University of South Carolina Press, 2003), the *Bricole* was a 44-gun frigate originally built by the French as a transport and commissioned into the South Carolina navy. The *Bricole*, along with *Queen of France*, *Truite*, two brigs and several small vessels were scuttled in Charleston Harbor on orders from Benjamin Lincoln in an attempt to

the number drafted. The ship was commanded by Commodore Davis and under him Captain Peacock, both officers of the American Navy: Whilst on board this ship claimant says the British ships made an attack on Fort Moultrie and the fort on Sullivan's Island. but as well as claimant remembers, the British ships did not enter the harbor whilst he remained at Charleston, but the American Ships came into the harbors and the guns were taken off the ships and mounted on the wharf to defend the town. This dismantling of the ships took place about the first of April 1780 and a few days after which claimant was discharged and returned through many difficulties to his home in Rutherford County; Claimant was not discharged until a month and ten or twelve days after his term of service had expired.--

After claimant returned home from the last mentioned term of service he found times so troublesome from the marauding parties of Tories (and in fact Whigs too) killing and murdering on all hands, that he found it impossible to remain at home in any degree of safety, and in the month of May 1780 joined, as a volunteer, a troop of Cavalry commanded by Captain Adam Hampton, and joined the troops raised at that time from the two counties of Rutherford and Burke which were commanded by Colonel Robert Porter and Charles MacDowell [sic, Charles McDowell]. They were both Colonels but claimant is unable to say which of them was the first in command; these troops were stationed for a month at Colonel Balos Earle's [sic, Baylis Earle's] in the upper part of South Carolina, near the North Carolina line. Whilst stationed at Earle's the detachment was joined by General Elijah Clark [sic, then Col. Elijah Clarke], and Colonels Dunn [probably Lt. Col. Josiah Dunn of the Richmond Regiment of Georgia militia] and Alexander with about fifty horsemen from Georgia; on the same night after the arrival of Gen. Clark and the others the whole were attacked by a detachment of British and Tories from Ferguson's [Patrick Ferguson's] Army which then lay at Prince Fort;² the British and Tories were repulsed with considerable loss in killed and wounded; The American detachment also suffered, Claimant's brother, Andrew Dunn, Lieutenant in the company to which Claimant belonged, was killed there. A Colonel Jones [?]³ who had joined the detachment from Burke or Lincoln County but not in command as an officer was also among the slain. —After the above mentioned engagement and defeat of the British and Tories Colonel Ferguson of the British Army came out in pursuit of the Americans who being far inferior to him in point of numbers, retreated before him into Rutherford and Burke Counties; in the last mentioned County Captain Hampton with his company of Cavalry separated from Colonels Porter and McDowell, and marched across the mountains into Tennessee; in Ten days after Hampton and his Cavalry arrived in Tennessee a force of two thousand men was raised by Colonels Campbell [William Campbell] and Shelby

prevent the British navy from gaining access to the harbor. In **Oared Fighting Ships of the South Carolina Navy, 1776-1780** Author: John J. Sayen Jr. Source: The South Carolina Historical Magazine, Vol. 87, No. 4 (Oct., 1986), pp. 213-237 Published by: South Carolina Historical Society, Sayen says the *Bricole* was a flute, or large armed transport with two decks, built by the French in 1750's. Sayen states that *Bricole* arrived in Charleston harbor under the command of Chevalier de Romain, one of d'Estaing's subordinates, and that de Romain turned the vessel over the South Carolina navy some time prior to his sailing out of Charleston on January 24, 1780 to return to the West Indies. Command of the *Bricole* devolved upon Captain David Lockwood. Prior to his leaving Charleston in April or May, 1780, Governor John Rutledge turned command of the South Carolina navy over to Captain Whipple of the Continental Navy.

See also, *Bricolle*, 44 guns. FW3:836, SchV:56, Coggins:102, Smith:247, GWA:494, ship of the SC Navy, purchased from France for the defense of Charleston, 1780, lost at Charleston to Admiral Arbuthnot's fleet. R83II:191, this may be the ship reported sunk by British as of 1782. Lawrence:77, 81, 157, this vessel may have been the French Bricoli, active in the siege of Savannah in 1779, taking sick and wounded to Charleston afterwards. <https://www.awiatsea.com/Hough/Hough%20List%20B.html>

² Prince's Fort, July 17, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_princes_fort.html

³

Yours

I could not identify an officer by such name.

[Isaac Shelby]; after the raising of this force they were joined by Captain Hampton and his Cavalry who returned with them again across the mountains and formed a junction with Colonel Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland] and the force under his command in Burke County. The British now retreated and were pursued by the Americans to Kings Mountain in North Carolina [sic, South Carolina] where the battle of Kings Mountain took place on the 17th September 1780 [sic, October 7, 1780];⁴ claimant was engaged in this battle from beginning to end; the Americans remained in the Battle ground three days after the battle and then marched to Colonel Walker's in Rutherford County where some of the principal Tories were hanged on account of murders and other enormities committed by them. The Army remained at Walker's about ten days, and the Tennesseans were discharged and returned to their homes. The British prisoners were sent on to Charleston to be exchanged and Captain Hampton with his cavalry, and claimant among them, marched to a place called Gilbert Town in Rutherford County to guard the frontiers against the Indians and Tories, and continued at Gilbert Town and that neighborhood until the first of May 1782 when the company was disbanded and the claimant discharged. While stationed at Gilbert Town Captain Hampton's company took a block house occupied by Tories on the head of Parkaulett [sic, Pacolet] River and took from them thirty Negroes and a large amount of other property which had been robbed from the American citizens.

The above is the best account the claimant can give of his services. Claimant was born, as he has been informed and fully believes on the 18th day of December 1762.⁵ He has a record which was made by his father; it is now in his possession, he has already stated where he lived when called into the service, after the war he moved to Georgia in December 17??[last two digit illegible, could be "84"] and lived in Columbia County and was there one year, since then he has lived for different lengths of time in the Counties Hancock, Putnam, Jones and Monroe, in which last county he now lives, and has lived there for nearly seven years back; he received one discharge from Captain Porter, another after his service expired at Charleston which was signed by the adjutant of the regiment but claimant does not remember his name. Claimant also received another discharge from Captain Hampton which discharge was written by Abel Lewis the orderly Sergeant of the Company. Claimant has not seen either of those discharges for many years and he is unable to say where they are or what has become of them, He does not know of any one by whom he can prove his service, but trusts that any of them who are acquainted with him will testify to his character for veracity and also to their belief of his being a soldier of the revolution.

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 and subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Alexander Dunn

⁴ https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁵ The War Department promulgated regulations governing pension application format and requiring the following 7 interrogatories to be put to each applicant for a pension. The claimant is answering these interrogatories:

1st Where and in what year were you born?

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute, for whom?

5th 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.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution



S/ C. B. Strong. Pr. Judge

[Robert McGinty, a clergyman, and Britton Rodgers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 13: Certificate dated December 28, 1852 given by William J. Clarke, Comptroller General of North Carolina showing payments to one Alexander Dunn for military services during the revolutionary war.

State of North Carolina

Comptroller's Office

I, William J Clarke, Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office, among the payments made by said State to sundry persons for Military services in the Revolutionary War, as follows, to wit:

Alexander Dunn

<i>Book</i>	<i>C No. 17,</i>	<i>page</i>	<i>81,</i>	<i>£15 S 18 – specie</i>
	<i>P</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>£19 S7 – “</i>
	<i>No. 10</i>	<i>“</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>£33 S 16 “</i>

I further certify that it appears, by Book “J” which contains a list of officers, that Alexander Dunn was a Captain –

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 28th day of December A.D. 1852

S/ Wm J. Clarke, Comptr.]

[p 14]

State of Georgia County of Monroe } SS

On this ninth day of September 1834 again appeared in open court, and sitting before the Honorable Christopher B. Strong, Judge of the Superior Court in and for the County aforesaid, the same Alexander Dunn who appeared in this court and made his declaration on the twenty third day of October 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832. And the said Alexander Dunn being again duly sworn according to law doth make the following additional declaration on oath for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the Act of Congress above mentioned. That in the first mentioned tour in his declaration of October 1832, declarant served out the entire tour of three months for which he was drafted into service, the officers and incidents of that tour of service are mentioned as well as remembered in the first application made by claimant: In the next tour mentioned in claimant's first application above referred to he also served out the full term of three months for which he had volunteered; and as already stated in his first application he was not discharged until a month and ten or twelve days after his turn of three months had expired; and he would here add further that during the month and ten or twelve days (ten at least) he remained in the army after his regular term of service had expired, he was regularly and continually engaged in active service and subject to the command of his officers and did duty in the same manner as before the expiration of the three months for which the he volunteered: After entering the service as stated in May 1780 (the particular time in that month claimant is now unable to state) he served as mentioned in his first application except that he was mistaken as to the time of his being discharged, which in his first application is put in May 1782; he is now satisfied that he was mistaken as to the time of his discharge, which was some months earlier than mention[ed] in his first declaration; claimant was in the service under the command of Captain Hampton and Colonels Porter and McDowell when the news of the capture of Cornwallis was received: after the capture of Cornwallis news was received (claimant

thinks after the expiration of a month from the capture) that a cessation of arms was agreed upon and claimant was discharged which claimant now feels well satisfied took place not earlier than the first of December 1781: claimant can safely state that during this last mentioned term of service he was in constant service for at least eighteen months: After being discharged as above mentioned he returned to his home in Rutherford County North Carolina and in the month of May 1782 was again drafted for a three months tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians, he entered this service under the command of Captain John Watson at a Block House erected near the head of Green River In North Carolina: During the time of this company's being in service Robert Porter was the Colonel William Porter Lieutenant Colonel and Patrick Watson Major in commanded of the Militia of Rutherford County but there were during the time no officers in active in service except those belonging to the company commanded by Captain Watson and stationed as mentioned above on Green River, the place where the block house stood was called Mumfords Cove: After serving out his term of three mouths, claimant was discharged and shortly thereafter moved to Georgia where he was engaged in repeated short tours and scouts but none that he thinks it worthwhile here to recapitulate: Claimant states that during the whole time mentioned by him in his different tours he was engaged in actual service and was not employed in any civil pursuit.

Claimant has done his utmost to give a faithful and true account of his services and feels well satisfied that as it now stands corrected his declaration contains no material error: he cannot swear more positively that he has done to the precise terms of his service and has been careful at least not to exceed in any instance his actual service rendered-- by reason of advanced age his memory is indistinct as to many particulars; but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the period mentioned below and in the Following grade: For two years three months and ten days I served a private soldier.

In not answering the seventh interrogatory prescribed by the War Department in his first application claimant had no desire to evade a compliance with the rules of the department; at the time his declaration was preparing he was uncertain who of his neighbors might find it convenient to attend court and feeling satisfied that any of those who knew him would willingly testify in his favor he answered generally---he now asks leave to refer to the names of the Rev. Robb. McGinty and Mr. Britton Rogers of persons by whom complainant is able to sustain his character for veracity and as being a soldier of the revolution

Sworn to and subscribed in open court this day and year aforesaid.

S/ Alexander Dunn



S/ Christopher B. Strong for Judge of Sup. Court.

State of Alabama Chambers County: personally appeared Samuel Pearson and Goodridge Driver before me Thomas Gragg an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County & State aforesaid and made oath that they were acquainted with Alexander Dunn in his lifetime, that he resided in Monroe County and State of Georgia, from which he removed to Lafayette in the County and State aforesaid, and lived with his son Uriah Dunn where he died on the 22nd day of December A.D. 1846 and that said Dunn was a very old man.

Sworn to & subscribed this 13th December 1852 before me

S/ Thomas Gragg, JP

S/ G. Driver

S/ Samuel Pearson

[Note: The printed list of 1852 gives cause of suspension as: "Eighteen months service alleged,

the roles being silent indicate a militia service and it requires specification into tours and the usual proof.”]