

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Martin Dunn R3146 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Because of poor penmanship, the following transcriptions should be used with more than usual caution.]

Virginia Louisa County

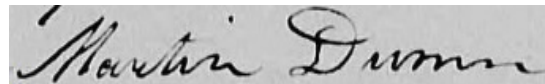
On this 13th day of October 1845 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of said County now sitting Martin Dunn a resident of said County – four miles above the C. H. aged eighty two years last March who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision under 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 – that in the month of January 1781 he was drafted in a militia company for a three months tour which he served in lower Virginia and in the Counties and about Williamsburg – that the Captain under whom the above first tour was performed was named Captain John Hunton of Albemarle County Virginia, in which said County he the said Martin Dunn was born and raised – that in said company there were two Lieutenants and both of them acquaintances of his Isaac Davis [pension application S15799] was first and Zachariah Mills was second Lieutenant, and Joseph Mills was Sergeant – said Isaac Davis was the father of Cap. Thomas Davis representative from Orange and Greene Counties – thus as beforesaid his company was raised in January 1781 and marched to Richmond to protect the people in that section from the enemy then scattered over the adjoining counties – that he remembers in going to Richmond his company passed through this County Louisa, Hanover and Henrico Counties – and after remaining at Richmond a short time his company were marched to Williamsburg through the following counties as can recollect to wit – New Kent, Charles City & James City that after reaching Williamsburg and remaining there a short time his company was marched below that place to a place over thro' Little York to a place called the “Halfway House” at which place his company were stationed to the best of his memory 4 weeks – and from the “Halfway House” his company were ordered back to Williamsburg where they were stationed 6 weeks to the best of his memory and the draft under which the soldiers had been raised having expired all hands were discharged at Williamsburg and he came to his home in Albemarle County Virginia – that during said first tour of 3 months his company were not attached to any portion of the regular army and therefore cannot give any of the names of the regular officers or privates. That to the best of his recollection he reached home from said first tour on or about the — day of April 1781.

That he did not remain at home longer than 2 weeks before he was again drafted in the militia for another tour under Captain John Henderson of Albemarle County – then living in the Southern part of said County – and one Spencer Nowell was Lieutent of said company – that said company was ready in a short time and marched through Louisa – Hanover and Henrico Counties to a place about 20 miles below [SE of] Richmond called “Bottoms Bridge” where his company was stationed about 3 weeks – and from “Bottoms Bridge” his company were marched still S.W. of the latter place to “Mobin Hills” [sic: Malvern Hill in Henrico County, 15 mi SE of Richmond] a place situated on the banks of James River but cannot say in which County it was located in. that at “Mobin Hills” his company were stationed a considerable time awaiting the enemy in the Counties round about Williamsburg and the Counties near James River, that according to the best of his memory his company during said second tour were stationed at Mobin Hills about six weeks – and that whilst at that place the drafts of the privates in Hendersons company expired and all hands were discharged – that during said second tour of three months his company before reaching “Mobin Hills” were stationed a few days at “Holt’s Forge” between “bottom’s Bridge” & “Mobin Hills” [on Chickahominy River] at which large quantities of iron was manufactured at that day. That during said tour his company was not attached to any portion of the regular army nor was there any battle – that before reaching Mobin Hills” his company was marched

through various Counties in the lower country the names of which he has entirely forgotten. That as before said at "Mobin Hills" all hands were discharged from Hendersons company and I came home – that he did not call for a discharge from said tour and does not remember to have heard of any private in his company asking or obtaining one. That no circumstance of importance transpired during said tour that he can remember, of sufficient importance to mention. The weather was dry and the soldiers suffered very much for want of wholesome victuals. Among his associates in arms of said second tour whom he still remembers are Johnathan Monday [sic: Jonathan Munday, pension application S5795], of Albemarle George Beaver, Meekins Carr [S8137], Edmund Foster and Anthony Foster [possibly S2561] and John Hall [S5490] of the same County who if alive can prove my service. I have not been informed however that any or either of them are yet alive. And also numbers of them long since dead. That during his first and second tour his company was frequently associated with other militia companies, but that being from different parts of the state he did not form any acquaintance with the privates or officers. That to the best of his recollection he reached home from said second tour the last of July 1781.

That he afterward served another tour of three months in the militia as substitute for his brother William Dunn ho being weakly and a family on his hands procured himself a substitute. That of that company Captain Harry Burke of Albemarle County – that he marched from his native County to a place below Richmond called "Mount Pleasant" and a rendesvou for the soldiers. that after remaining there some few weeks his company was marched up to where Richmond now is and were stationed there from memory two weeks – from Richmond his company was marched to Garland Andersons Bridge in the Eastern part of Louisa County – over as I suppose the Pomunkey [sic: Pamunkey] River – that at that Bridge his company remained some time – he does not know [illegible word] – but whilst there the tour expired and the men were discharged one and all and that he returned home to his native County of Albemarle about the middle of October 1781. That during said tour his company was not attached to the regular army & he was in no battle – that as in the former tours his company was associated at various times with other militia companies – the names of which he never knew and therefore cannot say. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the Pension roll of the agency of any state whatever.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Dunn". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

The following are the questions made in open Court.

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born near Bourboursville [sic: Barboursville] in Orange County in the year 1763. Albemarle and Orange join near the point where I was born and my father lived on the Albemarle side.

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

Answer. I have no record of my age – my father's children and their ages were kept by him and I have reason to believe if his old Bible could be found my age would be found registered. I cannot say where that bible is at this time – my impression is that my brother James Dunn of Albemarle has it.

3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was a resident of Albemarle during my services in the Revolution – a few years after the war closed I married Mary or Molly Hughes of Louisa County and thereupon took up my residence in Louisa and have lived in my present neighborhood for about 60 years past. I was married after 21 years of age a year or two after I left the war I think.

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

Answer. I was drafted under both Cap. Hunton & Henderson and went on my own account during those two tours but the third tour under Burke I was as before said substitute for my bother William Dunn who was 6 or 7 years my senior.

5. 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.

Answer. During all three of my tours in the revolution my companies were never attached to the regular army – but at various time the regulars passed by our encampment and I frequently saw them – they were Tall men and appeared to be lean – I did not see a fleshy regular during all the time of my servis. During my second tour under Captain Henderson and whilst stationed at “Holt’s Forge” I saw an Indian warrior and Squaw at that place – they wished to join our troops but it was said they were refused admission into the army – that Warrior or Chief I learnt offered 500 of his men to our officers – but I do not state it as a part of my own knowledge having only heard so from my associates under Henderson.

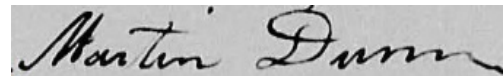
6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it.

Answer. I never received a written discharge from either of my three tours and do not think it was customary to ask for them at that time – I knew of no soldier who ever applied for one. Verbal discharge were given at the end of each tour and it was thought amply sufficient.

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 of your services as a soldier of the Revolution?

Answer. Having lived in my present neighborhood for the last 60 years there is no doubt but that all my neighbors can speak with propriety of my character for veracity and their belief of my revolutionary services. James Porter Esq’r. has been a neighbor of mine for over 45 years and he lives about one mile from my house. Robert Daughton esq’r. [one or two illegible words] a neighbor and has been living near me for the last 40 years. Richard Poindexter Esq’r who has lived near me from his boy hood being between 60 and 170 [sic] years of age at this time – also Charles Poindexter Esq’r. who lives near me aged about 60 of 70 or probably more. Also Thomas Barrett Esq’r one of the justices of my County all of whom know me and can speak of my character & their belief by tradition of my services in the old war. That all of my associates in arms have died except John Hall of Albemarle County who if alive I can prove two tours by.

[Appended is a certificate signed by many above.]



Albemarle County to wit

I James Dunn certify under Oath I am a Soldier of the revolution and also a pensioner under the general government I was raised in the said County of Albemarle and remember that Martin Dunn (now of Louisa County and State of Virginia) was also in the war from said County of Albemarle I remember he served in the year 1781 that he entered and served two towers, in the earlier part of the year and that he entered and served a third in the place of William Dunn commencing as will as I remember about the 1st of August of the same year. I remember he marched in the company of Capt John Henderson one tower and Capt John Hunton one in his third Tower he served under Capt Burke of Albemarle I do not remember the names of all his offices.

James hisXmark Dunn

Benjamin F. Dunn/ Jas. W. McMullan

[The above statement was made on 8 Nov 1845 before Thomas R. Dunn, J. P. John Hall also made a supporting statement before Thomas R. Dunn, witnessed by W. K. Hall and James W. McMullan.]

Virginia – Louisa County towit:

On this 13th day of April 1846 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of said County now sitting Mr. Martin Dunn a resident of said County aged eighty-four years in March 1847 and made the following declaration under oath in due form of Law in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

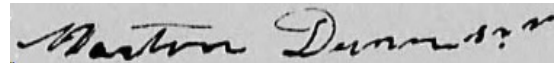
That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated amounting to three tours in the Virginia militia of three months each. That of this he is

positive, without any doubt whatever for his memory is good and he has as clear a recollection of his service in the war as of any event of recent date. That his first Captain was John Hunton of Albemarle County Virginia whom he knew very well and he the said Hunton lived at the time of said death in a neighborhood in his County known as the "Glebe" near the residence of old Parson Murray. In this he cannot be mistaken, for he remembers that after his tour under him he was taken prisoner by the British and was kept in confinement for some considerable time – the capture was made in Charlottesville Virginia whither a portion of the British under Tarletin had gone [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, 4 Jun 1781] – that this event occurred toward the last of his second tour he thinks in the summer of 1781 – it might however have been during his third tour in the militia of which he is not positive. That whilst at Mobin Hills during his third tour he again saw his former Captain who came to where his company were stationed and he understood had been "Paroled" by his Captors to return home to see his family. He was then riding a bay Poney and did not tarry over three minutes he thinks. Of all this he is positive and makes the reference in order to give satisfaction to the department and supply if possible the place of direct and positive proof. That of said company Isaac Davis was first Lieutenant and Zachariah Mills was second Lieutenant to both of whom he was then neighbor and was raised in their neighborhood. That he is almost positive said tour began 1st January 1781 – and he very well knows it was a few days after Christmas & was at the time of the burning of the "rope work" by the British in Richmond – he does not remember the date of the burning &c but well remembers it was a few days afterward that his company marched out under Hunton, and was direct to Richmond – whilst there he saw cannons spiked and said to have been done by the British during their invasion of Richmond. That among the privates with him under Hunton whom he still remembers and their well knew were John Shiflett, Richard Shiflett, James White, John Hall, Johnathan Monday, Labun Rothwell, William Johnston, Makens Carr, George Beaver, Thomas Shiflett [sic: Thomas Shifflet W8718] & others – all of whom are dead except John Hall who still resides in Albemarle County Virginia. That John Hall was with him under Hunton for two months – and in order to fix the date of that tour will the Department be so kind as to refer to his own declaration for a pension in which no doubt the date of said tour was given. Pensioner he supposes under Act of 1832. According to his memory said Hall went home at the end of two months – he however might have served out the full tour with him. He would be most thankful to the Department for the above reference because he does not wish to make an incorrect statement in the matter. That his company marched through Hanover, Louisa, Chesterfield and other Counties, from Richmond his Company went to Williamsburg where they were stationed for some time – from Williamsburg his company went to Little York and from thence to the "Half Way" house as it was called being half way between said Little York and Hampton – at the half way house his company remained three weeks and then returned to Williamsburg at which place his company remained for the space of three weeks about the same time spent at the half way house which might have been a little longer than three weeks – from Williamsburg his company came up to Richmond and there left their arms – at that place his company drew provisions and came on home. As his company went down their arms were gotten at Richmond – and on their return brought a few "prisoners" caught by his company in the water only two he thinks and they were said to have been sailors and were left at Richmond for safe keeping. Served out said tour of three months and came home – during the same was associated with another Company from Albemarle under command of Captain Harriss [sic: probably Benjamin Harris W7664] whose given name he never learnt. Major Armstead [sic: Thomas Armistead] was attached to this company under Hunton & these resided in Hanover he thinks. Thus much for his first tour which embraces all the material facts of the same so far as he is advised a mention of them is necessary. In all thus is said he is positive and regrets his first statement respecting the same was judge insufficient. His company was not attached to the regulars during the same.

Next comes his second tour which was improperly placed as his third tour in his first declaration – the same being under Captain Henry Burke of Albemarle County and was there a substitute for his brother William Dunn who had a family upon his hands and who expressed a wish for me to act in his place which he did without any charge whatever for he himself was young and had no one but himself to

provide for – that he was acquainted with Captain Burke before this tour in consequence of having mustered under him as private in his county of Albemarle – he lived at that time near the mountains in Albemarle County near “Browns cove” and marched to the lower Country the last of April 1781 as substitute for his said brother William Dunn – that his company marched from Albemarle County the 1st of May 1781 for the lower Country & went through Louisa & Hanover to a place below Richmond called “Mount Pleasant” five miles below the former place he thinks – at Mount Pleasant remained for a considerable time and returned back to Richmond and took up quarters at Bacons branch where they were stationed for some considerable time and then retreated into the Country towards Fredericksburg to avoid the enemy then in pursuit of us – retreated as far as Andersons Bridge over the Pamucky River. At that time the enemy were on foot and followed very close – their vessels then lay at James Town, to which they hastened upon hearing of the approach of the regulars – that at Andersons Bridge his company took quarters and remained there till he was discharged he having served out his time as substitute for his said brother. At the said Bridge a great many soldiers were quartered chiefly militia who had gone there to escape the pursuit of the enemy as above. He recollect very well the occurrence of a very heavy storm of thunder and lightening which occurred during this tour and it gave a good deal of alarm in camp at the time. That among the privates under Captain Burke which he recollects are Henry Chester, Thomas Davis, Stephen Murray and Allen Crow – all of whom so far as he knows are now dead. Colonel [Reuben] Lindsay was the Colonel of the division to which he was attached and was himself a resident of Albemarle County – that Joseph Mills was orderly sergeant and Peter Toler was Lieutenant of the same, all of whom he well knew for they were raised not far apart. that from said company he received no written discharge – neither did he from his first tour herein before named. After serving out the said tour of three months he returned home and was drafted again upon his own account for another tour which he served under Captain John Henderson improperly alledged in his first declaration as his second tour which was his last and think that of course he is not aware of the information the Department may have respecting the Virginia service of ‘81 – be that information however which it may be is positive that his three tours were performed in the year of the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] and remembers to have seen each of his tours other large bodies of militia on service. His services consisted of two tours on his own account and one as substitute for his brother of which he has always spoken and retains a distinct recollection. On his own account he was called and by number together with others forming a class, but he has forgotten what his number was. That from his second tour under Captain Burke as substitute for his brother William Dunn he returned home the last day of August or thereabouts to Albemarle County where he was immediately drafted for another tour on his own account under Captain John Henderson of said County – in this also he begs leave to say he cannot be mistaken for it was his last tour in the war and was just before the surrender of Cornwallis at York in Virginia that said company met at Richard Wood’s house in the extreme S. W. part of the County near the mountains – that of said company Spencer Nowell was Lieutenant, whom he knew quite well – in regard to this tour under Henderson he also begs to say it was the second reinforcement in the County and embraced as was said evy “well man” in the County capable of go on duty. A relief company had gone down just before this time, and apprehensions of danger were so great that in addition to the relief a reinforcement was called from said County – and the public exigency requiring it another reinforcement was called from said of which he was one of the number – that his company marched over the same grounds as before and went below Richmond to a place called “Bottoms Bridge” where they were stationed for 3 weeks – from which place his company went to “Mobin Hills” where they took up their station – and was the rallying point for the militia from all parts of the State as he supposes from the number quartered there. That in order to ascertain the date of said tour he would refer the Department to the declaration of James Dunn [S8359] of Albemarle a pensioner up to his death that James Dunn was himself in service during that tour under another officer from Albemarle but that he saw him daily during the tour – because all the Albemarle privates were thrown together – that Samuel Dalton was also a private with him under Henderson – that whilst his company were at Holt’s Forge in the lower Country he saw frequently Waynes troops [Gen.

Anthony Wayne's Continental troops] – and also he saw Lafayettes troops whilst at same place numbering a great many soldiers – that at Mobin Hills his company were stationed till very near the Siege of Yorktown Virginia – after the same his men were discharged and he came to his home in Albemarle County Virginia where he lived till a few years after the war he came to Louisa where he still resides. That in going to the lower Country his company marched through Louisa, Hanover, Chesterfield, Henrico and other counties the names of which he has forgotten and cannot say – that it was during this tour he saw the Indian King and Queen who it was said offered 500 of their warriors if our officers would take them. But of this offer he knows nothing of his own knowledge – he saw the Indians and only heard of their offer – that below Holt's Forge there was a grand parade of the Virginia forces – the soldiers covered a mile in length and was himself seriously injured by the accidental firing of a french musket – so much injured was carried off the ground – he supposes there were at least three thousand on parade at that time. So much for his third tour under Henderson which was his last tour but improperly through mistake entered as his second tour – hopes the mistake may not affect the justice of his claim – he is very feeble and stands in need of all that may be coming to him for his revolutionary services. The cost of preparing his papers was \$15.00 which he would not have incurred but for the belief that his claim was just and thus by so doing he would get enough to keep him along in his old age. That his reasons for a delay in applying for a pension are the same as before set forth – he does not go from home and relied upon his son to make the enquiry for him and understood there was no chance without a service of twelve months – this impression continued untill last year he was informed by Mr. Meade his claim was just. The Department should not be rigid in this respect – there are very few of the most intelligent men who understand the Pension Laws and among the common people on this subject a most profound ignorance prevails. He therefore repeats and affirms in the most positive manner he has never had any other reason for his delay than as above given. He hereby relinquishes all all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not upon the pension roll of the agency of any state in these United States.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Dunn". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Dunn answered interrogatories in the same manner as as in his first application.]

NOTES:

Martin Dunn's claim was denied. On 28 Dec 1854 Thomas R. Dunn, son and one of the heirs of Martin Dunn, assigned power of attorney to obtain any benefits for the service of his father.

The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 6 Feb 1786 in Louisa County by Martin Dunn and William Hughes for the marriage of Dunn to Molly Anderson Hughes.