

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Dunnaway (Dunaway) R3149

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } Ss

County of Jefferson }

On this 25th day of June 1834 personally appeared before Charles Harrison a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Jefferson and State aforesaid, Thomas Dunnaway, a resident citizen of the county of Jefferson and State aforesaid, aged Sixty Seven years and five 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 7th 1832.

That the Declarant Thomas Dunnaway was born on the 15th of January 1767 in the County of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper], State of Virginia of which he has no record. While a boy, at what age he is unable to say, he moved with his Step-Father Peter Goosie, to the Monongahela, three miles above the forks of Cheat River [sic: Monongahela River three miles above the forks of Cheat River, in present Fayette County PA]. Thence in the Spring of the year 1782, the Spring after Cornwallis was taken, being badly treated by his Step-father, he left him and emigrated with some emigrating families, to the head of Dewitt's Creek [Jouett Creek?] in the County of Fayette, then the State of Virginia, now the State of Kentucky. In this County, in the month of May 1782, shortly after the arrival of Declarant, a Volunteer company was raised under Captain James McMullan, for the purpose of protecting those frontiers, of guarding McGhee's fort of Dewitt's creek in Fayette County [see endnote], and of acting as Spies and Scouts with a view to the Security of the Inhabitants on that then one of the most remote Settlements of that country, against the incursions of the Indians. In the month of May, 1782, Declarant being then in his Sixteenth year, and being unusually stout and able bodied for his age, volunteered for twelve months under Captain James McMullan or McMillan for the purposes above mentioned. While in the Fort, we were engaged in keeping guard. The fort was large and commodious being sufficient for the protection of a large number of families. The Indians were then traversing through all that region of country, and it was necessary to keep up a constant and vigilant watch to prevent the surprise of the Fort, which was attempted once without success by a considerable body of Indians. Our company were employed either in constant guard duty or in the duty of Spies and Scouts. We were regularly mustered and taught the manual exercise and were classed for guard duty and Spy duty, the men being alternately employed in these different duties. declarant served out his term of twelve months, for which he had volunteered under Capt McMullan or McMillan, and received a regular discharge from him in May 1783 day not recollected, which discharge Declarant has lost, when or where he does not know.

After the expiration of this tour, in the month of May 1783, day not recollected, Declarant volunteered at McGhee's fort under Captain James McMillan to go under General [George Rogers] Clark against the Wabash Indians. William Bush and Joseph Blackburn Lieutenants, Edmund Raigland [Edmond Ragland] an Ensign, John Wright orderly Sergeant at first, Joseph Young afterwards Orderly Sergeant – these Officers had been the Officers of the volunteer company, that had just served for twelve months, with the exception of Joseph Young. Our Rendezvous was at McGhee's fort, from which place we were marched under Capt McMillan or McMullan to the Widow Todd's Spring, two miles this side of Lexington. The next morning marched to Lexington, and there remained for several hours, when we marched below McConnell's Station [at present McConnell Springs Park in Lexington]. At Lexington we joined several companies. Col Levi Tod [sic: Levi Todd] was the chief commander here, There were Col. John Holder, Major John Donelson, Capt Rob't. Saunders [Robert Saunders] Officers, whom Declarant here recollects. From McConnell's Station our rout was as follows – To the mouth of Benson Creek on the Kentucky river – crossing North Elkhorn and South Elkhorn. Thence up Benson Creek to the falls of the Ohio, two miles below Louisville; thence to the Opost, now called Port Vincent on the Wabash river [present Vincennes IN]. At the falls of the Ohio, Gen'l. Clark met us with a considerable body of men, and took

command of us. At Opost, we remained ten days, when we were marched toward the Indian nation up the Wabash, untill we got very high up the Wabash, to the mouth of a Fork of the Wabash. At this place our provisions had nearly given out and we returned to the Opost. We remained a few days at the Opost. The men under Gen'l Clark were sent home. Col Holder and his men remained some time longer. Declarant returned under his Captain in the month of August day not recollected 1783, having served a tour of three months on this expedition. In eight or ten days after his return in the month of August day not recollected 1783. Declarant again volunteered under Captain William Bush, the uncle of the Lieutenant hereinbefore named, at McGhee's fort, to go under Gen'l. Ben Logan [Benjamin Logan] against the Shawnese [Shawnee]. William McMillan, a younger brother of the former Captain, was Lieutenant, Edmund Raigland Orderly Sergeant. From McGhee's Fort we marched to the Blue Licks the place of Rendezvous, encamping the first night, having crossed Stoner and Hinkston rivers at McMillan's Spring. The next day we crossed licking and marched to the Lower Blue Licks, where we met Gen'l. Logan with the other companies. Colonel Daniel Boone was along with this expedition, in what capacity, Declarant does not recollect or know. Colonel Trotter commanded our Regiment. Other Officers were Colonel [Hugh] McGary, Colonel Kennedy, Major Hall of our Regiment, Colonel Pattison, Captain Rout[?], Capt John McDowell, Capt James McDowell, Capt Johnson, Capt Leiper, Capt Irvine. The next night we were marched to Simeon Kenton's, who joined the expedition in what capacity Declarant is ignorant. Thence to the mouth of Limestone, where we crossed the Ohio River. Thence to Chillicothe [sic: Chillicothe]. Thence to the Pickaway [Piqua] towns, which we found evacuated by the Indians. We burnt these towns. We crossed the Miamis [Great Miami and Little Miami rivers] and marched to some Indian towns on the other side of the Miamis. Here we caught some Indians. No resistance was made. The Army encamped on the left of the Towns. Colonel McGary killed the Shawnese King and Capt Leiper killed a young man. Both the Indians were defenceless prisoners. We marched to McKee's town, Ellit's town and to Wapatomagha, which we burnt and took some Indians prisoners. A Scouting party wounded an Indian. The Indian was sought for and Capt Irvine coming on him was killed by him. The party in pursuit rushed on him, but before they got to him, he reloaded and shot Alexander Maxwell in the Shoulder. Capt Rout's thigh was broke by a gun Shot from an Indian Lt McNary was shot by an Indian, upon whom McNary was rushing as he was retiring. The Indian was killed. In all we burnt eight capitol towns, besides small towns. We took about 30 prisoners These towns were on the Miamis and Mad River. We returned on the same course we went to the mouth of Limestone, which we reached in the month of November day not recollected in the year 1783. Here Declarant was discharged verbally by his captain Wm. Bush, having served in this expedition three months. Thus Declarant served twelve months in Fort McGhee and on that frontier as a volunteer under Capt James McMillan or McMullan from May 1782 to May 1783 and in the year 1783 he served two tours of three months each for which services he claims a pension under the Act of June 7th 1832. He never received any thing for these services, except when the goods were divided or rather sold that were taken on the second Indian expedition he purchased a kettle. Besides many other smaller and less important services on the frontiers of Kentucky as a Spy and Guard, Declarant was a volunteer under Capt James Kinney to go under General [Charles] Scott against the Weahs [Wea Indians] on the Wabash, and served throughout that expedition [late spring 1791] – after this he again volunteered under Capt Moses Hall to go under General [Josiah] Harmar against the Shawnese on the Maumee. in which expedition Gen'l. Harmar was defeated at the Maumee Village [Oct 1790]. when Gen'l. [Arthur] St. Clair invaded the Indian Settlements, this Declarant again volunteered and served in the expedition. In Gen'l. St Clair's defeat near the Junction of the Maumee and O'Glaise [sic: Auglaize] [4 Nov 1791], Declarant was shot in his forehead on the right side of it, speared in his thigh and tomahawked in his back, from all of which wounds he recovered, though he begins now to experience severe bad effects from them, as he grows old. Dr. Hinds at fort Recovery dressed his wounds. Dr. Fields of Fayette opened the wound in his thigh after he got home, it having festered. When General [Anthony] Wayne marched against the Shawnese the next fall following, this Declarant again volunteered under Capt Wm McMillan and served throughout that expedition, and was one of the volunteers from Kentucky, who in connection with the Regulars under Gen'l. Wayne, aided in the defeat

of the Indians [20 Aug 1794] near the same place, where Gen'l. St Clair was defeated. – For these services since the year 1783 Declarant does not claim a pension. But he is induced to mention them, as they may form the ground of some future application, if such services should be provided for. Declarant was a Kentucky volunteer in these expeditions, and has never received anything for his services in them. These latter services he has no doubt that he could prove by seeking evidence in support of them in Kentucky.

Several years after the expedition under Gen'l. Wayne, number not recollected Declarant moved to the State of South Carolina where he lived in Pendleton and NewBury districts for many years, when he moved to N. Carolina where he lived for a few years in Burke county – and then moved to Jefferson County, East Tennessee, where he now lives – Declarant does not recollect the precise period of his residence in the different States in which he lived in the course of his live.

Declarant never received a written discharge except for his first tour of twelve months. There were no regulars with General Clark or General Logan in the expeditions in which Declarant served under them. Nor were there any in his first tour of twelve months. Declarant has no documentary evidence in regard to his services, nor does he know of any person living, by whom he could prove the services for which he claims a pension. 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. Declarant would refer to the Reverend Henry Randolp [sic: Henry Randolph] and Mr. W. Taylor neighbours, who are well acquainted with him and who can be examined touching his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th day of June 1834 Thomas hisXmark Dunnaway

NOTES:

David McGee's Station is said to have been on Lower Howard Creek north of present Lisletown.

James L. Edwards, the Pension Commissioner, rejected Thomas Dunnaway's claim because his military service prior to the end of the Revolutionary War (taken as 22 April 1783) did not amount to at least six months. In his words, "The militia were at no time called out to perform a continuous service for the length of time stated. It is doubtful whether he is entitled to a pension. The inhabitants voluntarily associated themselves for their own safety, and rendered themselves liable to called out when the exigencies of the times required them to protect themselves against incursions by the Indians: such associations were were proper, but their liability to bear arms under such circumstances, forms no claim for military service. Unless it can be clearly shown that they were called out by competent authority to do military duty...." While Virginia law did limit militia *drafts* to three months in most cases, it set no limit on voluntary tours. For further discussion of the correctness of Edwards's belief as it applies to frontier service, see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.

On 12 Mar 1853 Oliff Griffin and her husband, George Griffin, assigned power of attorney to reapply for the pension as heirs of Thomas Dunaway (as the name was therein spelled). On 26 June 1855 Rachel Dunaway, daughter and heir of Thomas Dunaway, assigned power of attorney for the same purpose.

A document in the file states that Thomas Dunnaway died on 10 Nov 1838.