

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Dunn S12811

f12NC

A easier to read

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 3/15/10 & 9/25/22

[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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.]

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State of Kentucky, Caldwell County Sct:

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before Morton A. Rucker, James C. Willer, Samuel M. Asher and John W. Marshall, Justices of the County Court for the County aforesaid, now sitting, Joseph Dunn, a resident of said County, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated: That in the year 1778 (to the best of his recollection [sic, 1776]) he was drafted as a private in the militia of North Carolina from Rutherford County for a tour of three months, and was mustered in to service under Captain Robert Porter, and Lieutenant James McFaddin [sic, McFadden?]: that we were ordered to march down towards Cross Creek, and joined the other companies raised for the expedition. After the Junction of the troops, General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] took the command, and the Regiment to which Captain Porter's company belonged was commanded by Colonel Hampton [Andrew Hampton]. That in a few days afterwards we attacked a party of Tories and British near Cross Creek [Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge, February 27, 1776],<sup>1</sup> and gained a Victory, taking a good many prisoners, the most whom was afterwards released upon taking an oath to be true to America, or not to be found again in arms against us. That he continued in this service for the full term of three months and was regularly discharged by his Captain (Porter).

That about the beginning or spring of the year 1779 he volunteered as a private from the same County, and joined a light horse company commanded by Captain Adam Hampton (son of Colonel Hampton) and soon after marched towards Georgia, through South Carolina and joined Col. Pickens [Andrew Pickens] near his own farm in South Carolina on Seneca River, who was then collecting all the forces in his power to oppose a body of Tories collected in the back parts of South Carolina, with an intention of proceeding to Augusta (or was said) to join the British. After Col. Pickens had assembled all the troops he could, he began his march, and came up with these Tories (consisting of six or 700) at Kettle Creek,<sup>2</sup> and there defeated them with considerable loss, and Col. Boyd [James Boyd] their leader was among the killed: several who escaped were afterwards taken and tried as traitors, and five (he thinks) were executed. Some of

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_moores\\_creek.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_moores_creek.html)

<sup>2</sup> Kettle Creek February 14, 1779 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

these Tories however, reached the enemy & joined them. This defeat broke the spirits of the Tories for awhile, and preserved quiet of the Western part of the Country. After this battle we returned to North Carolina; and in a short time we were ordered (our Company of light horse) out under Colonel Hampton and General McDowell [Charles McDowell], who were then stationed in the neighborhood with two or three hundred men. After joining McDowell, the light horse were ordered to scour the Country, and if possible to intercept a party of Tories then in the Country. The night after the detachment was ordered out, a party of Tories & British from Ninety Six made an attack on McDowell's Camp,<sup>3</sup> and several were killed on each side. In the morning, the horse were recalled and ordered to pursue the enemy, which we promptly obeyed; and we came up with them at a house about nine miles distant, where we surrounded them, and made a charge upon them and killed as many as nine or more, and dispersed the others. After which we returned to Camp. In the attack on McDowell's camp the preceding night, Andrew Dunn the first Lieutenant of horse was one of the killed (he was the brother of this affiant). That shortly afterwards the Tories and Indians broke out on the head of Broad River, and we marched to that quarter. After remaining there sometime, expecting the arrival of Major Dunlap [James Dunlap], a British officer, some of the light horse (having been on active service some time) was permitted to return home for a few days on parole. But the same evening Dunlap made his appearance, and instantly attacked McDowell & Hampton, and gained some advantage. Those permitted to return home, hearing of the affair, he immediately returned but not in time to aid in the conflict, which was on a stream called Caney [sic, Cane Creek].<sup>4</sup> After this we marched to the head of Holston [River], to join in the expedition against Col. Furguson [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson] who was conducting a British detachment through the Country. We joined Colonels Clark [sic, Elijah Clarke] & Shelby [Isaac Shelby] on Holston, and marched into North Carolina. The horse separated from the Main Army just after passing the mountains and were to meet again at a given point, and at a certain time. This was so ordered by the commanding officers for certain purposes. However before the time appointed to meet, the Main Army finding it necessary to hasten the march to come up with Ferguson, passed the place of meeting before the time, and came up with Ferguson at Kings Mountain, where an engagement was fought, and Ferguson killed, and many prisoners taken.<sup>5</sup> The horse arrived in a short time after the action, and was ordered to take charge of some of the prisoners and conduct them to the Catawba River, which was done, and from thence they were carried Northward. This battle was fought in the fall of 1780 as well as he recollects. From Catawba, the light horse of Captain Hampton proceeded to other quarters of the Country against parties of Tories & British, and continued in this service until the end of the War in the South, and that he with others of the company was discharged in the latter part of the year of 1781, having continued in this volunteer service from the spring of 1779 to the latter end of 1781. He cannot fix the exact length of service, but he can safely say, it was as much as twenty two months, having served in all twenty five months. In the times of the Revolution, and particularly during the year 1780 & 1781, the Whigs in the Carolinas had to embody themselves under various officers, and keep constantly in the field against the Tories and British, and the Country, notwithstanding all our exertions, was much exposed. He further

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<sup>3</sup> Earle's Ford, July 15, 1780 Kettle Creek February 14, 1779 <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790214-kettle-creek/>

<sup>4</sup> The skirmish at Cane Creek occurred on September 12, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution\\_cane\\_creek.html](https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cane_creek.html)

<sup>5</sup> The Battle of King's Mountain occurred on October 7, 1780 [https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_battle\\_of\\_kings\\_mountain.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html)

states, that in the light horse, he served with his two brothers Samuel [Samuel Dunn] & Andrew Dunn, Noah Hampton and James McFaddin & others whose names he could mention, but he does not believe that any of them are now living. And he declares that he knows of no person living who can prove his said service, and that he has not now any documentary evidence in his possession or knowledge which would go to prove his service, having lost his discharge long ago. The said Court propounded the following questions to the said Dunn:

Question by the Court 1. Where and in what year were you born?

Answer: I was born in Guilford County, State of North Carolina in the year 1755 as I have often been told by my father.

Question 2: Have you any record of your age, and if so, where is it?

Answer: I have no record of my age, and only know how old I am from information given me by my father. I have a record of the age of my brother Andrew (who was killed at Caney Creek) and from that record, I can tell very nearly my own, which must be now about seventy seven.

Question 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 living in the County of Rutherford when I entered the service in the State of North Carolina. After the War, I lived several years in North Carolina, and moved to Georgia where I lived about 14 years and then moved to this County where I have lived ever since.

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

Answer: In the first tour I was drafted, but in all my after service I was a volunteer.

Question 5: State the names of some of the regular officers who were with troops where you served; such Continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer: I served with no regular troops that I remember of – my whole service was with militia. I well remember the regiments of Colonels Clarke, Sevier, Campbell and Shelby in the Kings Mountain expedition and of Colonel Hampton while I was with General McDowell.

Question 6: Did you ever receive a discharge and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer: Yes. I received a discharge from Captain Hampton, but whether I did from my first tour of duty I have forgot. The one I did get has long since been lost and worn out.

Question 7: 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 of their belief of your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Answer: I have lived a long time amongst my neighbors and I reckon all of them would give me a good name. I will name the Honorable C. Lyon, Michael Freeman, William Mercer, Daniel F. Bigham, & A. [illegible last name, looks like "Harperding"].

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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Dunn, X his mark

[Standard certificate of veracity and belief given by Timothy McMan, a clergyman, and William Mercer and William Holland.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$93.33 per annum.]