

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Dixon S16104

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Sep 2019.

The State of Ohio Brown County, SS

On this first day of October 1819 before me, the subscriber one of the associate Judges of the court of common please for said county personally appeared William Dixon aged 53 years resident in said county of Brown in the said State of Ohio being by me first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the late act of Congress entitled An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war." That he the said William Dixon enlisted for the term of three years or during the war on the last of November in the year one thousand seven hundred & eighty two in Winchester in the state of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain Bedkins [sic: Henry Bedkin] of the Regiment commanded by Collonel Armong [sic: Charles Armand BLWt2291-850] in the line of the state of [blank] on the continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said corps or in the service of the United States until the October 1783 when he was discharged from service in Little York State of Pennsylvania That he was in the battles of and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services excepting the deposition off his Brother John Dixson hereunto enaxed

Brown County Court of Common pleas on this 20th day of November 1826 Personally appeared in open Court (being a court of Record for said county William Dixon resident in said County aged 63 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the act of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and 1st May 1820; That he the said William Dixon enlisted for "during the war" in the fall of the year 1782 in the State of Virginia in the Company commanded by Captain Bedkins in the Regiment commanded by coronel Armon in the line of the State of Virginia on continental establishment that he continued to serve in said corps until the fall of the year 1783 when he was discharged from the said service in little york in the State of Pennsylvania. That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present. That his name has been placed on the pension list that the number of his pension is 17229 and that he never before exhibited a schedule of his property because he had purchased fifty acres of land with the expectation of its being sufficient to support him, but which in consequence of the depreciation in value I have not been able to pay for, as will appear by my schedule, and that I remained with my children who were some of them under age and by whom I have been supported. And in pursuance of the act of 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war passed on the 18th day of March, 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me, nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule of Property owned by me at present

One Horse saddle and bridle worth sixty dollars	\$60.00
Fifty acres of land in Clinton County	<u>150.00</u>
	\$210.00

Debts due to me about 28 dollars from Thomas Carter.

I am indebted in the sum of about \$160.00 for my lands

That since the 18th of March 1818 the following changes have been made in my property towit

one mare and colt sold to John Walkington for repairing waggon	\$45.00	
one waggon sold to Josiah Dixon to pay a debt due Hannah Liggett	76.50	
one blind horse to J. C. Poage for \$30 in trade for use of family	30.00	
30 bushels of wheat to Thomas Smith to pay a debt of 15\$	15.00	
one cow to daughter Hannah for services @ 12\$	12.00	
eight head of cattle died	70.00	
one cow and calf to daughter Elizabeth for services @ 13\$	13.00	
Two head of horses died & one horse which I had borrowed got crippled in my possession which I had to pay for	120.00	
Two head horses, five head cattle, one log chain, fifteen head sheep	}	
fifteen head hogs, twelve head geese, forty or fifty fowls, one table	}	
one eight gallon kettle, one six gallon pot, two small pots –	}	
duch ovens – one skillet – two water buckets – one half dozen	}	
pewter plates – one half dozen fram[?] chairs – tea kettle – coffee pot	}	
and tea ware – one half dozen knives & forks – two smoothing irons	}	
one bureau – one looking glass two little spinning wheels one	}	
saddle & bridle one old side saddle two axes – one iron wedge	}	
one meal sive To Thomas Dixon to pay the following debts	}	
towit, due James Stephenson for rent of farm	\$40.00	
Doct Alexander Campbell for medical services	11.00	
Nicholas Devore borrowed money	10.00	
John Armstrong for merchandize	15.25	
William Humphries for merchandize	<u>5.00</u>	
	\$81.25	81.25
Paid David Evans for fifty acres of land purchased of him	<u>440.80</u>	
	\$903.55	

Some other articles not now particularly recollected exclusively for the support of my family & for medical services for my wife in her last sickness & for myself

I have no means of support except by the charity of my children James, Thomas, Betsey and Harrison with whom I now reside I am entirely unable to do any labor being very corpulent my usual weight being upwards of three hundred pounds my occupation that of a farmer

William hisDmark Dixon

To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled

I, William Dixon, of Brown County, Ohio, a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, beg leave to approach your Honorable body and respectfully represent — that I enlisted as a soldier for the term of “during the war” in the fall of the year 1782 in the Company of Captain Belkins, in the regiment of Coln Armon. My enlistment took place in Virginia in the County of Berkley [sic: Berkeley], and I joined the regiment at Winchester. The month of the year in which I enlisted I cannot recollect, but this I well remember, that it was in bud[?] time, and that I left the plough (which I was following) standing in the field, to join the armies of my Country and mingle in the din and dangers of the war. I remained in the service about twelve months or a little over that time, being discharged late in the fall of 1783. I am unable to be particular as to dates, not having been able to keep any written memorandum. But I recollect well that on my return home from the Army (having been discharged at Little York Penna.) a deep snow was lying on the ground. I can therefore speak positively as to one years service. But as to the services performed by me, my discharge and the evidence of my right to a claim on the beneficence of my Country. I would respectfully refer the Honorable Congress to the proofs made by me, and the papers concerning my case, on file in the Department of War of the United States, I having applied to that

Department for a pension under the law of the 18th March 1818, at which time my right to one was acknowledged and I was placed on the pension list roll of the Ohio Agency at the rate of 8\$ per month to commence on the 1st Oct. 1819. From that time until the first of March 1820 I received a pension. The Act of the 1st May 1820 making an alteration in the former law, and a new schedule, declaration &c. and proof of absolute beggary being required, I did not make application under it. But in Nov'r. 1825, my wife being dead, my children having left me to do for themselves (most of them having families to provide for) some pecuniary losses, small it is true, yet of great consequence to me; the increased and increasing infirmities of age; my total unfitness for labour, owing principally to excessive corpulency, (my usual weight being over 300 lbs) and my entire destitution of the means of support not deriving any benefit from the land I had contracted for it being [two illegible words] except what was derived from the charity of my children, I ventured to renew my application for a pension. Accordingly I applied to the Department of War to be reinstated on the pension list at the date aforesaid under the law of the 1st May 1820 and have been, since that time, vainly, as it would seem, endeavoring to comply with the requisites of that law. In 1818 I was still able to a certain extent to labour and procure a livelihood as I have done since I left the Army – by the sweat of my brow – then, too, the younger members of my family were with me; my wife was alive; and although I lived on rented lands (never in my life having been able to procure any in fee simple) I could, with the blessing of Providence, provide a living. I had then some property, consisting in stock, farming utensils, household furniture &c. And after the passage of the Law of 1818, anxious to secure a home for myself in my old age, expecting to obtain a pension under that law and relying on it as the means of payment (having full faith in the stability of the law by which was allowed the application, I contracted to purchase 50 acres of land in Clinton County at the price of 600\$ My pension was soon stopped – the means I had principally, indeed wholly relied on to pay for my land, vanished and I found myself involved in debt without any adequate means of extrication. That which my Country intended as a benefit, and as a means of smoothing the path of the Revolutionary Soldier to the grave, bore them, in my case, proved the greatest injury. But I desire not to complain. The consequence, however, was that after struggling to meet my engagements with increased industry, economy and saving, I succeeded in paying up the price of my lands, except 180\$ By this time lands had fallen in the quarter of the Country where I purchased to such an extent that what I had agreed to give 12\$ per acre for (that being considered its fair value at the time,) would not bring 3\$ per acre! My means of making further payments were gone, my little stock of goods and chattels nearly exhausted by the efforts I had made to pay; my capacity for labour at an end; all hopes of my ever being able to raise the balance due on my land quite extinct – my creditor (tho' disposed to be lenient) had his own engagements to meet, and could not longer lie out of his money – I was forced, therefore, as the only alternative left me, to cancell the bargain, restore the lands for the balance due on it, and lose what I had paid. this I did. what property still remained to me I had to dispose of to pay my other little debts, and the expenses of my wife's last illness. And thus I am at the age of 64 years, destitute of property except one mare a cow and calf, a charge on the charity of my children and wholly unable to provide for myself.

It may be objected to my applying to Congress for relief, that if my circumstances now are as I represent them, I could easily bring myself within the provision of the Law of 1820, and have myself reinstated on the pension list, whence I have been stricken. But I beg leave to refer the Honorable Congress to the interpretation put upon that act by the War Department to show that I am “in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to support (him) myself without the assistance of (his) my country” but proof is required of me of what property I possessed, of every description in 1818 – of every description of property by me acquired since that period up to the time of making the application, of the disposition I have made of it; If I have sold any, to whom sold, what for, and how I have disposed of the proceeds; the affidavits of my creditors to whom I have made any payments must be produced, stating the payments, what gave rise to the indebtedness, and how I disposed of the articles for which I became indebted! If any property has been disposed of in the way of discharging a debt, it must be proved for what the debt was contracted and to what the consideration of it was applied. When it is recollected that I

entered the Army young, that my father, to whom only I could look for the means and opportunity of schooling, entered the Army immediately after the Battle of Bunker's hill [Bunker Hill, 17 Jun 1775], continued in it throughout the war and died on his way home, and that from this and other causes it happened that I never received any education whatever, and am and always was wholly unable to keep accounts, books or memorandums of my business transactions or dealings, it will not be surprising that I have hitherto been unable to comply with all these requisitions, much less to give the history, on the oaths of others, of all my dealings during a period of ten years. many things also are not in their nature proveable by other testimony than my own. It may also be well supposed, and such is the fact, that some of those with whom I had dealings during that time have left the Country, or are at such distance from me that I can't procure their evidence. Add to this the frailness of human memory and it will cease to astonish or be a cause of prejudice to my present application that I have been unable to comply, [illegible word], with all required of me by the War Department. I beg leave to state further that there are still some debts due by me which in amount exceed the little property I still own viz: a mare, a cow & calf. Without a horse I may well be said to be without legs. Two miles on foot would be a most serious days travel for me, if I could accomplish it at all. Proof of my present circumstance, destitution and property has, I believe, been fully made to the War department, but my claim is still unallowed for want of some of the proofs alluded to above. For my character and the degree of credibility that my statement is entitled to I respectfully refer the honorable Congress to the documents accompanying this petition. It may be supposed that if I had been industrious, and sober in my habits in early days I would not in my old days be destitute of support. I beg the indulgence of the honorable Congress while I give a short sketch of my life since I left the Army in 1783. I married, and in 1788 removed from Virginia to the district of Kentucky & settled in Mason County near Maysville. During this period, I more than twice – nay, frequently volunteered in the various expeditions of the citizens of that part of the country against the Indians – the cruel enemies of the early settlers of that State — and although I have no particular feats of prowess to boast of, or merit to claim, more than was common to hundreds in those times, I at least showed my willingness to expose myself in defense of my Country & fellow citizens when circumstances called for it. For 21 years I have been a resident of what is now Brown County in the State of Ohio, and have raised a family of eleven children. I had nine sons born to me, seven of whom are alive and all have families of their own save three Three of my sons volunteered, at one time, during the last war, and performed a six months tour of duty. In rearing, educating & supporting so large a family, I found my industry and saving taxed to the utmost; particularly as I had no patrimony to commence on; and if I have not been able, thro' misfortune, to lay up something for my old days, I flatter myself that I have been of some service to my country in my day and generation, and have laid the foundation of some scores of defenders for her in future time.

In conclusion I pray the Honorable Congress will graciously take my case into consideration and grant me the relief I ask by placing my name once more on the pension list, or making such other provision for me as in their wisdom they may think me deserving of. I trust the magnanimity and justice of my Country, in whose service, & for whose defense, the prime of my days were employed, will not permit my grey hairs to go down in penury, want and sorrow to the grave.

William hisDmark Dixon

State of Ohio

County of Brown SS Before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said county personally appeared William Dixon Esq aged 58 years resident in the Township of Union in said County who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration in order to obtain the amount due the heirs of William Dixon deceased under the act of Congress passed.

This declarant states that he is the lawful child of William Dixon late of said County who was a revolutionary pensioner of the United States at the rate of 96\$ per annum under the act of congress passed 18th March 1818. That the said William Dixon died on the tenth day of June 1838 leaving no

widow surviving him but that he left ten children only surviving him whose names are Nancy Hawk, Hannah Robbins now deceased, Elizabeth Mann, and John, William, Amos, Josiah, Thomas, James, and Harrison Dixon.

Sworn to & subscribed on this 2^d day of December 1850

Wm Dixon

[The following are from [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#). One document is mostly undeciphered. Much of the file pertains to Richard Rilea W2167 and is not transcribed here.]

The State of Indiana Dearborn County Sct.

I William Dixson aged sixty four years a Citizen of the United States do upon Oath testify and Declare that in the year one thousand seven hundred and Eighty two I enlisted in the Army of the revolution against the Common enemy of my Country for the term of during the war and serve in the Company Commanded by Capt. Bedkins under the Command of Col. Armung of the Virginia line and that I continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the war in Seventeen hundred and eighty three when I was regularly discharged from the regiment commanded by Col. Armung My discharge is now lost or Mislaid so that I cannot produce it to coroberate this above statement I further declare that I have never received a warrant for my servises in the Virginia Continental line the bounty land promised to me on the part of the United States nor have never sined or transfered my clame to that gratuity in any manner whatever therefore know all men by these present that I William Dixson aforesaid constitute and appint Nathaniel Beasley living in Brown County state of Ohio to be my true and lawful attorney [the rest legal boilerplate not transcribed]

William hisDmark Dixon

[31 May 1827]

Wm Dixon } Petition for bounty land.

Richard Rilea } Sold'rs. Cont'l line.

William Dixon was a soldier, of Armands Legion. His name is on the lsit of Soldiers, of that Legion, for which Virginia had credit, as part of her Quota of troops. He has been reported to the Governor, entitled to land for the war. (see printed List No. 6.) He enlisted for the war after April 1st 1781: and is entitled to only 200 acres of land.

[report for Richard Rilea not transcribed here.]

To his Excellency Gov'r [Littleton Waller] Tazewell

Respectfully submitted/ John H. Smith Com'r &c
April 23rd 1834

Aug't 16 1834. Advised that the claim of Dixon be allowed for a service in Armands Legion – and that the claim or Rilea be allowed for a service of three years in Lees legion.

Approved/ Aug't 16 1834/ L. W. T.

NOTE: Private William Dixon is listed on "a return of the men belonging to the state of Va., who served in the first partisan legion, commanded by Brig. Gen. Armand, Marquis de la Rouerie, discharged 15 Nov., 1783" and entitled to 200 acres of land from Virginia.