

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Charles Dibrell (Debrill) S21160
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

VA

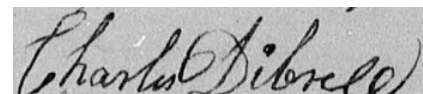
State of Tennessee } SS.
White County }

On this 5th day of September 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before me Nathaniel W. Williams Judge of the Courts of Law and Equity in the third Judicial Circuit of the State of Tennessee now presiding in the County of White, Charles Dibrill (Dibrill more plainly written) a resident of White County and State of Tennessee aged Seventy five years; who first being 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 entered the service of the united States under the following named Officers and served as herein stated.

He thinks the first short tour of duty he performed was in the year 1775, but of this he is not positively certain. He was employed in guarding some prisoners (Scotch highlanders) taken at Fordices defeat, Long bridge Virginia [defeat of Capt. Charles Fordyce at the Battle of Great Bridge VA, 9 Dec 1775] and carried into Amherst County Va. In 1776 he enlisted in the minute service. His Captains name was Thomas Ballew. His Lieutenants name was Edmund Peters. The name of his Ensign was John Moss The name of his Col. was Hains Morgana [sic: Haynes Morgan]. But this campaign was always called "Lewis & Christie's Campaign" [Gen. Andrew Lewis and Col. William Christian's Campaign]. He says, "here Col. Nathaniel Gist who was with the Cherokee Indians came to us." He believes Col. Gist was the cause of keeping the Indians from folling our troops in a body at the Island flat battle [Battle of Island Flats at present Kingsport TN, 20 Jul 1776] He states he was not in that battle. He believes he was out on this Tour about four months, say from the 1st of September until Christmas. In 1777 he returned home, received the Commission of Ensign and marched to Williamsburg – his Captains name was John Bates. Mr. Tandy Key [pension application S18069] was his Lieutenant – Charles May from Buckingham was his Colonel. But while at Williamsburg, he states his Commander was Col. [David] Mason. This was a three months Tour. This Declarant believes that his Commission is now on file in the Secretary's office, Richmond Virginia. He further states that his next tour of service was as a guard over the "Convention Troops" or "Burgoyne's men" [captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777 and kept at Albemarle Barracks from Jan 1779 through Feb 1781]. His recollection is, that he served on this occasion only one or two months. In the year 1781 he again re-entered the service as an Ensign, under Captain William Perkins. The troops were stationed at Prince Edward Courthouse until Gen'l. [Robert] Lawson's Brigade was organized. They then marched and joined Layfayette at a place called the Racoon ford on the Rapperdan [sic: Raccoon Ford on Rapidan River]. At the Racoon ford Gen'l. Wayne joined Lafayette [Anthony Wayne, 10 Jun 1781]. He thinks he was not out more than two months this tour. An another time he was out with three others to press Bullocks for the army. But does not know how long. In the Fall of 1781 this Declarant was at York Town and saw Lord Cornwallis give up his sword [sic: see endnote]. His present belief is, that he handed it to Gen'l. Lincoln. He had gone down on this occasion to relieve an only brother who was in feeble health. But finding that the Enemy must shortly surrender, they both remained until the surrender of the British army took place. His brother was then discharged but was too much debilitated to march to Winchester with the prisoners

He has no documentary evidence by which he can establish the foregoing facts – nor does he know of any living witness in the state of Tennessee by whom he can prove the same. But were he able to travel to Virginia, he believes he could prove most of the facts herein set forth. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this 6 Sept 1832
Anthony Dibrell Clk



Answers to the Interrogatories prescribed by the War department, and propounded by the Court.

- 1st He believes he was born in Rockingham County Virginia on the 24 day of October 1757
- 2 He has a copy or extract from the family Record of his age – which Record is in Virginia.
- 3 When he was called into service he was living in Buckingham County Virginia where he lived during the Revolutionary War. He removed to Kentucky in the year 1782 and lived in that state until about Ten years since. From which time he has lived in White County Tennessee. He has omitted stating in the proper place, that he was in Harmar's campaign [Gen. Josiah Harmar against Indians at present Fort Wayne IN, 22 Oct 1790], and commanded a Captain. He was out on this occasion for about three months. this was in 1790 he then lived in Kentucky Madison County. James Trotter from Lexington was the Colonel.

This was the first time he was mustered out of service. He presumes that these facts as to this last term of service can be clearly ascertained by examining the files or roll of the department, in Kentucky Secretarys office or War Department

- 4 He has stated as fully as he can from recollection, the manner of his entering the service, and its General Circumstances. He never was a substitute, nor did he ever have any person substitute for him
- 5 He has stated the names of most of the Regular officers who were with the troops. He can not be more full in stating the General Circumstances of his service, than he has already been.
- 6– He does not recollect that he ever received a written discharge – if he did he did, it has long since been destroyed by time or accident.
- 7– He states the names of the following persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood who can Testify as to his character for Veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution – Viz Isaac Taylor, Waman Leftwich, Jesse Lincoln, Nathan Haggard, Richard Nelson & the Rev'd. Menincan Wade.

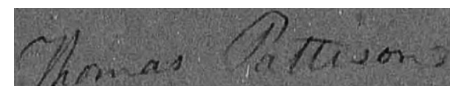
Sparta, Tennessee, / 29 Aug't. 1832.

I John Catron, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee, Do Certify that I have been, & am, intimately acquainted with Col. Charles Dibrell of White County Tennessee at present, & applying to be placed on the pension list of the U.S. pursuant to the late act of Congress. I First became acquainted with Col Dibrell about 1805, & have known him ever since. He is a man of undoubted integrity, of uncommon vigour & activity of mind for a man of his age, and any statement he might make in reference to his services in the War of the Revolution, or on any other subject, would be entitled to as much confidence as that of any man.

[signed] Jn. Catron

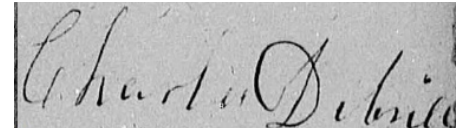
Thomas Patterson [sic: Thomas Patteson, pension application S2011] a citizen of Davidson County Tennessee certifies that he has been personally & intimate acquainted with Mr Charles Dibrell for about seventy years – they were boys together in Buckingham County Virginia – about the year seventeen hundred & seventy six Dibrell left the neighborhood under the command of Capt Balue of the Minute men – that he & others of the company were absent from home as affiant has always heard & believe in the service at or near the long island of Holstein [sic: Long Island of Holston River at present Kingsport TN] about four months That Debrell again in 1777 went out in the service under Capt Bates who were stationed as he heard at & near Williamsburg. This affiant was not himself in service untill 1778 & can not therefore speak on his own knowledge of more than that Charles Dibrell was out as above spoken of he has heard it all his life & does not doubt that the fact is so. this witness understood that Debrell was in the service of his country as late as eighty one but he was himself in the service & when to a different part of the country. Affiant knows that Charles Dibrell was when a young man allways consider'd one of the very [illegible word] when his country needed service and that he was – as he understood & believ now – engaged a greater part of the time during the year 76 – 77 – & 78 –

[31 Aug 1833]



State of Virginia/ Fluvanna County to Wit Be it known that before me George Stillman a justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared Tandy Key of the County aforesaid and made oath, that in the year 1777 he the said Key was called into Service in a Company of militia from the County of Buckingham under the command of Captain John Bates. that he the said Key was a Lieutenant in said company, and Charles Dibrell now of the State of Tennessee was Ensign that the detachment to which Bates Company belonged was under the Command of Coln's. Joseph Cabell & Charles May – that the troops marched from Buckingham on the first day of September, marched through the City of Richmond and on to Williamsburg, that they remand at Williamsbrg until they were relieved by other militia when the were dischargd and returnd home having served as this affiant believ Two months. Troops were in service at the same time from the County of Amherst, under the command of Col'ns Nicholas Cabell & [Ambrose] Rucker. I think the Troops after we marched Wiliamsbg were under the command of Genl [Thomas] Nelson Sworn to this 29th day of October 1833

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace for Davidson County in the State of Tennessee Charles Debrill who being duly sworn saith that by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he can not swear positively to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the pereods mentioned below & in the following grades – Four months as a private & Three months I served at Williamsburg as an Ensign & Two month as a Guard at the Albemarle Barracks & Two months as an Ensign at & near the Racoon Ford making in all Four months as a private & Seven months as an Ensign & for such sevice I claim a Pension Sworn to & subscribed before me Feb. 12 1834/ Tho. J Read J.P.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Charles Dibrell".

I certify that I well acquainted with Col Charles Dibrell of White County Tennessee for respectibility integrity and patriotism & I think him equal to any man I ever knew and I hazzard nothing in saying he is entitled to as much credit as any man Feb 27 1834 John B Forester/ H. Representatives

NOTES:

Cornwallis claimed to be indisposed on the day of the surrender at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781. He delegated the surrender of his sword to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O'Hara. Washington therefore had the sword received by his second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

A document in the file states that Charles Dibrell died on 16 July 1840.