

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Dinning S30992

fn12NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/5/10

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State of Kentucky Simpson County

On this 19th day of August 1834 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable [illegible word or words] P. W. Graham Sole Judge of the Simpson Circuit Court & State aforesaid, now sitting it being the August Term of said Court, David Dinning, a resident of the aforesaid County & State, aged seventy-four years, this last May, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named Officers, and served as herein stated.¹

That in the month of February 1780 in the County of Orange North Carolina, in which County, this declarant was most altogether raised and reared up in life and at that time a resident of the said County & State and had been many years previous thereto, he enlisted as a volunteer under Captain Edward Gwinn, whose volunteers, besides these Declarant, all collected together at the house of Colonel OcNale [sic, O'Neal]² in the said County of Orange North Carolina, and on the 1st day of March 1780 this Declarant with the other Troops were strictly speaking volunteers were marched out, under the Command of the said Colonel O'Neal, who was both the commander and Colonel of the Army, (and the volunteers under his command were horse volunteers or cavalry, and so were all those had enlisted & volunteered under Captain Gwinn together with this Declarant were also Cavalry) into Guilford County North Carolina from thence into Chatham County, and from thence, into Randolph County, and from thence through Guilford County back again into the aforesaid County of Orange, all four of which Counties lay at adjacent to each other in the said State aforesaid North Carolina. Then the said Colonel O'Neal countermarched into the aforesaid Counties as the Tories would be most embodied and outrageous in either County, and in this way this Declarant³ and the other Cavalry under Captain Gwinn and Colonel O'Neal were kept continually engaged in scouring out and suppressing the Tories, called in those day by the British officers Loyalists, who were very numerous and outrageous in the said for Counties as aforesaid and in marching and countermarching from one end to the other of either of the aforesaid for Counties as they exigencies of the time required for the purpose of awing and suppressing the said Tories or Loyalists in those days of perilous distress, and on the 1st of June 1780 this Declarant with the other Troops under Captain Gwinn

¹ Marginal note: "Introduction Oath & description of Court."

² Probably Col. William O'Neal

³ Marginal note: "1st Campaign Declarant served precisely three months under Capt. Gwinn & Col. O'Neale as volunteer horse company and as Rangers to suppress the Tories or Loyalists of Orange, Chatham, Randolph & Orange [sic, Guilford] to wit from 1st March 1780 to the 1st of June 1780."

were discharged at the house of the said Colonel O'Neal in the said County of Orange, in writing by the said Captain Gwinn, and the said written discharge has not only the name of the said Captain Gwinn to it, but that of Colonel O'Neal also, and which discharge this Declarant has lost or mislaid so that he cannot now find it for he did not think much of it in any way. In this campaign this Declarant served three months to wit from the 1st of March 1782 the 1st of June 1780. He does not make any calculation for any days in the month of February as already stated he enlisted in, but throws them away altogether and of calculation for the he cannot with certainty recollect their number, he throws them away entirely. He would further state that he served two other short tours as a volunteer horse Ranger under the aforesaid Captain Gwinn to wit one before the above described campaign and one after, but these were of short duration in keeping under the Tories as aforesaid as they would embody in any one of the Counties aforesaid but owing to the great lapse of time since he will not now undertake to set them out as he⁴ cannot do so with any particularity, hence he gives the time up that he served in those two for lost. He also states that this Declarant and the other volunteer horse Troops under Captain Gwinn & Colonel O'Neal were called minute men, because, they had to march out, at a moments warning generally.

⁵The next campaign this Declarant served in, was when Lord Cornwallis was marching triumphantly, as it were, in, and through the State of North Carolina, this Declarant again enlisted as a volunteer under the aforesaid Captain Gwinn of the said County of Orange North Carolina who, raised a volunteer horse Company in the same County of Orange and on the 1st of January 1781, this Declarant with the other volunteer cavalry under the command of said Gwinn, were marched off from the said Gwinn's house in the aforesaid County of Orange near Hillsborough in said County and here Captain Gwinn joined General Pickens' cavalry from South Carolina, and from thence through Caswell County, and then by a circuitous and varied marches through the many mountains to General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army across the River Dan and, which had been for some time retreating from the pursuit of Lord Cornwallis as this Declarant was then informed, and halted at Irwin's Ferry on said River on the Virginia side thereof, At this River Cornwallis ceased to pursue General Greene any further. The reason why General Pickens conducted he is little Army from Caswell County through the mountains to General Greene's retreating Army across the Dan at Irwin's Ferry, was because a British Colonel by the name of Tarlton [sic, Banastre Tarleton], famous for impetuosity in all his movements, and for barbarity in all his deeds, was then making circuitous routes with his cavalry through that whole stretch of Country collecting and protecting his Loyalists and General Pickens was afraid of him, and to avoid him Tarleton, General Pickens made his march through the mountains as aforesaid in order to get to Greene and aid him if possible. General Greene at the last named place being reinforced by some Virginians and Marylanders about the 20th or 21st February recrossed the Dan, and marched slowly towards the upper Country, near the head waters of the river Haw in North Carolina and from thence towards Alamance and then by marching and countermarching and making various movements between Troublesome Creek and Reedy fork, sometimes, approaching and at other times receding from his light Troops in front of him. Here General Greene became afraid of Lord Cornwallis, and consequently he moved off across the river Haw and made his encampment. But before he proceeds any further with Greene's marches he would state that after General Pickens landed at General Greene's Army, across the Dan as already

⁴ Marginal note: "Two other tours not set out but given up for the want of exact recollection."

⁵ Marginal note: "2nd Campaign served three months to wit From the 1st of Jany 1781 to the 1st of April 1781 under Capt. Gwinn, Generals Pickens & Green."

stated, the volunteers with this Declarant, under the said Captain Gwinn were ordered to send their horses home, and to take it on foot with the other foot soldiers of General Greene, and which was done accordingly. After a while General Greene received strong reinforcement to wit some from Virginia under Lawson and a good many under Generals Eaton and Butler of North Carolina, from here, General Greene moved his Army to Guilford Courthouse within seven or eight miles of L. C. Wallis camp, this was done on the 14th of March 1781. And early in the morning of the 15th Captain Gwinn ordered this Declarant and five other men to take up and carry eight horses each to their respective houses, and the horses that six man could carry were carried into Orange County except two or three this Declarant carried and delivered into Caswell County, and as he was delivering these last horses he heard the Cannon roar at the Battle ground between the contending armies of General Greene & L. C. Wallis about two o'clock as he supposes of the day. The reason why this was done, was because on the morning of the 15th a battle was preparing to be fought, and if the British should be successful, the the horses thus carried off would be preserved from their possession, and after delivering the said horses into Caswell County as aforesaid, this Declarant with one other, then walked back on foot, and joined General Greene's Army at the Iron works on Troublesome Creek, from this place General Greene pursued L. C. Wallis who was retreating out of the State, to a place called Ramsey's Mill here General Greene halted, and at this place this Declarant was discharged by General Butler by a written discharge, 14 others besides himself were discharged upon one piece of paper, he does not now recollect whether Captain Gwinn put his name to it or not, but presumes that he did, and that the said discharge is lost for this Declarant has now no recollection of what became of it nor in what way it was lost as he thought it then a matter of no consequence. And to the best of his recollection this Declarant was discharged at Ramsey's Mill as aforesaid on the first of April 1781, making the time he served in this Campaign three months.

Interrogatory 1st This Declarant was born in Ireland in Derry County on the __ day of May 1760 as he has been informed by his parents who are now dead, but cannot recollect on what day of that month if he ever heard, which makes him seventy-four years this last May and he is now in his seventy fifth year.

2nd He has no record of his age, after this Declarant was eighteen months old, his parents emigrated from Derry County Ireland to the United States of America and settled in Orange County North Carolina on the Waters back Creek in this County, this Declarant was raised say from two years of age up to manhood, and the Bible in which this Declarant's name was registered in Ireland got wet with salt water in crossing the ocean from Ireland to this Country, which wetting completely destroyed the said Bible, as this Declarant's parents have repeatedly told him and others, in their lifetime.

3rd He was living in Orange County North Carolina, and he continued to live there after the Revolutionary War was over until the fall of 1799 at which time, he removed from Orange County to Sumner County Tennessee there he lived eighteen years of his life, and from thence he moved to the place where he is now living in Simpson County Kentucky, though it was then Logan County Kentucky, but by an Act of the Legislature of this State passed either in 1819 or 1818 a new County was formed out of the Counties of Allen Warren and Logan, to be called Simpson County, and the Simpson line running through Logan County included this Declarant's residence into the then new County of Simpson, where he has been living ever since to this time, and that he still resides upon the old spot.

4th Already answered in the body of this Declaration.

5th Ditto. Ditto As well as he can. Though he would here state, that he has given the general

circumstances of his services in the above two campaigns as well as he can recollect them, for after the lapse of near fifty years and by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory to a great extent, he has not been enabled to set out as specifically the marches and countermarches that were made in his 1st campaign in the Counties of Orange, Chatham County Guilford and Randolph as might be desired, but he has done as well as he can, and can do no better. And that he was not engaged in any civil pursuit, during the time he was serving for two campaigns herein set out, but was continually employed, during the time aforesaid in the services of his Country, and that he suffered much in the first Tour under Gwinn & O'Neal by far more than he did in the one under Greene.

6th Already answered herein as to the Discharges, he never received a Commission from any person during the two Tours aforesaid, before, nor since, and that he has no Documentary Evidence of any kind of his Revolutionary services, and that he knows of no person now living in this State or any where else by whom he could prove his Revolutionary services.

7th In answer to this, he states, that Thomas McClanahan, David Moore, George Kirk, James Millikin and Enoch Parvill are near neighbors and he is, in his present neighborhood, and to whom he is personally well known, for many years past, and can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier in the Revolutionary War at any time whenever all or any of them may be called on.

Having stated everything as well he can 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.

Subscribed and sworn to the day and year aforesaid

S/ David Dinning

[Orison H. Morrow, a clergyman, and Patrick H. Boisseau gave the standard supporting affidavit.]