

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Dawson S32206 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Illinois – Morgan County

on this first day of June AD. 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Aaron Wilson Judge of the Court of Probate of Morgan County now sitting The petitioner John Dawson a resident of Morgan County. State of Illinois aged eighty two 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, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. The deponent states that he lived in Strafford [sic: Stafford] County Virginia in the year 1774 and that in September 1775 I volunteered and entered the Service of United States as a private soldier in a company commanded by George Williams captain – the other officers I cannot recollect. I served in this campaign in and through the county of Strafford Virginia and for three months. I never received any discharge for this service. Very soon after returning about one or two weeks I again volunteered and entered the service as a private under the command of Captain George Williams. I served this campaign through the county of Strafford and in Prince William County Va. against the English and Tories which continued three months – the length of time I served For this service I recieved no discharge. After returning to Strafford County in April 1776 I again volunteered and entered the Service of the United States as a private under the command of Captain Burrows. I cannot recollect the names of any other of the officers. I served this campaign in the county of Strafford and Prince William's against the English and Tories. I served three months at this time. I never received a discharge for this Service. In August 1776 I again volunteered and entered the Service as a private soldier the name of the Captain or any other of the officers I cannot recollect. from this time I served constantly as a private Soldier for one year at least and I believe longer and during the whole of said time I was constantly in service and ranged through Strafford County and on Rapahanoc rivers [sic: Rappahannock River]. for this service I had no discharge In June 1779 I again volunteered and entered the service of the United States as a private under Captain James – the names of other officers I cannot recollect – we marched to the river Potowmac [sic: Potomac] there had a skirmish with the English – a party had landed from the vessels then in the river. There were three but I cannot recollect the names but of one which one I think was called the Roebuck. An attack had been made on the house of one William Blount we followed the river down until the Ships had entered the Bay. I served on this tour four weeks and never received a discharge. In June 1781 I again volunteered and entered the service as a private Soldier – the names of the officers I cannot recollect – we were employed in collecting and driving beeves or cattle for the army under General Washington then at York. We went through Stafferd County Va. and the practice was whenever we found a person had five head of cattle to take one of them. We drove the cattle through Falmouth and Fredricksburgh [sic: Fredericksburg] to the house of Col Pendleton about twenty miles from Fredricksburgh. From there we returned other troops taking them from Col Pendletons to the Army While employed on this service at place called Dumfries we met with Gen. Washington on his way from Washington [sic: Williamsburg?] to York – after the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] I was ordered under Col Philips to guard about 100 prisoners from Fredricksburgh to Winchester distance 100 miles. I served on this campaign four months but have never received a discharge. I have no documentary evidence and I know of no person who can testify to my service. By reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory I cannot state the details of my campaigns. I was born in Virginia Strafford County on the 28th of July 1750. I have a record of my age taken from one kept by my father. I lived in Virginia until 1813 at which time I removed into Kentucky Shelby county there I lived until 1831 October when I removed into Morgan County Ill's. I am well known to Jonathan Hurst and William Willhite – Elijah Dawson. Barnett Dawson and John Green who can testify to my character and age. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare my name

is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State or Territory

John hisXmark Dawson

[30 Nov 1833] Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Morgan and State of Illinois. John Dawson who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For three months I served as a private in the Company commanded by Captain Williams – in 1775. For three months I served as a private in the company commanded by Captain Williams – in 1775. For three months I served as a private in a company commanded by Captain Burrows – in 1776. For one year I served as a private commencing in 1776. I think but I cannot be positive that I commenced this campaign under one Captain Mountjoy and served in Strafferd County Va and on Rappahanoc River and during one year at least – and I believe much longer I was constantly under arms in field or garrison in an embodied corps and during that period was not employed in any civil pursuit – but it is wholly out of my power to go into the details of this service from my loss of memory. For four weeks I served as a private in the company commanded by Captain James in 1779. For four months I served as a private I think it probable in a Company commanded by Capt. Burrows – in 1781. It was during this four months service that I was part of the time employed in driving beeves – but I was detached with eight others from my company and commanded on this service by the Captain and continued on this duty for about three months when I again joined the company – and for such services as above enumerated I claim a pension.

John hisXmark Dawson

[28 Apr 1834] Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace within and for the County of Morgan Illinois John Dawson who has made the foregoing declaration who being duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. which statement is an amendment to the declaration already made by him. In August 1776 I volunteered and entered the service of the United States as a private soldier in a company commanded by Captain Allen Mountjoy the names of the other officers of the company I cannot recollect. I served this campaign under him a period of four months. we performed this tour of duty in Strafford County Va. and in the Rappahanoc. we were under the command of Col Thomas Mountjoy – a part of the time In May 1777 I again volunteered and entered the service of the United States as a private Soldier in a company commanded by Capt. Allen Mountjoy. I served under him this campaign four months in Strafferd County Va both which campaigns were against the English & Tories to the best of his recollection the above service he performed as above stated – and it is all that he can state at present – with regard to the one years service which he stated in his declaration to have been performed by him – and for the above service with the addition of the five tours of duty performed by him as a private and herein before stated – making in the whole twenty one months and twenty eight days he claims a pension

John hisXmark Dawson