

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Samuel Denny S32212 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Indiana }
Putnam County. } Ss.

On this 23^d day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1835, personally appeared in open Court, before the Circuit Court in and for the county of Putnam aforesaid, now sitting, Samuel Denny a resident of Putnam County in the State of Indiana, aged seventy nine years on the 28th day of August last past, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated: That belonging at the time to a company of riflemen volunteers, called minute men (from their liability to enter upon active service whenever called on) in the Virginia militia in Frederick County in the State of Virginia (where he then resided) this applicant, on the 6th of March in the year, 1777, in said county of Frederick with the said company entered upon active service in the war of the revolution, in a campaign against the Indians; Peter Babb being the captain; Aaron Mercer (or Messer) the first lieutenant and William Denny [pension application R13730] (a brother of the applicant) the second lieutenant of said company. This applicant with said company continued in service in said campaign until the 20th of June next following under the same officers, and the corps of which said company formed a part, and during that period was mostly occupied between Pittsburgh (then Fort Pitt) and Wheeling for the protection of the frontiers, having frequent skirmishes with the Indians; that said company was on returning to the town of Winchester in Frederick County aforesaid, duly discharged and this applicant received a written discharge signed by Colo. John Smith [pension application S6114] who was colonel of the 2^d regiment of militia of said county to which said company belonged; James Kennedy being the Lieutenant Colonel and John Gilkerson the Major of said regiment; That soon after his return in the same summer, the applicant with the said company was called into service on his second tour at said town of Winchester under the said Aaron Mercer as captain, the said William Denny as first lieutenant, and this applicant as second lieutenant, (the said Peter Babb having previously resigned his office of captain of said company in consequence of old age) and was marched into the eastern part of Virginia to prevent the depredations of the enemy and returned to the said town of Winchester after an absence on said service of two months and three days when he with said company was again discharged: That during said last tour the applicant saw no fighting or skirmishing. That afterwards, applicant believes in the latter part of August, 1777, he with the said company was again called into service at Winchester, whence they marched and joined the American army and were at the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], and was attached to a part of the army which was dispatched to check a detachment of the British army which had crossed the Brandywine about 3 miles above Chadd's ford where the main body of the armies were engaged, for the purpose (as was supposed) of falling on the left flank of the American army or of attacking it in rear; that at the close of the engagement the corps to which he was attached was separated from the main army and came in contact unexpectedly in the night time with the encampment of a part of the British army, from which they escaped with some difficulty; that on their retreat, on the first light of the next morning, they discovered the British troops in pursuit, who at length stopped and engaged in killing cattle, when the retreating corps returning and making a brisk attack on their pursuers, compelled them to retreat, and took possession of the slaughtered cattle; after which they succeeded in rejoining the American army, on the same day about 2 O'clock P.M. That afterwards he with his company was in the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], & afterwards they returned to the said town of Winchester where they were again honorably discharged after a tour of (the applicant does not recollect the precise length of time, but positively) at least two months: That during the following year (1778) in very warm weather (he does not recollect the precise time) he, with the said company, were again marched from Winchester through

Pennsylvania into New Jersey; and were near the main body of the American army at the time it was engaged in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], but were not up with it, at the time. The applicant with his company were again dismissed on their return to Winchester having been engaged in the last mentioned tour of at least two months: That towards the latter part of the same year (1778) he recollects that it was cold weather at the time, the applicant was employed with said company in guarding some British prisoners stationed in the said town of Winchester and continued there in such service for two months when they were again honorably discharged. The applicant further states, that afterwards, in the autumn of the year, 1781, he, with the said company, was again called into service at the said town of Winchester, in again guarding there some British prisoners who were stationed there, and had been taken as he was informed with Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown [19 Oct 1781], and he, with said company were continued in such service in so guarding said prisoners for another term of two months which was the last military service performed by him during the war of the Revolution. the applicant further states that during the five last mentioned tours of duty, Aaron Mercer (or Messer) was the Captain, William Denny was the first lieutenant and this applicant was the second lieutenant of said company and served as such; and this applicant was commissioned as such second lieutenant by Thomas Jefferson as Governor of Virginia; that during said tours into New Jersey, and at Brandywine the said company was attached to the immediate command of General Morgan [Daniel Morgan, then a Colonel]; that during the same tours the applicant recollects seeing General [Israel] Putnam Brigadier Gen'l. Porterfield [Col. Charles Porterfield?], Colo. [James] Wood, and Gen'ls. Washington and LaFayette. This applicant does not know of any living person by whom he could prove any of the above services; after considerable enquiry: That he lived in said county of Frederick from the war until the year 1789, when he removed to Mercer County, Kentucky, where he continued to live until the year 1826, when he removed to the said county of Putnam in the State of Indiana where he has ever since continued to live; that when about to move from Kentucky in searching over his papers, he burnt his written discharges and lieutenant's commission believing that, as he had only served in the militia, they would only be a useless incumbrance

The applicant states that he was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania on the 28th of August 1755, as he uniformly learned from his parents; that his age stands thus recorded in a Bible given him by his father, which is very old, and which he yet keeps. 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.

Samuel hisXmark Denny

NOTE: A note in the file of William Denny R13730 states that Samuel Denny received his pension up to the date of his death, 3 July 1844.