

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Abel Dortch S32221 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Punctuation partly corrected.]

State of Illinois April Term of the Circuit Court of said County and State AD 1833
Franklin County

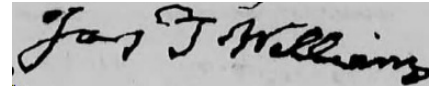
On this 1st day of April AD 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Thomas [illegible] one of the Justices of the Supreme court of the state of Illinois & presiding Judge of of the Circuit Court of Franklin County State of Illinois, now sitting. Abel Dortch, a resident of said County and State of Illinois aged seventy 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States [under] the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He was a drafted Militiaman, in the state of Virginia but whether he was, or such servise might denominate him of the Virginia State troops he does not not know. He lived at the time he was drafted in Mecklinburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] County Virginia He was drafted for five months; he thinks to the best of his recollection some time in the early part of the spring or last of the winter of the year 1779 the day and month he cannot now recollect. He was drafted, entered the servise, and served his tour of five months under Capt Reuben Vaughn [Reuben Vaughan] in Col David Mason's Regiment, he thinks commanded by Major General [Benjamin] Lincoln. He travelled from Mecklinburgh county to Salisbury [NC] then to Campden [sic: Camden SC] then marched and joined the main army in South Carolina the particular place he does not distinctly recollect. He does not at this time recollect the names of any of the regular officer no farther than is above stated. He has no documentary evidence which would aid him in establishing his services. He states that he was not in any battle or engagement; that at the time of the Battle between Genl Lincoln Army and the British on St. Johns' Island [sic: Battle of Stono Ferry across from Johns Island, 20 Jun 1779], he was sick, and unable to do service He does not recollect that he served with any regular companies, or the names of any regular officers more than is already stated. He recollects of no continental Regiment or Company. He was discharged from the service on this tour of five months some time in July he thinks at Campden South Carolina. He further states, that after he returned home from this five months tour he was again drafted n the same county & state as at first for three months under Capt Charles Davis, the Regimental officers he does not recollect, except the name of Col [Alexander] Dick, who, as he understood, was a regular officer. he served as a private in Capt Davis's company of light Infantry for three months. He states that Capt Davis's company marched from Mecklinburgh to Cabin Point [on James River in Surry County] where it joined the above named Rigmint to the best of his recollection they then marched to, or near to Portsmouth Va. and remained there near three months: the British at that time had possession of Portsmouth: at the end of his three months tour he was discharged at the Barracks near Portsmouth He recollects the names of no Regular officers or Regiments or Companies, or any continentals in this second tour, and farther than already stated he further states that on his return he was again drafted for three months, but he does not recollect the time when he was drafted, but he states that it was in the same county and state as above stated This third draft was under Capt William Drumwright. Capt Drumwright Company marched alone to Little-York [Yorktown] where it joined the forces under Gen Washington. He was detached from his company upon their arrival at Little-York & put upon the Commissary's guard and did not join the Company any more. He never got a written discharge from the service that he now recollects of. this last time he did not he thinks serve out the whole of his tour of three months on account of the Capture of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], He knows of no person except Joseph Williams [Joseph Terry Williams, pension application S32604] who can testify as to his servises That Joseph Williams and John P. Maddox citizens of the same county and state & neighbours can testify as to his character & general repute as a Revolutionary Soldier. He thinks there was a record of his age, but that it was burned to the best of his

recollection. He lived in Mecklinburgh until he was 40 or 50 years old. He then moved to Tennessee where he live 15 or 20 years, when he moved to Illinois where he has lived ever since & still lives in Franklin county

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. Abel hisXmark Dortch

Joseph Terry Williams residing now in Jackson County & State of Illinois states that he was in the service of the United States & personally knew the above named Abel Dortch: that said Dortch to his knowledge served one tour of five months: & believes from his knowledge of him & from circumstances, & his statement of the service that he served as he states

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Terry Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J".

State of Illinois } Ss Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a Justice of the peace in and for
Franklin County } said County Abel Dortch, 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 in the revolutionary war but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less
than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. (towit) He served in the Revolutionary
War as a private a tour of five months which service is proven by Joseph Terry Williams, under Capt
Vaughn, Coln David Mason, commanded by Major Genl. Lincoln. He served another tour as a private of
three months under Capt Davis & Coln Dick. He was again drafted for a tour of thre months but did not
seve but two months before he was discharge – he was likewise a private For these three several tours
containing ten months he now claims a pension and for none other. Abel hisXmark Dortch
[21 July 1833]