

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Joseph Dicken S3287 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky } Sct.
County of Campbell }

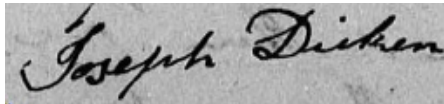
On this 27th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the County Court of the County of Campbell aforesaid now sitting Joseph Dicken, a resident of said County of Campbell and State of Kentucky, aged 68 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his 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: viz that he entered the service in the Company of Capt. Fisher Rice in Culpepper County [sic: Ficher Rice in Culpeper County], State of Virginia, in the year 1779 and rather before harvest and as well as he can reccollect in the month of June; that he does not reccollect of being under the command of any officer on this tour of service higher in command than his Captain; that this company was drafted for the purpose of marching towards the seacoast and that he volunteered into the company as a substitute in the place of Joshua Runder [Joshua Render?] who had been drafted; that he made one trip in this company some distance below Richmond and near to the seacoast, but how long they were gone he does not reccollect, they were in no engagement on this trip; they saw the ruins of many houses on their march, but saw no enemy: – that some time in September or October of the same year he entered into the service in the Company of Capt. Mark Finks [pension application R3551], and also as a volunteer and substitute in the place of John Burdine: – that in this company they marched nearly the same rout, but crossed James River and went down towards Norfolk, that on this trip they saw no enemy except some tories, but had no fighting; he does not reccollect the precise time of their return, but remembers that the weather was cold: – that in this trip he was under the command of no officer that he knows of higher than his Captain. that in the year 1780, in the spring, he believes in the month of April or May, he entered the service as a drafted man in the company of Capt Henry Towles – they marched into the Carolinas, but how far he has no recollection – they saw a good many tories but had no battle with them, as they dispersed or fled. that he was absent on this trip about two months or probably more, as it was a long rout. that he does not reccollect certainly whether they had any officer with them higher than a Captain, but if there was he thinks it must have been a Major Robert Powell; that there were two or three other companies along, but he does not reccollect the names of their Captains: that in the month of August or September in the year 1780 he volunteered into the company of Capt Elijah Kirtly [sic: Elijah Kirtley] and marched with him into the Carolinas, but higher up in the Country than when he went with Towles; that there were two or three other companies along, but he cannot reccollect the names of their Captains, he thinks however that one of them was of the name Finnell or Finney: that he does not reccollect of any officer in this expedition higher than Captain: that on this trip they had no engagement. that they were gone a long time and did not return until he thinks late in October, as the weather was cold and some people had begun to gather their corn – that in February or March 1781 he was drafted into the Company of Captain Fisher Rice and marched under him towards Norfolk, and under the command of James Slaughter, and Major Henry Hill and when they got down some distance they joined the command of General Muhlenburgh [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], and marched under him to within a few miles of Norfolk, where Colonel Tarlton [see endnote] took after them and they retreated to Petersburg [sic: Petersburg], and there tore up a bridge to keep Tarlton from overtaking them, and had a small skirmish at the bridge – that they then retreated to Richmond, and Tarlton pursued them and while they were at Richmond Tarlton came to Manchester opposite Richmond and burnt the town, and warehouse, & a great deal of tobacco, in the sight of our troops who were in Richmond [Apr 1781]: that Tarlton returned to Osborne’s Mills and burnt them and some vessels there [27 Apr 1781] and they followed him back nearly to

Norfolk, and that Tarlton again turned upon them and they retreated to Petersburg & found that all the valuable part of the town had been burnt, and then retreated to Richmond, where they met with [Gen. Baron von] Steuben – and that they were engaged in thus advancing and retreating until they were joined by the Marquis De LaFayette, and afterwards by General [Anthony] Wayne [10 Jun 1781] – that they then attempted to make a [illegible word] against the British under Cornwallis and had a skirmish with them near Jamestown [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] – that he then returned home a few days and substituted himself for one Simeon Buford in the company of Captain Armstead White [Armistead White], and marched with him to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg] and there joined the main army, that he was under he thinks Col. John Graves, and he thinks that General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] was the commander of the militia – he does not know whether the main army was then under the command of La Fayette or Wayne – that he did not see General Washington till they got to Yorktown; that he was with the army at the whole siege and taking of Yorktown [19 Oct 1781] and was one of the guard of the prisoners to the Barracks in Frederick County across the Blue Ridge. and then returned home some time about the middle of November. that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his service.

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 Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

Jno. N Taliaferro/ Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Dicken". The ink is dark and the paper appears slightly aged.

Interrogatories propounded to Joseph Dicken applicant for a pension by the County Court of Campbell County State of Kentucky and the answers thereto.

Q. Where and in what year were you born?

An. In Culpepper County in the State of Virginia on the 23rd dy of march 1764.

Q. Have you any record of your age, and if so where is it?

An. Yes I have in a Bible, which I have at my home.

Q. Where were you living when called into service; were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute? and if a substitute for whom?

An. I was living in Culpepper County, State of Virginia: – I was a volunteer under Capt. Kirtly – I was a substitute under Capt Rice the first time for Joshua Runder, and the second time was a drafted man under him. – I was a substitute under Capt Finks for John Burdine. – I was a drafted man under Capt. Towles: – and I was a substitute for Simeon Buford under Captain White.

Q. State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops, where you served; such continental and militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service.

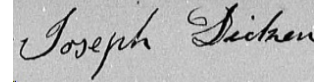
A. I cannot answer the question more particularly than I have done in the declaration I have just made.

Q. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it.?

A. I never did receive any discharge that I recollect of.

Kentucky Campbell }
County Sct }

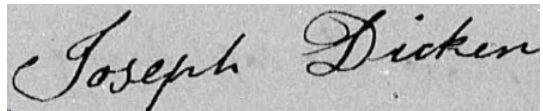
Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid Joseph Dicken who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, For one year and eight months I served as a private, and for such service I claim a pension. Sworn to before me this 22nd day of november in the year 1832
Horatio T Harris JPCC



Campbell county ky November 24, 1832

My Dear friend [Col. R. M. Johnson] I am sorry to be so much troubled to any man as I am to you without making them some compensation for it, but I hope the God of Heaven will reward you for your favors to your fellow man which will be far surpassing the compensation of man. My friend I have a wish to let you know my situation in the time of the revolution war. I was born in March 1764 and in 1777 both of my parents departed this life, then I was left to a man to take care of me and to give me education. The care he took was to put me under an overseer and he got a full share in the crop for me. I had to grow under this treatment but in 1779 he was drafted and in being a little terrified [see endnote] he went to the captain and asked him if he would take me as a substitute in his place. The captain being an uncles of mine and knew us both his reply was he would far rather have me than him so I was to serve his town. I went and served it and while there I was better satisfied than at home under an overseer so I never went back to him any more for it seemed to me as if I had got free, and from this time as you may see in my declaration the different towns and the officers that I was under but that is not all for whilst I was at home in Culpeper I was often called on some times helping moving the Military Stores and some times taking provisions and taking care of publick horses and driving beefs so that my time was devoted altogether in the service of my country only in the winter season from that time till we marched the prisoners to the barracks now Sr. if the officers of the war department think proper to give me anything I shall be thankful but if not I must do the best I can. I have some little property yet but it is only lent, and we don't know when it may take wings and fly away but I am not afraid of want. Thank God we have a poor house in our county. I received your kind instructions and the instructions from the war department and I got Col. Tibbatts to do the rightings and I inclose them to you, if the war department should grant me a certificate I would be glad if you please to let me draw at Cincinnati it is so much better for me than Lexington.

I Am yours with the greatest respect



please let me hear from you when ever convenient

NOTES:

The actions that Dicken attributed to Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton in spring of 1781 were probably actually under the orders of Gen. Benedict Arnold.

By "terrified" Dicken may have meant either "terrified" or inclined toward the Tories, or both.

On 4 July 1833 Joseph Dicken applied to have his pension payable at Cincinnati OH, 15 miles from his home, rather than at Lexington KY, more than 70 miles distant.