

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of William Donnell S3293

fn28NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 3/9/10

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State of Tennessee, Wilson County

On this 28th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the justices of the Court of Pleas & Order Sessions for said County of Wilson, now sitting, William Donnell, a resident of Wilkes and County and State of Tennessee aged 72 years since the 26th April last, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath take 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.

The Regiment to which he belonged was raised in Gilford [sic, Guilford] County North Carolina commanded by Col. James Martin, Colonel commandant – John Paisley Lieutenant Colonel & Majors Blair & Owens – he entered the Militia Service under a draft in August 1776 (day of the month not recollected) for the term of three months in the company commanded by Captain Robert Bell of Guilford, which was the County of this applicant's residence – Mustered in service at Guilford Courthouse North Carolina; from thence marched on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, passing through Salisbury to the Catawba River thence up to the head waters, crossing French Broad River at the mouth of Swannanoa [River] – thence to the Tennessee River crossing it at an Indian town, thence to Tennessee River – was not in any general engagement but was in several skirmishes, General Griffith Rutherford commanding the North Carolina Troops – after the term of service expired we were discharged & went home.

The next service rendered the United States was upon a tour under Captain Daniel Gillespie (as a volunteer) against the Tories in the Mountains on the head of the Yadkin River in the State of Virginia: Captain Gillespie was the highest officer in command at this tour, which continued one month. Cannot now recollect with certainty whether this service was in the year 1777 or 1778.

I became a volunteer after the above tour was performed in the Company Commanded by Captain Gillespie until the termination of the War, and was out on frequent excursions against the Tories in Randolph County North Carolina; It would be impossible with him to state with anything like Certainty the length of time he was in the actual service of the United States, but feels authorized to state from his best recollection to state that he served at least 12 months altogether in this last mentioned Service for he was called upon duty nearly as many as 20 times – And did not pretend to follow any other business (of consequence) during the time he belonged to Captain Gillespie's Company of Volunteers, he was called upon by Colonel John Gillespie who was a wagon master to drive a wagon Newbern [sic, New Bern] after salt for the Army: he recollects that he left home on Christmas day in the year 1780 and returned home about the last of March making a term of service of three months – he served another tour of three months in the Raft Swamp or Wilmington expedition as it was called.

He has no documentary evidence to sustain this application. George Donnell¹ & Charles Breden² were his fellow soldiers all of the time he was in the service of the United States and know that he was much engaged in the cause of Liberty. Besides these fellow soldiers, he is well acquainted with the Reverend Mr. Levi R. Morrison & John C. Smith all of whom can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution.

He continued his residence in Guilford County North Carolina till the year 1800 moved to Wilson County Tennessee where he had resided ever since. He was born the 26th of April 1760 according to his father's family record of which he has a copy in his possession.

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 and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Donnell, Senr.

[Levi R. Morrison, a clergyman, George Donnell & John C. Smith gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Amended Declaration

Tennessee, Wilson County

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace for said County of Wilson in the State aforesaid, William Donnell, a citizen of said County, 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, & [in the] following grade – In 1776 – commencing in August he believes, he served three months as a private. In 1777 or 1778, but cannot state which, he served two months as a private soldier in the Yadkin expedition – he served three months as a private or Waggoner in 1780 & 1781 left home in December 1780 & returned home in March 1781 on a trip to New Bern after salt for the Army. In this year (1781) he was almost continually in public service as volunteer in the light horse commanded by Captain Daniel Gillespie & when he did go home it was generally to recruit his horse & get supplies of clothing &c for himself, so that he did not pretend to follow any other avocation – so that he believes he served not less than 12 months in this year including the month of December 1780 – and in this is included a tour of three months, the Raft Swamp expedition – he was a private during all the time – And besides Charles Breden, George Donnell, & James McAdow³ Senior he does not know of any living witnesses by whom he can prove his services – and these witnesses can only prove part of his services – And that he may not be misunderstood he states he did not serve all together less than 16 months in all in the Revolutionary War & for which he claims a pension. The witness, George Donnell, has given a general certificate Reverend Levi R. Morrison & John C. Smith to his original Declaration but at that time Charles Breden was sick and could not attend Court & did supposed further testimony would have been required.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of June 1833.

S/ Jno. F. Doak, JP

S/ William Donnell, Senr.

State of Tennessee, Wilson County

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, a justice of the peace for said County of Wilson, George Donnell & Charles Breden who being duly sworn, saith: That they both have a personal knowledge of the services of William Donnell Senior as set forth in his original Declaration as to the first tour of duty against the Cherokee Indians. They also know that he was absent from home as

¹ [George Donnell S3294](#)

² FPA W334

³ [James McAdow S2760](#)

a light horse man under Captain Gillespie & that he served as a Waggoner in the public service during some part of the Revolutionary War. Thinks he was kept pretty generally in service against the Tories, but cannot state the length of his services except the first Campaign of three months when they were both out in the service with him.

And James McAdow Senior being also sworn saith that he has been well acquainted with William Donnell Senior from his boyhood up to the present time – that he has no distinct recollection of the services of said William Donnell Senior in the Campaign against the Indians – but has a personal knowledge of his services upon the expedition up the Yadkin & the services in the light horse in part, for they were both together from the same County – he cannot undertake to state how long he served in the light horse. And he also recollects that he was said to be in the public service as a Waggoner in the Revolutionary War – for the said Donnell lost one of his wagon horses and I found his horse and delivered over to him, he has no doubt whatever but that William Donnell Senior has served as set forth in his original and amended Declarations.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th of June 1833 – and I do hereby certify that George Donnell, Charles Breden, & James McAdow Senior are credible persons, & there statement entitled to full confidence.

S/ Jno. F. Doak, JP

S/ Charles Braden, X his mark

S/ George Donnell

S/ James McAdow, Sr.