

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

Pension application of George Donnell S3294

fn14NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

3/8/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

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 & Quarter Sessions for said County of Wilson, now sitting, George Donnell, a resident of Wilson County in the State of Tennessee seventy-three years [of age], 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.

Born the 4th of July 1759 -- according to his father's family record -- which he has copied into his family Bible.

He belonged to the Regiment raised in Guilford County North Carolina the County in which he resided commanded by Colonel James Martin Colonel commandant -- John Paisley Lieutenant Colonel & Majors Blair & Owens were the other field officers of this Regiment. He entered the service in the militia under a draft in August 1776 as well as he recollects, in the Company commanded by Captain Robert Bell of Guilford County -- for the term of three months -- he was mustered into service at Guilford Court North Carolina. From thence they 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 -- Thence to the Tennessee River crossing it at an Indian town, thence to Hiwassee River -- He was not during this service in any general engagement, but was in several skirmishes.

The North Carolina troops were at this time commanded by General Griffith Rutherford. After their term of service of three months expired we were regularly discharged and returned home.

The next Campaign he served in was as a substitute for his brother Letham Donnell who was drafted but was not able to serve a tour of duty in consequence of ill health. He was 1st Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain John Donnell -- John Paisley was Lieutenant Colonel but he does not remember who was Colonel commandant. General Griffith Rutherford commanded the North Carolina Troops; this was a tour to the Savannah River South Carolina against the British. He continued in the service of the United States at this time about six months according to his best recollection and belief.

Some short time after the above service he volunteered his services to guard some Tories that had been taken in Randolph & Mecklenburg counties and continued in this service for 8 days & was discharged.

He was soon called upon again and volunteered his services to go to Randolph County

after the Tories -- and continued this time in the service of his Country about three weeks. And these are all the services rendered his Country by him during the Revolutionary War including in all about ten months.

He has no documentary evidence to sustain his statement of the foregoing services, nor does he know of any of his fellow soldiers by whom his services can be established except Charles Breden¹ & William Donnell² who were with him the first Campaign -- he continued a citizen of Guilford County up to the year 1803 -- then removed to Wilson County Tennessee where he has resided ever since --

He is well acquainted with Levi R. Morrison & Johns C. Smith who can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief of his having been a Soldier of the Revolution.

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/ Josiah S. McClain, Clerk

S/ George Donnell

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

Amended Declaration

State of Tennessee Wilson County: Personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace for said County of Wilson, George Donnell a citizen of Wilson County who being duly sworn deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, or the particular periods in which these services were performed; 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 he served as a private in 1776 against the Cherokee Indians as set forth in his Original declaration. He served as first Sergeant, when a substitute for Lethem Donnell, against the British, in the year 1778 or 1779, but cannot undertake to state which year not less than six months; at another time as a private: he volunteered as a guard to take some Tory prisoners from Guilford to Hillsboro & served not less than eight days on that tour. And lastly he served as a private soldier against the Tories in Randolph (Colonel Paisley commanding officer last campaign) not less than three weeks. And he thinks the last services were immediately succeeding his second campaign but cannot recollect the year -- he believes however these services were in 1778. And that his services altogether were not less than 10 months -- for which he claims a pension. He does not know any living witnesses by whom he can prove any part of his services except William Donnell Senior & Charles Breden who served with him the first campaign mentioned --

Sworn to & subscribed before me the 24th day of June 1833

S/ John F. Doak, JP

S/ George Donnell

State of Tennessee Wilson County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace for said County of Wilson, William Donnell Senior & Charles Breden, who being duly sworn, saith: that they both have a personal knowledge of the services of George Donnell as set forth in his Original Declaration, against the Cherokee Indians -- and they also know that he was afterwards in the service of the United States during some parts of the Revolutionary war, but how long he served they cannot state, but they doubt not but that he did serve as set forth in his

¹ FPA W334 [also spelled Charles Breden]

² [William Donnell S3293](#)

declaration.

Sworn & subscribed before me the 24th of June 1833 and I do certify that said witnesses are credible persons etc.

S/ John F. Doak, JP

S/ William Donnell, Senior

S/ James Braden, X his mark