

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Dowdle (Doudle) S34764

MD

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 19 Sep 2019.

DISTRICT OF Columbia, ss.

On this eighth day of October 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the circuit court of the United States for the said district, personally appeared William Dowdle aged 66 years, resident in Washington in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said William Dowdle enlisted in 1777 in Elkton in the state of Maryland in the company commanded by Captain John Rudolph [John Rudolph VAS2156] in the Maryland line; that he continued to serve in the said corps, or in the service of the United States until the end of the war, when he was discharged from service at the Eutaw springs state of South Carolina, that he was in the battles of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777], Monmouth [28 Jun 1778], Colts neck N. Jersey, George Town S. Carolina [Georgetown, 24 Jan 1781], Eutaw Springs [8 Sep 1781], Guildford Courthouse [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], and several skirmishes, & has been twice wounded; and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services. He also swears that he made a similar declaration on the 14th of last April.

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid.

Maryland Frederick County SS

on this 20 day of May 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for Frederick County William Dowdle aged Sixty Six years resident in said county who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: In Captain John Rudolfs Company of Cavalry in the Legion Regiment commanded by Colenel Henry Lee [BLWt1299-500] that he applied some time in the year 1818 for a pension and received a certificate And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

1 Bed chaff
1 Table
½ doz knives
1 Dutch oven
1 Cook pot
3 old chairs

Wm hisXmark Dowdle

The said William Dowdle doth also swear that he by occupation a Labourer and owing to his infirmities and age scarcely able to do any thing but drive a Cart. That his family consists of a Wife in a Crippled State one boy aged about nine years

State of Maryland City }
and County of Baltimore }

I, Catherine Merritt heir at law of William Doudle do, upon oath, testify and declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that William Doudle did enter the service in 1778 for the term of during the war and served as a Private [in] Lees Legion under the command of Colonel Henry Lee of the — line; and that he continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the War

I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the bounty land promised to William Doudle on the part of the United States; nor do I believe that he ever received it, or transferred his claim to it in any manner whatsoever: therefore [power of attorney follows]

[signed 31 May 1839] Catharin Merritt

[The following are from [rejected claims in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

Baltimore March 13, 1844.

To His Excellency the Governor & the Council of Virginia

The petition of Elizabeth Furlong and Catharine Merritt, together with Elvira Watton, Catharine Merritt, Elizabeth Merritt & John Merritt. respectfully presents unto the Governor and Council of Virginia that they are the two first named the daughters of William Dowdle, the remaining four to wit Elvira Watton, Catharine Merritt, Elizabeth Merritt, John Merritt the children of Mary Merritt, a deceased daughter of said William Dowdle, as by reference to paper marked A herewith sent will more fully appear – That your petitioner are the lineal descendents & legal heirs of said William Dowdle. And your petitioners further respectfully present that the said William Dowdle enlisted as a private at Elkton in the State of Maryland in the revolutionary war in which State and in the State of Delaware he served for several years, till the 11th of March 1780 when he was transferred to Lees Legion of Virginia in which he served untill June 1783 when he was as a war's man discharged.* [in margin: "See Document B"] And your petitioners further present that in addition to the pension & bounty land the said William received in his life time he was by the laws of Virginia entitled to further compensation for his services as a private in Lee's Legion of Virginia, in which he served from the time of his transfer from Maryland till the conclusion of the war – all of which will be made more manifest by reference to document B herewith sent.

For these reasons your petitioners pray that the claims of the late William Dowdle may be granted by the Governor & Council of Virginia & that your petitioners, his lawful heirs may be permitted to receive whatever due said William Dowdle himself: and your petitioners will ever pray &c &c

March 30 1844

Rejected – (See Chap XLVII sec:XII allowing bounty only to such officers & soldiers of Lee's Legion as are credited to the quota of troops req'd from Va. of wh[ich] there is no proof in this case

NOTES:

The federal file contains a petition to the Secretary of War from William Dowdle and a John Baker stating that they had heard nothing regarding their pension applications filed on 4 April 1818.

A document in the federal file dated 1 June 1839 certified that the only heirs of William Dowdle were his children, Catharin Merritt and Elisabeth Furlong, and grandchildren William Merritt, John Merritt, Mary Ann Merritt, Elvira Merritt, and Catherine Merritt.