

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of William Dennis S39433 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

District of Virginia Sc.

on the 15th day of February A.D. 1820 before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court of virginia, personally appeared William Dennis, aged sixty five, resident in the County of Northampton, 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 Wm. Dennis enlisted or engaged to serve, as a substitute, to clear a District of the militia under a requisition or draft, for the army of the Continent, for the Term of eighteen months, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, in the County of Northampton, in the State of virginia, that he was marched from the County of northampton, to the County of Accomack in the State aforesaid and delivered to Capt. [Philip] Sansum and Coll. Webb at the Court-house of accomack, and by them taken across the bay of Chesapeake to a place called Manchester Court-house in virginia about 25 miles from Richmond, virginia, from thence he was marched to the Southern army, the commanded by General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene], but he does not know the number of the Regiment to which he was attached; that he enlisted during the war, under General Green, a few days after the Battle of Guilford Court-house [15 mar 1781]; that he served faithfully during the war, from the time of his being delivered to Capt. Sansum and Coll. Webb as aforesaid; and that after his reenlistment as aforesaid, he was in the regiment commanded by Coll. [William] Campbell, but the name of his Captain he cannot recollect, that he was in the virginia line, on Continental establishment; and that he was discharged, after the end of the war, about fifty miles from charleston S. Carolina, but the precise time of his discharge he cannot now ascertain, as his written discharge was destroyed by getting wet; that he was in the Battles of Guilford Court-house, at Camden in South Carolina [Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden, 25 Apr 1781] where he was wounded, in a battle with the Indians on the lines of Savannah [probably either at Sharon on 24 May 1782 or at Ebenezer on 23 Jun 1782], and that he was at the Siege of little york in Virginia [28 1sep- 19 Oct 1781], and afterwards marched back to South-Carolina; That he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of his Country's aid for his support." and that he has no other evidence, now in his power, of his s'd. services

Commonwealth of Virginia

Northampton County Ss.

On this thirteenth day of November 1820, personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record (the said Court proceeding according to the course of the common law, with a jurisdiction unlimited in point of amount & having the power of fine & imprisonment) for the County aforesaid, William Dennis aged sixty seven years & upwards resident in the parish of Hungars in the said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, in the company, Regiment and Line & entered the service & left it at the times & in the manner heretofore respectively stated and sworn to & certified to the Secretary of the War Department. That a pension has heretofore been granted him under the act of Congress passed on the 18th March 1818 the certificate of which is numbered 16,771 and that the date of his original application was the [blank] day of [blank] 181 – And he also solemnly swears that he was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that he has not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of his property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring himself 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 he has not nor has any person in trust for him any property or securities

contracts or debts due to him nor has he any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by him subscribed – The said William Dennis further states on oath that he was a resident of the County of Northampton aforesaid on the 18th day March 1818 & has so continued ever since. That he has no trade. That his family consists of a wife aged about sixty years, now & for several years previous to this time confined with disease & that he himself is sickly & unable to maintain his family except from the private charity he receives

Schedule	
1 Corner Cupboard	.25
1 spinning wheel	2.00
1 Logwood axe	1.00
1 Weeding hoe	.12½
1 Coffee Pot	.03
1 Earthen Dish	.37½
3 plates	.12½
1 Iron Pot	.75
	\$4.65½

William hisXmark Dennis

[The following is in connection with William Dennis’s application for bounty land, which was available to Continental soldiers who served to the end of the war. See endnote.]

I [Meshack Waterfield, pension application S38454] hereby certify that William Dennis, of this county inlisted as a soldier of the Virginia Continental Line, in the Revolutionary War at the same time with myself Said Dennis left this shore in company with myself for the south when we put under command of General Green to the best of my recollection. Mr. Dennis enlisted for the term of three years He said Dennis left this shore I think under the command of Capt Phillip Sanson and served out his time of enlistment I think the Regiment to which we were attached was the 4th Virginia Regiment commanded by Colo. Wm. Campbell After serving out his time of enlistment Mr. Dennis again reenlisted for the War and was then transferred to the light Dragoons or mounted men [see endnote] – and continued in the service to the end of the war which was about the middle of year 1783. Mr Dennis was enlisted in the dragoons some time in the year 1781. Witness my hand and seal this 15th day of Oct 1831

Meshack hisXmark Waterfield

[The following are from the [bounty-warrant papers in the Library of Virginia](#):]

State of Virginia } SS
 County of Northampton }

Be it known that before me Nath’l. Burns a Magistrate in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared William Dennis an old Revolutionary Soldier and made oath in due form of law that he has never received his bounty Land nor a warrant for the same. William hisXmark Dennis
 Sworn and subscribed to this First day of November 182[illegible] before me Nath’l Burns J. Peace

State of Virginia }
 City of Richmond } ss.

Be it known that before me Nathaniel Charter a Magistrate in and for the City aforesaid personally appeared William Dennis a Revolutionary Soldier and made oath in due form of law that he was drafted as a Militiaman from the County of Northampton State of Virginia, and sent to to the South to join General Green’s Army, that after his Term of service had expired he then enlisted in the Regular Army after the Battle of Guilford Court-house for and during the War, that he was dischargd at Charlestown (South Carolina) after peace was declared that his discharge was forward to the War Department for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the Act of Congress passed on the 18th March 1818, that he had made several attempts to obtain his Bounty Land, but owing to his poverty and inability

to obtain the proper evidence to substantiate his Claim he has prevented him from applying for the said land before this. – Sworn and Subscribed this 8th day of Sept. 1829. William hisXmark Dennis before me/ Nath'l Charter J. Peace

State of Virginia } SS
County of Northampton }

Be it known that on this Tenth day of September 1830 [several illegible words] magistrate in and for the county aforesaid personally appeared Meshack Waterfield a person of lawful age and credibility and made oath in due form of law that he is well acquainted with William Dennis a Revolutionary Soldier that he was born in the County of Northampton State of Virginia, that he was drafted from the militia of this County and sent to the South [one or two illegible words] General Green that after his term service he enlisted in the regular army [three illegible words]

Sworn and Subscribed to the day and year above written [illegible word]

Meshack hisXmark Waterfield

[illegible signature]

NOTE:

William Dennis's application for bounty land from the federal government was rejected, because his name was not on a list of those who served to the end of the war. When it was pointed out that Dennis had received bounty land from Virginia, with the same requirement, the federal Land Office responded, clearly erroneously, that that William Dennis may not have been the same person.

The claim that Dennis was a dragoon does appear to be based on the application of a different William Dennis (VAS894) for bounty land from Virginia.

A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of William Dennis received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 19 Aug 1841.