

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of John Denton S41503 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

[Capitalization partly corrected.]
State of North Carolina Rutherford County

John Denton states that he served with the minute men that marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg, spring 1775] against Lord Dunmore in the early part of the revolutionary War. he entered for a year on board a small privateer commanded By Capn Barron, and on leaving her enlisted in Hanover County Virginia with Capn. John Dandridge of the 1st Regiment of Virginia Artillery commanded by Coln Charles Harrison for three years which time he served, but being an unletterd man and his memory impaired by age labour and fatigue he cannot at this time pretend to state exactly the time of his enlistment but thinks it was in the year 1777. Said Denton farther states that he was in several actions That at the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] his knee was dislocated by the recoil of a Gun. and at the storming of Stoney point [sic: Stony Point, 16 Jul 1779] where he and several of the corps to which he belonged acted as infantry he received a wound from a musket ball in the foot. At the expiration of his time he was honourably discharged at Plaquemen [sic: Pluckemin] in Jersey and his discharge signed by Coln Harrison. but not calculating that it would ever be of any service to him it has been by some means that he cannot now account for lost or mislaid a number of years ago.

Said Denton farther states that when he was paid for his three years service it was in continental currency which was then so much depreciated as to be of scarcely any value. he farther states that he does not know of any person now living and within his reach by whom he could prove his service in the continental army. And also that having a large family to raise he never had it in his power to accumulate much property. he now owns a piece of very poor land, and being near seventy years of age and having gone through great hardships and fatigue is not able to labour in his farm as he was formerly. and all his children who were able to help him have left him except some daughters who are not more than able to support themselves.

Thus situated said Denton thinks that he comes within the purview of the late act of Congress for granting a pension to revolutionary soldiers and therefore prays to be place on the pension list in conformity with said act

State of North Carolina } January Court 1819
Rutherford County } In open Court John Denton makes Oath that the Different Statements in
the afforesaid memorial is Just & true to the best of His Knowledge and that he has no other testimony
within his Power that he knows of except his own Oath John hisXmark Denton
[Certified 15 Jan 1819]

State of North Carolina }
Rutherford County }

On this 11th day of January 1827 personally appeared in open court, being the court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the county aforesaid, and being also a court of record, John Denton, aged seventy five years, a resident in said County of Rutherford, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows – He enlisted with Captain Dandridge of the first regiment of Artillery of the Virginia line for three years, which term he served and was honorably discharged about a month of two to the best of his recollection after the Capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781].

I do not recollect the precise time of my first application to be placed on the pension roll, but from the date of my Certificate (which is No 11799) think it must have been about the first of the year 1819. – 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, to wit

Three sows and sixteen pigs – value –	\$12.00
One cow and yearling	10.00

5 old chairs, 2 pine tables, 2 pots & two duch ovens & loom, in the whole 13.00 = 33 [sic] a tract of very poor land on which I lived, containing 150 acres more or less which land is now sold under two executions issued from this court amounting to about ninety dollars, and sold for ten dollars. – I have followed farming as my occupation and have at times when I could get employ and was able to work done jobs as a rough Carpenter or Millwright, but from debility necessarily attendant on old age I am now unable to labour much. The injury received in my knee by the recoil of a field piece to which I was attached at the battle of Monmouth as mentioned in my former declaration and as described by the annexed certificate from a phisician which was intended to accompany that declaration is and has been a considerable hindrance in the prosecution of my usual avocations. In addition to the debt before mentioned I owe another of about twenty six dollars, and it is owing to the lenety of my creditors that myself and my aged wife have a house to shelter us from the inclemency of the season. – My family consists of a wife older than myself; three daughters from twenty five to above thirty years of age – the latter cannot more than support themselves and as they are of lawful age, myself or wife cannot expect to derive a support from them: in addition to the schedule of my property on the other side of this paper [above], I have some working tools that perhaps I ought to mention; they are as follows –

3 old Hoes, 1 old mattock, 1 shovel plough – value –	\$3.00
1 old scythe blade 1.50 – One Broad Axe 1.50	3.00
3 Screw Augers	1.00
Amount brought over	<u>33.00</u>
	\$40.00

John hisXmark Denton

To the honourable the Secretary of War

The petition of the subscriber most respectfully sheweth that your petitioner as will appear by the annexed declaration is under the necessity of again becoming an applicant to be placed on the Pension list of the United States – in addition to what is there stated your petitioner would beg leave to observe that he was deterd from making earlier application to be placed on the pension roll under the act of 1820 by being informed that no application from persons owning any kind of property would be successfull – your petitioner at that time owned a horse four or five head of Cattle and several head of hogs – but with encrease of years his inability to labour also encreased and his land poor and not productive in the best seasons in dry and unfavourable ones such as last year did not produce half enough to subsist him – and having at these times to purchase provisions at a high rate – hence he has become indebted to an amount that the whole of his property will not pay – thus situated he has no other prospect than to spend his few remaining days in a poor house unless that Country in whose service he spent several years of the prime of his life under every privation that human nature is capable of sustaining will grant him relief.

In hopes that this will be done your petitioner respectfully submits the premises to your consideration

John hisXmark Denton

P.S. be pleased to direct any communication to be made to me to White Oak Post office Rutherford County N.C.

February 11th 1819

This is to certify that I have examined John Dentons disabled knee, and the joint appears to have received an injury by some means, which has had the effect of knocking the Tibia or leg bone out of its

usual Socket, And in consequence of which has formed a new Socket, which has a tendency in some degree to impede the knee motion of the joint, tho, not entirely annihilated [signed] J. M. Entin M.D.

NOTE: On 24 Oct 1856 Agness Denton, 69, of Polk County NC, asked for a pension under the act of 1832 in behalf of her father, John Denton, who died on 22 Feb 1850 leaving the following children: Mary Hudson, Nancy Cloud, and Agness Denton. On 27 March 1882 Riley Talent of Camp Creek NC wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions on behalf of "a cousin who lives in Polk County" inquiring about a pension that was to have been drawn by an agent, S. A. Betts of Morgantown in Burke County NC for the service of "old man John Denton." He stated that Betts became paralyzed and unable to pursue the case, and that John Denton had one daughter named Aggy living at that time. Talent also noted that his wife "says that she heard her grandfather Denton say that he volunteered for 5 years and was in the whole of the Revolution & came so nigh starving that he gave a silver Dollar for its size in Horse skin to eat."