

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Henry Dillen S45891 VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee }
Overton County } SS

on the 5th day of July AD 1838 personally appeared Henry Dillen before me Claibourn D Parris an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County aged seventy six from his best information haveing no record of his age who being first duely sworn according to law for that purpose doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th June 1832 That he entered the Survise of the United States about the first of August in the year 1777 [last digit unclear] by volenteering under one Captain Marten [probably Joseph Martin] the Lieutenant and Ensign was both of the same name and was brothers as well as he now recollects and was commanded by General Christia [sic: Col. William Christian], marched down Holston River to the Long Island [at present Kingsport TN; early Oct 1776] crossing the River at that place thence to French braud River [sic: French Broad River] and crossing the same thence to Tennessee River at the big Island Town in persuit of the Indeons [sic: Cherokee Indians] was stationed at that place for a considerable time but the Indeons haveing evackuated we had no engagement was marched back to the Long Island on Holston River and received a written discharge from Capt Martin haveing performed Five months and a few days survise then returned home to Henry County Virginia whare he started from altho it was then called Pittsylvania County Virginia (the lines haveing since been altered; effective in 1777) remained at home from his return until perhaps July 1781 at which time according to the number he stood on the muster roll was called on to go under Captain Parteet [sic: James Poteet] and accordingly went dose not at this time recollect the name of other Company officers was commanded and led on By Major [George] Waller his Sergeant Major was by the name of William Mcgee [William McGhee] Marched threw Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] thence to Cabbin point [sic: Cabin Point] thence to Swans point [sic: Swanns Point] on James River oposite to old[?] Jamestown was there promoted to the office of 2nd Sergeant of the Company owing to that office becoming vacant from that officers leaving the line, from that we marched to Williamsburgh [sic: Williamsburg], thence to Little york, and was at the Seage of york [sic: Siege of Yorktown, 28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781], remained at that place for some time, was taken sick at that plac[e] and remained sick for a considerable time, was again verbally discharged by Capt Parteet, haveing performed a three months tour of duty, returned home again to Henry County Virginia whare he remained until the year 1811, when he removed to Overton County Tennessee whare he has remained ever since has been frequently spoken to by Lawyers business men about his drawing a pension and felt inclined to do so but haveing lost his companion and devided his property amongs his children and one of his sons falling heir to the plantation whereon he then lived agreed to take care of and support his Father and so was opposed to him drawing a pension in his life time but in the fall of 1835 his son sickened and died he has been consulting his own mind since that time has become kneedy and finally concluded to forward his claim and not being able to attend Court from old age and bodily infirmaty it is most convenient to have the business Transacted before Esquire Parris

And that from old age and consequent loss of memory he cannot state with any further persision or certainty about his survise haveing no record or docamentory evidence of his survise his discharge haveing been lost for many years that he received at the long Island from Martin not thinking it would ever be of any account to him and not haveing received any written discharge from Capt Parteet or any written commition for the office of 2nd Sergeant which office he held at least Two months nor dose he know of any person by whom he could positively prove his survise, can prove by some of his old neighbors who did live in Henry County virginia that he was frequently spoken of there as haveing been been a souldier of the Old Revolutionary War

Can also prove by William D Sewell the Clergyman of his nighborhood & General James Harrison and

all who are acquainted with him in Overton County Tennessee that he is a man of veracity and reputed and believed in the neighbourhood to have been a revolutionary Souldier

He hereby relinquishes evry claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the presant and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State or Territory in the United States

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year last above written Henry hisXmark Dillen

NOTES:

On 12 Oct 1838 Robert A. Dabney, Esq. made an affidavit that includes the following: “that he is well acquainted with said applicants General character having had an acquaintance with the son of said Henry Dillen for many years (namely Jacob Dillen Esquire an Attorney at Law having been accustomed to attend court with said Jacob Dillen many years that said Jacob Dillen spoke of his father the said Henry Dillen as being a Revolutionary Soldier from Henry County Virginia and at one time told him that if his father ever did apply for a Pension he wished him to transact the business but said he did not wish him to apply, because he considered himself able to support him, himself and that perhaps people would conclude that he was not willing to maintain him.”

On 18 July 1838 Judy French, of Fentress County TN, stated that she had known Henry Dillen in Henry County where she had heard of his services in the Revolutionary War.

A letter in the file states that Dillen was unable to prove that he had been a Sergeant and relinquished that portion of his pension.