

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

Pension Application of Henry Dorton S5362

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Mar 2013.

State of Virginia } SS

County of Monongalia }

On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November in the year 1832, personally appeared in open court before the county court of Monongalia now sitting Henry Dorton, a resident of said county, aged eighty four years, 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 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 — That he was drafted in the fall of the year 1777 at Red-stone [Redstone] settlement near Brownsville, Pennsylvania [in Fayette County, then claimed by Virginia], in a company of militia commanded by Capt. Foard [Joseph Ford; see below], and immediately marched to Fort Pitt, where Foard's company was placed under the command of Col. John Gibson of Virginia, who he believes was a Regular officer — that while at Fort Pitt, he was transferred to a company (that was not full) from the South Branch of the Potomac river, commanded by Capt. Foreman — that Foreman was soon ordered to a fort at Grave creek, on the Ohio river, twelve miles below Wheeling — upon arriving there we found the fort burnt, and we commenced a march back to Wheeling along the bank of the river — in the narrows of Grave creek, we were attacked by about seventy indians, and Capt. Foreman and twenty of his men were killed, twenty two were saved — that he made good his escape back to Wheeling, and in ten days after, he went with others to bury the dead, putting fourteen in one hole and seven in another. that he then returned to Fort Pitt, where at the end of a month, the term for which he was drafted, he was discharged by Capt. Foard, which discharge he has preserved, and is hereto annexed.

That he cannot recollect the month, but from some circumstances brought to his recollection he believes it was during the month of July in the year 1778 he was again drafted for a six months tour, at Red-stone, in Capt. Foards company, immediately marched to Fort Pitt, where Col. Gibson commanded the regiment and Gen'l. [Edward] Hand the troops. that soon after Gen'l. [Lachlan] McIntosh arrived at Fort Pitt, the troops descended the Ohio, to near the mouth of Big Beaver creek [Beaver River], near to which we built a fort; that some time after the troops were ordered, all but a few left at Fort McIntosh, to march to the Tuscarawa [sic: Tuscarawas in Ohio], a branch of the Muskingum, where we built Fort Lawrence — that from Fort Lawrence [Fort Laurens], we marched back to Fort McIntosh and thence to Pittsburg, where he was discharged a week before Christmas, by a written discharge signed by Capt. Foard, which he has lost—

That from the western country, he removed back to the place of his birth, and in the month of May 1781 he was again drafted near Bladensburg in Maryland in Capt Cross company of militia, that in June we marched to Annapolis where we were reviewed and remained a week, that we had seventy five men in our company, marched to Falmouth — other troops were marching the same direction, but taking different roads on account of provisions — from Falmouth we continued our march thro' Virginia to a place called the Savannah below Yorktown, and was there stationed with five other companies under Gen'l. [William] Smallwood, to keep the enemy from retreating from York town — that after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] we were all discharged — that he served upwards of five months and received a written discharge from Capt. Cross which he has long since lost —

That at present he knows of no person by whom he can prove his services — that he was born in the year 1748 near Bladensburg Maryland and resided in Prince Georges county Maryland about nine years after the Revolution, that he then removed to this county where he has ever since resided — that he does not know where the record of his age is — that he recollects Capt. David Scott, a regular officer of the 13<sup>th</sup> continental Virginia regiment stationed at Fort Pitt, as well as Lieut Dent of the same regiment —

that he has known for many years the Rev'd. Joseph A. Shackelford, Thomas S Haymond esq. Matthew Gray, Col. Samuel Hanoray, residents of said county, who he believes can certify as to his character for veracity and belief of his services —

That hereby relinquishes evry claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the roll of any pension agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year aforesaid Henry hisXmark Dorton

Fort Pit

This is to certify that hendry Dorton his served thirty one Days in my Company of Milish [illegible word] service at this Place as witness my hand this Eleventh Day of october 1777

Joseph Foard Capt



[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the note below.]

Henry Dorton — draws \$40

I the undersigned Henry Dorton at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following statement of my age and Services as a soldier in the War of the Revolution — to Wit — I shall be 85 yrs old the 10<sup>th</sup> March next—

In September 1777 I was drafted in the old Red Stone Settlement in what is called Washington Bottom — & marched from there under Captain Joseph Ford to Pittsburg. on getting there met other troops then commanded by Gen'l. Hand & Col. Gibson — our company of 43 men including myself went down the river under Capt Ford to grave creek. on getting there found that the fort had been burn. We retreated and in our retreat in the narrows of grave creek, were pursued and attacked by the Indians — twenty one of our men were killed. the balance made safe their retreat to Fort Pitt. & remained there until we were discharged which was in october haveing been in service "thirty one days" I had a discharge for this service which I gave to Mr Ray [Thomas P. Ray, Clerk of Monongalia County Court] who wrote my Declaration—

In September 1778 I was again drafted at the same place and marched under Captain Jno Ford to Fort Pitt & there I joined Genl. McIntosh — who with his forces descended the river to Fort McIntosh. remained there until Christmas week in December. I returned home about the day before Christmas, having been in service at least three months—

In June 1781 I was drafted in Prince Georges county Md. & marched under Capt Cross to Anapolis. thence to James River below York town Va. I was not at the Battle of York town. My company with several others were stationed below York town. I returned home about the Middle of October haveing been in the service at least 4½ months — and this ends my Services Thomas P. Ray wrote my Declaration. I think I told him the same in substance I now tell. In witness that this statement contains the truth I hereto subscribe my name

Witness Isaac Cooper

Henry hisXmark Dorton

Note. — this is one of Mr. Rays cases, and although the case is fraudulent I am perfectly satisfied that it is not attributable to design on the part of Mr. Ray — he could not be guilty of such an act—

W. G Singleton Mr. 28. 1834

Morgantown 10<sup>th</sup> April 1835

Col. J. L. Edwards Com'r of Pensions,

I received this morning the pension certificate of Dorton, which I enclose you, agreeably to your request of the 4<sup>th</sup>—

I again examined Dorton, who is very old and infirm, scarcely able to walk and find that he served under Capt. Foreman on the Ohio – under Capt. Foard in McIntosh's campaign, and in May 1781 drafted near Bladensburg, where he was born, and was marched to a place called Savannah below Yorktown, where he was discharged after Cornwallis' surrender – which he makes a little more than twelve months – he says he made this statement to Mr Singleton as distinctly as he could –

I have no recollection now what his first statement to me was, but as you are in possession of it, you can judge more correctly –

I am very resp[ectful]ly Yrs Thos. P. Ray

NOTES:

Although Ford appears to have signed "John Foard" on the discharge, on a clearer document (<http://revwarapps.org/b167.pdf>) he signed "John Ford."

On the cover of his report Singleton wrote "Fraud draws too much." As he often did, Singleton concluded fraud when others miscalculated how much pension was due the applicant. It appears from the pension certificate that Dorton's pension was reduced from \$40 per year, which was appropriate for a private who served one year, to \$28 for 8½ months service.

The 1830 federal census of the east district of Monongalia County records Henry Dorton as head of a household of "free colored persons."