

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Dolley S6802

f26NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/23/08 rev'd 12/5/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina Orange County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions May Term 1834

On this the 29th day of May 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Court of pleas and quarter Sessions for Orange County aforesaid (now sitting) John Dolley a resident Citizen of Orange aforesaid, now in the 81st year of his age who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, & served as herein stated:

1st Tour

This applicant, as a private volunteered in the Service of the United States (as well as he now remembers) on the 20th day of April 1780, in a Company of militia of which John Thompson was Captain & ___ Whitesides [John Whitesides] Lieutenant, that they rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro in Orange, aforesaid, on 25 April of said year 1780, -- that they volunteered as a reinforcement to the southern Army under General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln] -- crossed Haw River, at Galbreath's (old) ferry -- went to Martinsville in Guilford County where they were joined by three other Companies of militia, and marched together to Salisbury, in this State, where we were put in a Regiment under command of Colonel Lewis [Exum Lewis], General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] this applicant thinks Joined them in Salisbury and was their superior officer: after this applicant had been in Salisbury but a few days intelligence reached them of the Surrender of Charleston [May 12, 1780] to Sir Henry Clinton: we remained at Salisbury some six or seven weeks -- marched into South Carolina to Cheraw Hills -- went towards Rugeley's Mill, near to Camden, thence returned by Cheraw, to Salisbury, where we received regular discharges from Colonel Lewis on 25 October following and returned home, being in the United States service this tour just six months.

2nd Tour

This applicant again, in April 1781, volunteered as a private in the Service of the United States in a Company of militia of which Laroy Thompson [Leroy Thompson] was Captain & William Lytle was Lieutenant, rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro on the 10th day of April 1781 we again marched to the South, crossed Haw River at Crow's ford -- thence to Chatham Court House & through Moore County &c the neighborhood of Rugeley's Mills -- in this tour we fell in with General Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] & Colonel Brown [Thomas Brown] (of North Carolina) with their troops we were at High hills of Santee, at Columbia &c to Yorkville, where we received regular discharges on the 10th day of September following:

3rd Tour.

This applicant again volunteered as a private in the service of the United States, in

a company of militia under the Command of Captain George Hodge, Robert Scobey Lieutenant; Rendezvoused at Hillsboro 15th day of September 1781: our object was to pursue Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] of the Tory Army, and recapture the prisoners they had made a few days before at Hillsboro [September 12, 1781] -- our Superior officers were Colonel Mebane [Robert Mebane], Colonel Tinnin [sic, Hugh Tinnen] & General John Butler -- we pursued the Tories as far as "Raft Swamp" near to Wilmington, where we had an engagement [October 15, 1781] with them but were defeated & routed -- on the evening of the battle or the next day, we were Joined by General Rutherford -- assembled at a plantation a few miles from the "Raft Swamp" called Lucas's (as well as this Declarant now remembers) From thence we marched to Baldwin's, where we had a skirmish with the enemy -- we went some miles below Wilmington came up the East side of the Cape Fear [River] & crossed the River at Sprolls [sic, Sproul's ? or Sproull's], above Fayetteville. I was now with the troops under General Rutherford -- were at Monroe's Bridge in the first week in October, following -- at Paris 8th Nov. the enemy were increasing near us, and Rutherford sent to General Butler, for a reinforcement of artillery & Cavalry -- at Colonel Swan's, we found a four pounder in a well & fixed it upon the pair of Cart wheels & sent it to General Butler who we understood contemplated making an attack upon the enemy at the "Brick House," who were then posted there -- We here received a recruit of flints & guns sent us from Newbern [sic, New Bern], by the Governor -- we were marched to Haley's ferry on the Pedee [River], where I received a discharge from Colonel Guinn on the 20th day of December following having served in this tour three months and 15 days -- & returned home.

4th Tour On the 20th day of January 1782, this Declarant volunteered a fourth time in the United States Service in the Company of militia commanded by Captain Jameson [William Jamieson], one Riley was Lieutenant our duty was to guard the Town of Hillsboro -- our Superior officers were Major Tatum [Howel Tatum], Colonel Thaxton [James Thackston], and Martin Thomas quarter master -- we entered upon the duty guarding town 20th of January 1782. And continued to serve in this duty till the 11th day of July following having served in guarding Town five months & three weeks, where we received regular discharges from Major Tatum & I returned home.

5th Tour

This Declarant volunteered a 5th and last time in the United States Service, as a private in a Company of militia under the Command of Captain William Guinn [William Gwinn] -- one McDaniel Lieutenant; we rendezvoused at Chatham Court house, on the 25th day of August 1782: Colonel O'Neal [William O'Neal], Major Tatum & General John Butler were our superior officers -- our object was to suppress the Tories who were becoming very troublesome. We marched through Randolph, Moore, Cumberland & Chatham counties in this tour we took 15 Tories prisoners -- Conducted them to Hillsboro where they were placed under Guard at that Town. We received discharges in the Town of Hillsboro from General Butler on the 10th day of October following being in the United States Service on this tour one month and a half. Having served the United States in the five above tours 21 months & 21 Days & this applicant further States upon his oath "that in each of the above tours he was in a regularly organized Corps & called into service by Competent Authority."

That he has procured the affidavit of John Minnis¹ of Orange aforesaid taken in due form -- proving that in the declarant's third tour said Minnis served with him.

That he was born in the State of Pennsylvania on the 3rd day of July 1754 & removed to this County when about three years of age --

¹ [John Minnis S9413](#)

That he has a record of his age at home.

That when he was called into Service in each tour he volunteered.

That he was acquainted with Colonel Thompson, Colonel Lenoir, Colonel Mebane, General Rutherford, Butler, Colonel Guinn, Tatum Major Taylor & others

That he received discharges for his several tours but they are all now lost.

That he is known in his neighborhood to Colonel Joseph Allison & Connally Walker -- who can testify from their acquaintance with him, that they believe him to be the age he represents and that he is reputed in the neighborhood to have been a soldier in the war of the Revolution. That he cannot conveniently get a clergyman's Certificate -- He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed, the day & year aforesaid.

Test: S/ John Taylor, CC

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

[Conley Walker & Joseph Allison gave these standards supporting affidavit.]

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 26th day of May 1834 personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for Orange aforesaid, John Minnis a resident citizen of the County aforesaid now in the 80th year of his age, who being first duly qualified maketh oath that during the war of the revolution, he served a tour in the militia in a company commanded by Captain George Hodge, Rendezvoused in Hillsboro 15th of September 1781 were under Command of General Butler -- We were in pursuit of the Tories who had but a few days previous taken Hillsboro -- and many prisoners -- In this tour this affiant well remembers that John Dolley of Orange aforesaid was a private and in said Captain George Hodge's Company --

In this Affiant, further states upon his oath, that he is under the impression that he and said John Dolley served another tour together against the Common enemy -- but from old age and it's consequent attendant loss of memory he cannot recollect with decision enough to specify -- but thinks said tour was 3 & 1/2 months -- But the said John Minnis states further upon his oath, that he has been acquainted with said Dolley now an applicant for a pension, since they were boys -- and that said Dolley was reputed a good Whig -- and served faithfully in the Cause of Liberty -- and further the said John Dolley is a man of truth & veracity and is believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier in the War of the Revolution -- Sworn to & subscribed the day & date verse above written.

S/ John Minnis, X his mark

Test: S/ James A. Craig, JP

State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 18th day of April, 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Dolley, a resident citizen of said County, now in the 83rd year of his age, who being first duly qualified according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement and explanation of his Services as a Soldier in the war of the Revolution (viz.)

1. This Declarant has been at no little pains in making inquiry as to the date and length of his first tour, which he was hitherto under the impression was of six months duration, but in this he may have been mistaken, and learns from those that served in that period, though they were

out six months, it was termed a five months tour, and to this term modifies his Statement -- In this tour this Declarant volunteered in the United States Service and from the best information he can procure it Commenced not in the Spring 1780, as he had first believed, but in the fall of the year before Ashes' defeat [the Battle of Briar Creek, March 3, 1779], say 15 October 1778, confining it to five months duration will make 15 March for his return home -- but this declarant feels well assured now that it was in April following before he reached home, but he will modify this to a five months tour. He was under the impression, it was in this tour, and when in Salisbury they heard of General Lincoln's Surrender, but in this he must have been mistaken and that it must have been subsequently and in a tour he was under Command of Colonel McCauley [perhaps a mistaken reference to Major William McCauley], but the length of this tour under Colonel McCauley & particulars he cannot now enumerate and omits any claim for it -- In this five months tour -- we rendezvoused in the Town of Hillsboro (Orange Court House): Thompson was Captain -- Lewis Colonel: of the Regiment. Crossed Haw River at Galbreath's ferry, thence to Guilford Court House, where we were joined several other Companies under Colonel Locke [Francis Locke] he thinks -- marched to Salisbury -- to Charlotte then into South Carolina -- marched down the main Charleston road to the Savannah River, was at Galphins -- and was at the Black Swamp where General Rutherford lay some time -- and while at this encampment he thinks they heard of the defeat at Briar Creek, and where some nine months men from Ashe joined us -- On my return home we came up the West side of Pee Dee and were discharged by Colonel Lewis at the Cheraws in South Carolina.

2. This Declarant volunteered a second time in the United States service as correctly as he can [indecipherable word, perhaps "learn"], on or about the 15 day of May 1781. It was a short time before the Guilford Battle [March 15, 1781] -- Greene's Army was at that time in South Carolina -- Thompson was again Captain of the Company I was in one Lytle was Lieutenant Jarvis he thinks was Colonel of the Regiment -- crossed Haw River at Crow's Ford, went to General Dudley's encampment on Deep River, and remembers when they reached Dudley's Camp, it was the first day of June 1781 after staying there a few days, perhaps a week, we proceeded South -- we were at York Court House, Cheraw Hills on the Santee River -- and remembers of falling in with Sumter on the Santee and was at some other places in South Carolina; but does not now remember them well enough to enumerate -- I do not remember distinctly where I got my discharge, but my impression now is, that it was in Hillsboro -- but this I remember it was just five days after I got home when I again volunteered in a Tour, after Colonel Fanning -- who had just surprised and captured the Town of Hillsboro -- allowing two weeks, from the time I volunteered this second time, till our reached Dudley's Camp, it will make this tour three months and 19 days -- though I am under the impression that I was longer out than three months & 19 days -- but I will claim only that length for this second tour.

3. I volunteered the 15 September 1781, in a Company of Militia commanded by Captain Hodge, Scobey Lieutenant: I was out in this tour three months and two weeks -- this tour this Declarant proves by John Minnis & Rd Browning whose affidavits are hereunto annexed -- as that of James Williams -- and Minnis in proof of the foregoing --

4. This Declarant volunteered a fourth time in a Company of militia in the United States service on or about 20th of January 1782, (first) for three months: William Jameson was Captain -- Riley Lieutenant Thaxton Colonel I was employed in guarding the Town of Hillsborough -- at the expiration of my three months tour, (and I got a discharge there from Colonel Thaxton) I substituted for Thomas Horton, and served for him another tour, one thing but one week -- which will make five months and three weeks I served in guarding the Town of Hillsboro, making in all

17 months three weeks & five days. See William Paris's Deposition --

In this Declarant further states upon his oath, that by reason of old age and the consequent attendant loss of memory, he cannot swear more positively as to the precise length of his Service: but according to the best of his recollection & impression he served not less than 17 months, three weeks and five days (as private) that he has procured the affidavits of the Reverend Thomas Reeves, John Jeffreys & Robert Graham -- with whom the Honorable William Montgomery in Congress is acquainted, and can attest to their good standing &c.

Sworn & subscribed the day & date aforesaid

S/ John Blackwood JP

S/ John Dolley, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the 17th day of November 1835, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid James Williams, a resident of said County, now about 74 years of age, who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that he lived near the town of Hillsboro in the County aforesaid and in the year of 1778 or 1779 has a distinct recollection of seeing John Dolley of this County in Captain Thompson's Company of Volunteers when they organized in said Town to march to Salisbury & that said Dolley went with Co. to the South under Colonel Lewis & General Rutherford -- the length of said Tour this Deponent always understood was a five months tour, and that Dolley Served to the close thereof & was duly discharged.

In conclusion this affiant further says that Dolley subsequent to serving the aforesaid Tour he has understood Served the United States and other Tours as volunteer. & that said John Dolley is reputed a man of truth & veracity. The affiant thinks that the above tour was in the year of 1778 in 1779.

Sworn and Subscribed this 17th of November 1835 before me

S/ J. Careathers, JP

S/ James Williams, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Caswell County

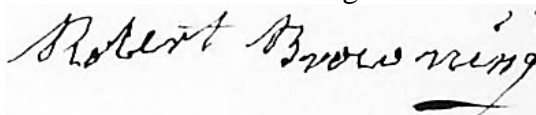
On this the 20th day of January 1836, firstly appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for said County Robert Browning² a resident Citizen of Caswell aforesaid who being first duly qualified maketh oath that he was well acquainted with John Dolley, a resident of Orange County -- and that in the fall of 1781, immediately after the taking of Hillsboro by Colonel Fanning, this affiant volunteered in the United States service in a Company of militia commanded by Captain Hodge, Robert Scoby, Lieutenant -- the length of this tour was three months & two weeks, and this affiant well remembers that John Dolley of Orange County, was a private in said Hodge's Company with us all of said Tour.

And this affiant further states upon his oath, that he has always understood said Dolley Served in the war of the Revolution as he states, and is a man of truth & veracity.

Sworn and subscribed the day & date just above written before me

S/ Wm Florence, JP

S/ Robert Browning

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Browning". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

² [Robert Browning R1355](#)

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State NC Orange County September 11th 1835 This day personally appeared before me WF Jones one of the acting Justices of the County aforesaid John Minnis a resident citizen of the aforesaid County -- now in his 81st year -- being first duly qualified maketh oath, that in the War of the Revolution he was in several tours in the United States service, and during the said war of the Revolution -- he was well acquainted with John Dolley of this County (whose pension is suspended for further evidence) and in the fall of the year 1781 when Hillsboro was taken by Fannon [David Fanning] there was a call on the Militia to rescue the Governor and the troops that were made prisoners by the enemy at that time in Hillsboro; at this time we was in Captain Hodge's Company under the command of General Butler, and John Dolley with myself were privates together and said Hodge's Company and this deponent further saith it is his impression that he (JD ?) was in another tour with said John Dolley under Colonel O'Neal & heard said John Dolley say he served a tour in guarding the Town of Hillsboro, under Captain Jameson & Major Tatum; and this deponent further says said John Dolley was always reputed a good liberty man, and at sundry other times volunteered in the United States service.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above written.

Test: S/ W. F. Jones, JP

S/ John Minnis, X his mark

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State of North Carolina Orange County

On this the ninth day of April 1836, personally appeared before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid, William Paris,³ Senior, a resident citizen of said County, now in the 76th year of his age (and an United States pensioner) who being first duly sworn according to law maketh oath that in the year of 1782, he served a three months tour in the militia in guarding the Town of Hillsboro, in Captain William Horton's Company -- said tour commenced the first of February of that year -- And this affiant has a distinct recollection of John Dolley's serving in the militia in guarding town at the same time, and was volunteer he thinks, and remembers also of a Thomas Horton being in the Service with us in said tour for whom Dolley says he Substituted after his first three months tour. And this affiant in conclusion says he remembers said John Dolley well in the Revolutionary war, and Dolley was always looked upon as a good liberty man and Served faithfully the United States in said, and is a man of truth & veracity.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year first above written before me.

S/ Wm Clendenin, JP

S/ William Paris, X his mark

[p. 24: Thomas Reeves, a clergyman, and John Jeffreys gave the standard supporting affidavit for John Dolley.]

[Veteran was pensioned initially at the rate of \$40 per annum increased to \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 14 months in the North Carolina militia.]

³ [William Paris W10222](#)