

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of William Dove S8336

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia

County of Pittsylvania SS

On this 22nd day of August 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before William L. Pannill, David Coleman, Corlivant D. Bennett and David A Cark the Court of Pittsylvania County now sitting, William Dove a resident of Camden Parish in the County of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia aged Seventy 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 June 7th 1832. —

That he was born in Charles County Maryland 27th November 1758 and moved to Fairfax County Va. when quite young, with his parents — that in august [28th] 1777 at the time the British landed at the head of Elk River [at present Elkton MD] and marched towards Philadelphia an express arrived at Fairfax County Va. When he volunteered under Capt Thomas Pollard (the name of the Lieut. he forgets) Colo. Rumley of Alexandria was Commandant of the Regiment and [first name blank] Seals and Dennis Ramsey were Captains in the same — the name of his Major he forgets — that in a few days after he volunteered he marched from Alexandria (the place of rendezvous) through Georgetown, Frederick Town Maryland and York Town about the line of Maryland & Pennsylvania to Lancaster in Pennsylvania, that there he remained about a week, when an express arrived for the troops to join Gen'l. Washington at Head quarters, but on the march he was taken with the Small Pox and had to lie by for a few days and during his Confinement heard the roar of the Cannons at the battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777]; after his recovery he rejoined his Company at Gen'l. Washington's head Quarters and there remained until his three months expired.

That in September 1778 he enlisted as a Marine on board the Ship called the Gen'l. Washington at Alexandria, which was destined to carry dispatches to France. Francis Speaks Capt & Sam'l. Walker Lieut. of the ship; William Sandford Capt. and William Pearson Lieut. of the Marines and Doct'r. Wm. Ramsey Surgeon, the same month he enlisted he sailed and arrived in France in the unusually short passage of Eighteen days which was said to be the quickest passage that ever then had been made. That they remained at a small town called Paimbeau [sic: Paimboeuf] about fifteen miles below Nantes, the whole winter. In March they sailed to Brest and joined the French fleet and in April sailed out from Brest in company with about ninety vessels of various nations which were convoyed by the French ships of war out to sea. After getting clear of the coast of France & leaving the French ships, the General Washington cruised on the coast of Spain awhile and returning home near Cape Henry fell in with and took British Privateer and brought her into Alexandria the last of June 1779. That in March 1780 he enlisted on the same vessel as a seaman. Sam'l. Walker, Capt. and [first name blank] Hogg Lieut (no marines) and sailed from Amsterdam in Holland, convoying some merchant vessels out of the Chesapeake [sic: Chesapeake] Bay — On the passage the Gen'l. Washington fell in with & took a large British Merchantman - that he with seven more, was detailed to take command of the prize and brought her and four prisoners into Philadelphia in July 1780 whe she was sold but he never received a cent of the prize money - He then returned home by water to Baltimore & then by land home—

In July 1781 he volunteered under and was appointed Corporal by his old Captain Thomas Pollard; that he forgets the name of his Lieut. that he marched to the Moblin Hills below Richmond Va. [sic: Malvern Hill 15 mi SE of Richmond] and his Company was there attached to the command of Colo. Meriweather [sic: Meriwether] and Major Hardy, thence they marched to a place called Springfield below Williamsburg Va. and there he was employed with a guard the most of his time in guarding Burwell's large house on York River, which was in sight of the British shipping. that his three months then expired & he returned home with his Captain in October (he thinks early) in 1781—

That he never received any discharge having always returned with his officers and he does not think it was customary with any of his Captains to give discharges. He was well

acquainted with Colo. Hood, Sawyer, Simms, Capt. Ramsey, Capt. Wm. Ellsey, the Fitzhughes, Marions and Colo. Broadwaters, all of whom then lived in Alexandria (which was then in Fairfax County or in the County. — That he emigrated to Pittsylvania County Va. in 1783 where he has resided ever since and in this section of Country is well acquainted with the Hon. Nath'l. H. Claiborne, Member of Congress, William Tunstall Clerk of Pittsylvania County, Walter Coles Esq'r. a Capt. in the regular army in the late War and many others to whom he refers respectfully. —

He herewith forwards the affidavit of Stephen Dove [his nephew] who is the only person living within his reach who could testify to any of the facts and he hopes he will not be put to the trouble of taking a long journey to his native County to give further proof—

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 and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

Wm. hisXmark Dove