

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of William Duke S8356

NC VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Oct 2014.

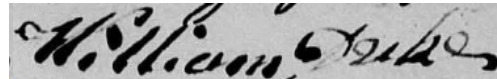
State of North Carolina }
Warren County }

On this 28th day of August 1832 personally appeared before the County Court of Warren and State, aforesaid, William Duke, formerly of Brunswick County Va. now a resident of the county and State aforesaid, aged 75 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 That he enlisted in the service of the state of Virginia, in the Revolutionary War, in the year 1775 With Aaron Brown, Nathaniel Richardson, and Jesse Merrida, and served in the 6th Regiment of the Virginia line under the following officers. Lieut John Stith, Capt. James Lucas [W12163], Maj. [Robert] Lawson, Col. Reed [sic: Isaac Read], and Col. Harrison, all under the command of Gen'ls. Stephens & [Thomas] Nelson. That he enlisted for a term of two years during which time he marched from brunswick Courthouse to Suffolk, from suffolk he was marched to Portsmouth, and from there to the head of Elizabeth River where he was in an engagement, at the long causeway, in the latter part of Nov'r. or the first of Decem'r. 1775 [Battle of Great Bridge, 9 Dec 1775] in which engagement Capt Fordice [sic: Charles Fordyce] was killed and all his men taken prisoners. – after which he was stationed in Portsmouth employed in building Breastworks there, and in the vicinity nearly 16 months. during his stay at Portsmouth he was ordered out to Crany Island [sic: Craney Island] and there was in a skirmish with the enemy – he was the ordered to Little York and remained a short time. – during his stay there the United States declared their Independence. – then returned to Portsmouth and there remained until the term of his enlistment expired.

He enlisted in Brunswick Va. in the spring of 1775 and was Discharged in the spring 1777. in the Town of Portsmouth by Lieut. John Stith, which he has lost or mislaid

He hereby relinquishes every every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state, only on that of the agency in the State of North Carolina.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day & year aforesaid



[On 28 March 1833 Frederick Parish (S5881) stated that he had served with William Drake in 1780 and 1782 under Gen. Nathanael Greene in the South. Duke's original claim was rejected because the service claimed was different from that certified by Parrish, the officers named could not be identified, and Duke's name could not be found on records.]

The declaration of William Duke a Citizen of the County of Warren and State of North Carolina which he prays may (along with the testamony now on file in the Department) be taken as evidence of his services in the war of the Revolution.

Your petitioner was born and raised in the County of Brunswick and will be on the 10th day of November coming 80 years of age. In the month of March 1776 after Lord Dunmore had destroyed the Town of Norfolk [1 Jan 1776] there was a call for men from the County of Brunswick and a company was raised under the command of Captn James Lucas; with John Stith and one Rogers as Lieutenant and Nathaniel Lucas as Ensign. This company was marched to the Town of Portsmouth and there joined the 4th Regiment under the command of Col. Stevins afterwards Gnl Stevins [sic: Edward Stevens]. This was in the month of March 1776. Your petitioner took the place in the company of one Charles Lucas who was a married man and did not wish to go – and continued to serve in his place from the month of March until the month of october 1776 – at that time the Regiment was ordered to the north; and the time for

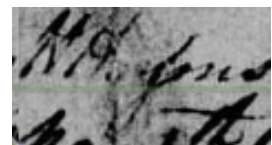
which your petitioner agreed to supply the place of Lucas being completed he was discharged and allowed to return home after serving for the space of 7 months and better. On his return home a call was made for men in February 1777 and your petitioner was drafted and again marched from the county of Brunswick under the command of Captn Stirling Edmonds [sic: Sterling Edmonds] for the period of three months; which you petitioner served being stationed at Portsmouth a part of the time and at Smithfield and on James River at a place called Cobham [now Scotland in Surry County]. the troops called out on this occasion were malitia and we were all under the command of Col. Frederick Macklin. In 1778 another draft was made for men to serve for six months and your petitioner took the place of one John Rose, and was mustered into the Company commanded by Captn Benjamine Simmons [Benjamin Simmons]; we were during this service stationed part of the time at Yorktown and Hampton; and were finally discharged at Portsmouth. In the year 1779 your petitioner removed from the State of Virginia to the County of Warren North Carolina where he now resides – and in the year 1781 was drafted into a company commanded by Captn Dixon Marshall in the Regiment Commanded by Col. [Guilford] Dudley and marched to the army under the command of Gnl. Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] immediately before the battle of Guildford Court House [sic: Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. Your petitioner was in that battle; the malitia were all dispersed and he with the great body of those who went with him returned home. Your petitioner after that time was again called into service; and then imployed one Richard Smith as a substitute; and he took from Col. H. Hains [sic: Herbert Haynes] the accompanying receipt which he preys may be taken as evidence of the fact. Your Petitioner has made inquiries for a number of persons who served with him in the State of Virginia and finds that Major James Blick [S6664] is the only one known to him alive. Majr Blicks testamony [not transcribed] establishes the fact that your petitioner was in the service in the year 1776; and in relation to the other tours of duty performed by your petitioner time has deprived him of all means of establishing except by his own most solemn declaration of the truth of all he has set forth. He claims to have served 1st under Captn Lucas 7 months and better – under Captn Edmonds 3 months under Captn Simmons 6 months – and under Captn Marshall 3 weeks or a month up to the Battle of Guildford Court House.

When the Declaration now on file was drawn up for your petitioner he being unable to do it for himself and nearly blind; he imployed an individual who he has since been informed has made him to say what he did not intend; the errors of that statment were caused by the ignorance of the person who drew it up, and also in the taking of the Testamony of a man by the name of Parish on file with the papers. Your Petitioner will make a statment which he knows to be true and trusts will be satisfactory about the testamony. Parish knew your petitioner being raised in the same county with him, and knew that he was in the army – and when your petitioner removed from the County of Brunwick Parish considered that he had gon to serve in the Southern Line as his testamony proves. It was the object of your petitioner to show by his evidence his services in Virginia and his testamony speaks of his belief that your Petitioner served in the Southern Line and in the way above stated. Your Petitioner is old nearly Blind and unable to to go or send to Parish for a correction of the statment as he resides a considerable distance from him. He in conclusion hopes that this statment with the accompanying evidence will be sufficient to induce you to grant him the benefit of the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 for the relief of the officers and soldiers of the Revolution.

Given under my hand this 21st day of September 1836 William hisXmark Duke

[The following two items are from small slips of paper, evidently old and apparently incomplete.]

Rev'd. Richard Smith as a substitute for William Duke to serve in the Cont'l. Service Twelve months
H Haynes Lt Colo.
May 4th 1781



May the 11 1783

[Recei]ved of William Duke the balance due to John [illegible] reseved by me orgeard[?] Conn
[?]orgeard Conn

NOTE: On 25 Feb 1837 Duke was issued a pension for nine months service.