

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Duke S8358
Transcribed by Will Graves

f24NC
2/15/08 rev'd 12/8/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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, Montgomery County: July Sessions 1833

On this 2nd day of July 1833, Personally appeared in open Court before the Worshipful Justices of the said Court for the County of Montgomery now sitting James Duke a resident of said County of Montgomery State of North Carolina Aged Sixty and Nine 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He states that the first engagement that he entered the service in Northampton County North Carolina for nine months that he volunteered or enlisted and marched to Halifax town North Carolina under Captain James Bradley and was put under the Command of Major Thomas Short in Colonel Etherington's [Jeptha Eatherton's] Regiment and marched to Lewisburg then to Hillsboro then to a place called the Ridge or pine tree House [Camden] in South Carolina between the Water Ree [Wateree] & Congo Ree [Congaree] Rivers expecting to march to Join General Green [Nathanael Greene] but for some Cause was discharged at the pine tree house in South Carolina by Major Thomas Short -- Col. Etherington having been taken sick at Halifax and now overtook the Army about the 15th day of November 1781 having served six weeks.

He further states that he entered the 2nd engagement immediately after discharge, that he Volunteered or Joined the Army as a volunteer under Captain Samuel Thornton at the pine tree house in South Carolina for six months to March against the Indians and Tories, he says that he volunteered in the Dragoon on or light-horse service and that he bought his own horse & was told that he would get 200 acres of land as a bounty that he volunteered as a horse man and marched under Captain Thornton and Colonel Arnold Watley to Augusta in Georgia then to a Small town called Rightsburg [sic, Wrightsburg] and then to Phillipes Fort [sic, Phillips' Fort] which was commanded by Colonel Phillips where we continued a short time and then went in pursuit of the Indians on the Frontiers of Georgia and had several different engagements with them and killed some of them and put the others to flight – we then returned to Phillips' Fort and was discharged there about the 15th day of May 1782 by Captain Thornton having served six months and he further states that he bought another horse & returned Home to Northampton County North Carolina having lost his first horse in the Little River about 12 miles from Phillips' Fort and he further states that in both said engagements that he served seven months and two weeks and he further states that he received discharges in both said engagements but have lost them or has no recollection what ever became of them and he further states that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person living in this part of the Country whose Evidence he can procure to prove his service, 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 and year aforesaid.

S/ James Duke

sworn
James Duke

[Benjamin Kendall, a clergyman, and Frederick Randall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Interrogatories by the Court

1st: When and in what year were you born?

Answer: In Northampton County North Carolina some time in the date of 1764

2nd Have you any record of you age and if so, where is it?

I have none I have understood that my father died when I was about 18 months old and if he lived any I never saw it.

3rd Where were you living when called into service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

In Northampton County when called into Service and continued there till about two years after the war and then moved to Franklin County and continued there about four years. Then I came to Montgomery where I now live.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if so for whom did you substitute?

I was in both engagements a Volunteer

5th State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I did not march with any Continental officers or Regiments as I recollect in either Engagement Colonel Etherington had with him about 300 men when in Halifax and that marched under Major Short to the pine Tree House in South Carolina though I think they were Militia there was no other troops with us. In my second Trip there was about 50 men marched with us under Captain Thornton & Col. Watley we arrived near Phillips' Fort and was Joined by others but I think they were all Militia.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given; and what has become of it?

I think that I received discharges in both said Engagements but have lost them.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood, and who can testify to your character for veracity and good behavior and your services as a Soldier of the Revolution.

Benjamin Kendall and Frederick Randall Esq. or any of my neighbors can Testify as to my Character and Veracity and that Reputation says I have been a soldier though there is no man living in this part of the Country that was acquainted with me then.

S/ James Duke

[p 18]

State of North Carolina, Montgomery County

Personally appeared before me Frederick Randle an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County James Duke who has Sworn and subscribed to the annexed declaration for a pension, who being duly sworn deposed and saith, That in his first engagement when he entered this service under Capt. Bradley that he was a Soldier in the service of the United States and that to the best of his knowledge and belief that all his officers were duly and lawfully appointed officers of the United States and obeyed as such and further states that in his second engagement That he was also a Soldier of the

United States that he had bought his own horse for the purpose of returning home but was induced to enlist or volunteer under Capt. Thornton for six months and was told he would get two hundred acres of land in the State of Georgia as a bounty, and he believes that his officer was duly & lawfully appointed, and that he served the whole time three or four hundred miles from home so as to employ all his time in the service to the neglect of his domestic concerns or business. Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of March 1834

S/ James Duke

[p 20: Is a power of attorney dated July 14, 1852 signed by James Duke by his mark and filed in Stanley County North Carolina.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$24.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months and 12 days in the North Carolina militia.]