

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Duncan W1577                      Rhoda Duncan                      VA  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Tennessee } On this 19 day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the  
Monroe County } Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Thomas Duncan  
a resident of said County of Monroe, aged sixty eight years lacking perhaps one or two months, 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 7 1832.

He was born in Pitsylvania County Virginia, where he entered the services of the United States  
early in 1781 (being in his 17<sup>th</sup> year) as a volunteer for three months in Captn. Wm Dix's [William Dix's]  
company of Millitia volunteers. the company collected at and marched from troublesome iron works in  
~~Guilford County (he thinks)~~ [on Troublesome Creek now in Rockingham County NC] under the  
command of Col. Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens], and passed thro Hillsborough to Guilford Court House  
where they met with and joined Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene's Army. Shortly after which the battle of  
Guilford took place [Guilford Courthouse, 15 Mar 1781], in which applicant was engaged, being attached  
to a rifle company from Botetourt county Virginia, (as he carried a rifle) He received a slight wound in  
one of his arms by a musket ball at the battle of Guilford. On the day after the battle he joined his own  
company and was marched back to Troublesome iron works, (7 miles) where the company remained five  
days. It then marched to Ramshowers mill [sic: Ramsey's Mill] on Deep River, and shortly afterward, his  
time expired, he rec'd his discharged and returned, through Hillsborough, home. (3 months). He  
disremembers the name of the Captn. of the rifle company in which he fought at the battle of Guilford.  
The Captn and all the company were entire strangers to him, as none besides himself of the company in  
which he volunteered had rifles, so well as he remembers.

Very shortly after Applicant returned home his father was drafted for three months to go on to  
Little York against Cornwallis, and he served the campaign in his father's stead. He was placed in Capt  
John Winn's company which collected in Pitsylvania County Va and marched to Halifax Court House,  
where the company remained some weeks collecting prisoners, and then marched with them on to  
Winchester Va. The company to which he belonged was detained to guard the prisoners and he in this  
service remained at Winchester till the term for which his father was drafted expired, when he returned  
home. Soon after his return home he heard that Cornwallis had surrenderd [19 Oct 1781]. At the  
expiration of the time of service applicant rec'd. a discharge. Six months service in all.

He has lost both his discharges, and has no documentary evidence of his services; Neither does  
he know of any person he can procure who can testify to his service, (except what is herein after stated  
by Charles Price.)

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and  
declares that his name is not on any pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

Thomas hisXmark Duncan

State of Tennessee } On this 3rd day of June 1833, personally appeared before the subscriber, a  
Monroe County } Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Monroe Thomas Duncan who  
being duly sworn deposeth and saith that he is the identical Thomas Duncan who made the declaration  
hereunto attached, before the Court of pleas and Quarter Sessions on Sept 19, 1832, to which he now  
makes the following Amended Declaration.

That he was born in Pitsylvania County, Va, in 1765. He has no record of his age.

He forgets who he rec'd his discharges from.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his character for veracity and  
their belief in his services as a soldier of the revolution viz Landon C. McKehan, Thos. McGuire,  
Abraham Gooden and Pleasant Eden.

He resided in Pittsylvania County Va, (where he lived till after he had rendered all his military service), till he was 21 years of age, then he moved to Caswell County NC, where he resided till about 30 years ago; then he moved into Anderson County Tennessee; where he lived till 22 years ago, or there abouts, when he moved into Roane County Tn where he resided till a year and some few months ago, when he came into the said County of Monroe where he now resides. Thomas hisXmark Duncan

NOTES:

For an account of the Botetourt Riflemen see <http://southerncampaign.org/newsletter/v4n123.pdf> page 60.

Charles Price, age 60, stated that he had been acquainted with Duncan for many years in Caswell County NC “where it was notorious that said Duncan had served the two campaigns,” and that he had also heard Capt. Dix frequently speak of Duncan’s service.

On 5 May 1849 Rhoda Duncan, 78, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Duncan in Pittsylvania County in 1786, and he died on 28 Dec 1845. The date of death was certified by Beryman Duncan (as he appears to have signed). On 8 March 1850 Rhoda Duncan stated that she married Thomas Duncan on 3 July 1786, and that her first and only child, Berriman Duncan, was born 12 months later. She stated that her father, George Whitten, recorded the birth of the child, as transcribed below. The family record is on the back of the title page of *A Pocket Hymn Book for the Use of Christians of All Denominations* published in 1790. She stated that the date of birth of her son’s wife was recorded below his. Her name appears to be Jenny Duncan, and the year of birth 1794, but this and an entry at the top of the page are otherwise illegible. On 24 Aug 1850 Rhoda Duncan stated that her marriage occurred on 23 July 1786.

Beriman Duncan Was born 24<sup>th</sup> October in the Year of our Lord 1787