

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Donnell (Donnel) W19182
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Sarah Donnell PA

Commonwealth of Virginia, Campbell County Sct

On this 18th day of April 1818 before me the Subscriber one of the Judges of the General Court of the Commonwealth aforesaid and Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit including the County of Campbell aforesaid personally appears John Donnell aged about sixty three years, resident in the town of Lynchburg in the County aforesaid who being by me first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land & Naval service of the United States during the Revolutionary War.” That he the said John Donnell in July 1776 in Lancaster County in the State of Pensylvania volunteered for six months in the service of the United States in a Company Commanded by Thomas Watson Captain. That in March 1777 he enlisted in the said service for & during the war as first serjeant under Capt Alexander [illegible] in the 7th Pensylvania Regiment commanded by Lt. Colo. Greer & Major Samuel Hays – that thereafter he was appointed Quarter Masters Serjeant in the same Regiment which was then commanded by Lt. Colo. Francis Charles Minges [sic: Francis Mintges]. That thereafter he was appointed & acted as Serjeant Major in the same Regiment which was then Commanded by Colo Josiah Harmar – that thereafter & after the Pensylvania line revolted at Mount Kimble [on 1 Jan 1781] the 4th & 7th Regiments were joined at Carlisle in Pensylvania into one, & he still continued to act as Serjeant Major, the Regiment then being commanded by Colo Wm Butler that he was thereafter detached and annexed to a Regiment commanded by Colo Walter Stuart [sic: Walter Stewart] of the Brigade Commanded by General [Anthony] Wayne – thence he was marched to Virginia where he remained untill the Capture of CornWallis at York [Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 Oct 1781] – thence he was marched to join General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] in South Carolina at the Round O – and continued under his command untill 1783 – thence he returned to Philadelphia where he was honorably discharged by Colo Josiah Harmar he thinks on the 31st day of October 1783 at which time he was Serjeant Major in the Regiment to which he belonged, & which was then called as he thinks, the 1st Pensylvania Regiment, being the remnant of three Regiments. That he was in the several Battles at long Island [27 Aug 1776] – White plains [28 Oct 1776] – Brandy Wine [Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] – German Town [Germantown, 4 Oct 1777] – Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] – at the Seige of York & various skirmishes – and that he is now in reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his Country for support – and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

State of Virginia

Corporation of Lynchburg sct.

On this 8th day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of record, expressly made so by the laws of this state, and held for the corporation aforesaid John Donnell aged Sixty five years, about next new year, resident in the town & corporation aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows viz: That he joined Capt. Thomas Watson’s company as a volunteer, in Lancaster county, Pensylvania on the 12th day of July 1776. he marched to the city of Philadelphia & joined Colo. Cunninghams [James Cunningham’s] Regiment, served for six months & was discharged – in the month of March following he inlisted to serve during the war in Capt. Alexander Parker’s company in the 7th Pensylvania Regiment commanded by Lt. Colo. Greer, and served in said Regiment untill 1781 when the Pensylvania line revolted. Then the 7th and 4th Regiments were united under the command of Colo. William Butler. There was then a draft made from each Regiment in the line to form a brigade under the command of General Wayne – that he belonged to the second Regiment, commanded by Colo. Walter Stewart. That he left York in Pensylvania the 5th May 1781 to join the Marquiss De la Fayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette] in Virginia and continued

with him till the surrender of Lord Cornwallis – after that, he was ordered to join Gen'l. Green in November 1781 in South Carolina. That he joined his army at Round O, and continued with him till 1783 when he took shipping at Charleston for Philadelphia, at which last place he was discharged, with the army by order of Gen'l. Geo. Washington on the 31st October 1783. That during the war he was in the battles of Long Island – White Plains – Brandywine – Paoli [Paoli, 21 Sep 1777] – Germantown – Monmouth – Jamestown [Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] – and the Capture of Lord Cornwallis' army at the Town of York in Virginia. That his original declaration was made on the 18th day of April 1818 and that the number of his pension certificate is 3775. – And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

Schedule

I have no other property real or personal other than that mention'd below viz: A few chairs – 2 old tables – 1 second hand bureau – 1 old sideboard – and several other old things about the house not worth more than Twenty dollars; the articles in the grocery of my wife are not of a value greater than thirty dollars, besides those purchased by her on a credit: I have one old negro man, purchased by my wife, who she informs me has not been paid for the negro man is crippled or deformed, having his right hand injured by the contraction of some of his fingers and is valued at \$150. my wife is aged about 58 or 59 years, my daughter is growing up in her 18th or 19th year and follows the Bonnet making business and sewing. I was a weaver by occupation but for the last eighteen years have been unable to pursue that or any other trade or occupation. My family consists of myself my wife named Sarah Donnell, my daughter named Mary Anne Donnell, and said negro man. I have some small debts due me, that I never expect to receive, which renders me unable to pay my creditors – To one the sum of \$6250 cts. To another \$41.00. To another \$25.00 and to another \$40.00. This scedule contains the truth so far as I am informed and believe

John Donnell

State of Virginia

Hustings Court of Lynchburg August Term 1821

Be it remembered that on this 9th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one, John Donnell aged about Sixty six, personally appeared in open Court, which is expressly constituted by law a Court of record, and on his oath makes the following declaration in order to obtain a pension under the several acts of Congress of the United States, passed the 18th day of March 1818 and the first day of May 1820. That on the 12th day of July one thousand seven hundred & Seventy six he said John Donnell volunteered under Capt. Thomas Watson of Lancaster County Pennsylvania, and marched thence to the city of Philadelphia where he joined the Regiment of Colo. Cunningham and served in said company and Regiment for six months, when the term for which he had volunteered having expired he was discharged. That in the month of March following towit March 1777 he said John Donnell enlisted at little York in the state of Pennsylvania under Capt. Alexander Parker of the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment on Continental establishment, commanded by Lieut Colo. Greer (Colo W. Irvine [William Irvine] having been taken Prisoner by the enemy) and continued to serve in the same untill the revolt of the Pennsylvania line in 1781 when the different regiments of that line were broken and the 7th and 4th consolidated under the command of Colo. William Butler; after this there was a draft from the different regiments of the Pennsylvania line for the purpose of forming a brigade under Gen'l. Wayne and said Donnell was one of those who were drafted, and was attached to the Second regiment under Gen'l. Wayne, commanded by Colonel Walter Stewart, that brigade was then ordered to join Marquiss La Fayette in Virginia which it did and continued in Virginia untill the capture of Lord Cornwallis. after the surrender

of Cornwallis the 3^d Regiment was divided between the first and Second regiments and those two ordered to join Gen'l. Greene. the second regiment was at this time commanded by Major James Hamilton & Evan Edwards [pension application W10943] In the year 1783 said Regiments were ordered back to Pennsylvania for the purpose of being discharged and said J. Donnell was regularly discharged on the 31st day of October 1783 at Philadelphia. In the course of the military service of said John Donnell he acted as 1st Serjeant of Capt. Parker's company in the 7th Regiment. he was Serjeant Major in the 7th Regiment before the revolt, and after the consolidation of the 7th & 4th was continued as Serjeant Major and continued to serve in this capacity in the different regiments untill the discharge at Philadelphia. Said J. Donnell was present in the following several actions, and in various other lesser affairs – He was in the battle on Long Island – the battle of White Plains – of Brandywine – of Paoli – of Germantown – of Monmouth – of Jamestown in Virginia & of the seige of York in Virginia. And said John Donnell doth solemnly swear that he was a citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818. The family of said John Donnell consists of two persons besides himself towit, his wife aged about fifty nine years and their daughter Marianna Donnell aged about nineteen years. from the infirm state of body of said John Donnell he is unable to afford his wife & daughter any assistance in their efforts to support himself & them. That untill about six months since his wife and daughter endeavoured to gain a support by a small confectionary or Grocery & by sewing but that their business became so dull as to be insufficient to afford a support and they abandoned it about last January. That his wife and daughter are now engaged in sewing and bonnet making from which they do not earn a sufficiency for a support for the family and that he is much indebted to a son-in-law for support who besides a large family, is a man of very small property. That he has applied for and obtained a pension of Eight dollars per month under the act of the 18th March 1818 and his pension certificate bore date the 20th of October 1818 and was numbered 3775 which pension was stopped under the act of the 1st May 1820. That about June 1820 he applied for a continuance of said pension but was refused. That in the declaration and schedule of June 1820 he amongst other things enumerated an elderly man slave named Mark, which he supposes was the cause of his application being rejected. That at the time of giving in his said schedule he did not know that his wife, from a change in the times, was as much indebted for articles to carry on her business as he found since the she really was, that she had the entire management of said business, and from a desire to discharge just debts incurred, she was compelled since the declaration and schedule aforesaid to sell not only said slave, Mark but all articles of groceries &c on hand, and that the proceeds of said articles were insufficient to pay off all her just debts, but that a part are still owing and due – And said John Donnell doth solemnly swear that he hath not nor hath any other disposed of any property or goods since the 18 day of March 1818 for the purpose or with the view of bringing himself within the provisions of, and obtaining the benefit of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War” passed the 18th day of March 1818 and that he hath not nor hath any person in trust for him any property or securities, contracts or debts due to him nor hath he any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed & by him subscribed
I have no property real or personal, or bonds except bedding which I understand is excepted.

(signed) J. Donnell

NOTES:

On 10 Aug 1843 Mary B. Perry, aged 60 on 18 March 1844, applied for the balance of pension sue to her father, John Donnel, and for a pension in the name of her mother, Sarah Donnel. She stated that her father died on 23 Feb 1830, and her mother died on 16 May 1840. She stated that the first child born to her mother was stillborn, that she was the second child, born in Philadelphia, and that the only other children still living were Ann J. Green, and Arra Anna Holmes

On 18 July 1843 Susannah Mosby, 76, stated that she had known John and Sarah Donnel about 1793 when they lived in Cartersville in Cumberland County VA, when they had two children – Polly and John, who was born in May 1786.