

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Christopher Dawson W2721 Lydia Dawson VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Kentucky } Sct
Clarke [sic: Clark] County }

On this 26th day of June 1840 personally appeared in open court before the Circuit Court of said County now sitting Hon. James Simpson Judge, Christopher Dawson a resident of Clarke County and State aforesaid, aged eighty 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 Officer; and served as herein stated. He served in the Militia service of Virginia in the County of Stafford, the names of all the officers he served under he cannot now recollect from infirmity & old age. He served under Captain James, and Capt Balls and Captain Toulson, and Capt Garrard or Col. Garrard as he was called both Col. & Captain [Captain, later Colonel, James Garrard] and under Captain Geo. MtJoy [George Mountjoy] – the given names of the others he does not now recollect, & indeed he does not know that he ever knew them. He saw William Washington who was then called a Capt. [promoted to Major 27 Jan 1777] – he does not know that he was ever under his command. The other officers under whom he served he does not now recollect. He entered the service when young, but the time he entered the service either of the year or month he cannot state with accuracy, but thinks it was first in the fall of the year when he was called out. He continued in the service for more than three years serving off & on when called out, he served on two or three occasions three months at a tour, he was a volunteer, and as such compelled to hold himself in readiness at a minutes warning. He was called at that time a minute man. The greater part of his service was in the county of Stafford and State of Virginia where he then resided & where he lived untill he was thirty odd or forty years old. He was in the engagement on the Potomack River at Brents or Brunts House when the British came up the river and fired on us & burnt the house. [Col. William Brent's house on Potomac River burned by Lord Dunmore, 16 Jul 1776.] He is ceratin that he served for three years put it all together. He was never in the Regular service or State line. One of his Brothers, he thinks it was Spencer [Spencer Dawson], was in the State lines or regular service he does not know which. He only served in the Militia. His Father died when he was very young & left him an orphan, without controll and without education and he has not now & dont think he ever had any documentary evidence of his service. That since moving to Kentucky he has never seen or heard of his relations or kindred in Virginia, except seldom & that not for a great many years untill within the last three or four weeks his Grand Niece Lydia Ann George came to see him very unexpectedly. He has endeavoured to find out some one to make proof of his services for several years back and could not get any unless he went to Virginia & he feared all his old associates were dead long ago & he was to poor to undergo the expense & too old & feeble to stand the Journey. He has now to work with his hands for his daily bread. Several of his terms of service were for the period of three months & a good many for a shorter time, but then he was liable to be called out at any minute. His memory is very indistinct as it regards dates, for it is greatly enfeebled by age. He never was employed in any civil pursuit by the Government. He only served his country in the militia and in the field & that he knows he did freely and faithfully as he could. He never made application for a pension before & 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.

The within declaration was sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid in open court
Christopher hisXmark Dawson

I James Simpson Judge of the Clarke circuit court have propounded the following interrogatories in open Court to Christopher Dawson on this 26th of June 1840 at the court house in Winchester

1st. Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Stafford County state of Virginia and in the year 1759 or 1760 – one of the two.

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

Answ. Yes I have a record and it is in Potomack Church Stafford County Virginia & I have not seen it for more than forty or fifty years.

3rd Where were you living when called into service; where have you lived since the Revolutionary war; and where do you now live?/ Answ./ I lived when called into service in Stafford County Virginia, I have lived in said county and the county of Clarke in the State of Kentucky ever since the Revolutionary War and I now live in said County of Clarke

4th How were you called into service; were you draughted did you volunteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute, for whom?/ Answ'r. I volunteered in the militia service & was called a minute man.

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served; such continental & militia regiments as you can recollect; and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer I recollect the names of Capt. James, Capt. Toulson, Capt. Rawls Capt or Col. Garrard since Gov or Kentucky, Capt. George MtJoy, but he does not now recollect the grade of said officers whether they were in the regular army or continental line; and the regiments he cant recollect. He served for three years off and on – often three months at a tour & sometimes less & sometimes they would be discharged & before they could get home or as soon as they got home they would be called out again – he served in Stafford County principally, up and down the River & at the Court house – he was called a minute man & was in the engagement when Brents house was burnt and had to retreat pretty rapidly. He served both warm weather & cold had a hard time of it. He remembers one Ports running & hiding in the swamp & marsh and laid out nearly all night & he was a great deal joked about. His memory is so enfeebled by age that he cannot give many particulars now.

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

Answer/ I never received any discharge and I dont know that any muster roll was kept.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood and who can testify to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answ/ I can state the names of B. D. Abbott Benjamin Allen Sr. Allen Armstrong & James Muir Sr. and many others if necessary.

The Deposition of Lydia Ann George taken at the office of Allan & Houston in the Town of Winchester State of Kentucky for the purpose of being read to substantiate the Claim of Christopher Dawson to a pension [one or two illegible words] Revolutionary Soldier. The Deponent being very aged her exact age not recollected but somewhere about seventy odd years of age – Deposeth & says that she has known Christopher Dawson of Clarke county Ky. since she was a child. She lived very near him in Stafford county virginia for a number of years about Thirty six or seven years and knows him intimately. She knows that he served in the Revolutionary War for the time of three years off & on as he was called on. He had to start at a minutes warning. He was then called a minute man He frequently would not take time to eat his victuals, in order to meet promptly the call made on him. He served with John Dawson [pension application S32206] & Spencer Dawson John Dawson has drawn a pension for the same service that Christopher was engaged in. She did not see him in actual service but saw him called out several times & saw him return home equipped as a soldier and she verely believes and so swares that he was in the actual service of his country in the war of the Revolution. John Dawson & Spencer are both dead. Christopher was young when he entered the service but quite abe to bear arms. She remembers that the service was considered dangerous and the friends were always greatly distressed when the boys were called out. She recollects their feelings & there crying as well as if it were yesterday. She recollects that he served under Captain James and Captain Ralls & Captain Toulson and under Col or Capt. Garrard and William Washington was his Colonel a part of his service [sic]. She heard at the time & believes that said Christopher was in an engagement at Brents House on the Potomack River in Stafford County. She heard the British cannon and guns firing frightfully, and further this deponent saeth not

Lydia herXmark Ann George

NOTE: On 2 Nov 1850 Lydia Dawson, about 82, applied for a pension stating that she married Christopher Dawson on 5 Oct 1784, and he died on 3 Nov 1846. On an application for bounty land dated 10 April 1855 Lydia Dawson was said to be 89, and she was said to have been married in Stafford County by someone named Bucker. An unsuccessful search was made for a record of the marriage of Christopher Dawson and Lydia Bridwell.