

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Denton W352

Mary Denton NC VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 25 Jan 2017.

State of Tennessee } On this 18th June 1833, personally appeared in open Court, before the
Monroe County } Justices of the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions, now sitting, John
Denton, a resident of said County of Monroe, aged 74 years, who being 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.

That he was born June 17th A.D. 1759, in Shanandoah County [sic: Shenandoah County, then part of Frederick County] Virginia, where he lived till he was about 15 years old, when he moved to the waters of Watauga in what is now Washington County Tenn'e. where he lived about 8 years; he then moved to Nolachucky river [sic: Nolichucky River] Tenn. where he lived upwards of 20 years; then to Overton County Ten, where he lived 8 years; then to said County of Monroe where he has resided ever since. He has a record of his age made by his father.

In the year – he thinks – 1776, while living on the Watauga River, in what is now Washington Co. E. Ten'e. [then part of North Carolina] the inhabitants in that section of country were driven into Virginia by the Cherokee Indians, who were instigated by the British. In the western part of Virginia forces were embodied to march down against said Indians. Applicant volunteered as a private at Riddles fort on the Holston river, in Virginia, under Capt James Young, Wm Young Lieut, in a company of infantry, Capt Young was killed by the Indians, about 20 miles from Riddles fort, & after his death the company was commanded by Lieut. Wm. Young [William Young], till they reached Long Island on the Holston [at present Kingsport], in what is now Sullivan County Tennessee. There the company went under the command of Captain James Shelby, Maj'r. Evan Shelby, & Col. Christy [William Christian]. After remaining at the Island a few days, they marched, under Col. Christy, down Lick Creek in what is now Greene County Tennessee, to Nolachucky river, then to French broad river, then on down to Tennessee River in what is now said Monroe County, where they camped six weeks or more. (While at Bryant's fort a company of spies found where a company of Indians were camped. He then went out in a company, against them under Capt Montgomery, and killed six Indians.) nothing serious occurred in Christys campaign. He rec'd. his discharge from Capt. Jas. Shelby – signed by Maj'r Evan Shelby, he thinks; which discharge he sent on to draw his pay, and has never seen it since. In this campaign he was engaged Three and a half months.

In, he thinks, A.D. 1777, (still living on the Watauga River.) he volunteered under Capt Thos. Price [Thomas Price] in a company of Cavalry, for the term of 6 months, to protect the fronteirs against the Cherokee Indians whom the British had instigated to make depredations. The company under Capt Price, Jarrett Williams Lieut, 50 in number ranged through what is now Greene and Hawkins Counties Tenn'e. and the western part of No. Car'a. for the term of Six months. The horses made considerable show, treading this ground where they travelled, which kept off the Indians. He served the 6 months stated, as a private, for which he rec'd five shillings prock[?] money, per diem. He rec'd. a discharge from Captn. Price, which is long since lost

In the year 1779 or '80 he volunteered while living on Nolachucky River, in what is now Washington Cty Ten. in the Cavalry, under Col. John Sevier, to go against the Cherokee Indians. When the Company was raised, Joseph Bullen was elected Captain, and applicant first Lieutenant, in which Offices they served. About 270 men were under Col Sevier, who marched from long creek in what is now Jefferson County Ten, where they all embodied to Cedar Springs in what is now Blount County Ten, where they had an engagement with the Indians and killed 12 of them, and wounded many more, as was thought. He killed one Indian whom he had pursued some distance, and from whom he took a new gun with "Georgia Rex" [sic: *Georgius Rex*: King George] on the barrel, and a new tomahawk, said to have been furnished by the British. He then under Col Sevier marched back to Buckingham Island, (as now

called,) in french broad, where they were joined by Col [Arthur] Campbell from Virginia, with about 300 men. They then all marched on down to the Tennessee River, in what is now Monroe County, and killed several Indians in the Campaign. In this campaign he was engaged as 1st Lieut. at least one month and a half. He rec'd. no discharge, and no pay.

Served in all eleven months.

The following persons are at present his neighbors, and can testify as to his character for veracity, & their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution viz, John McGhee Esq etc then H. Hurly esq. Nicholas Byars, And. Coward & C. Donohoo.

He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to 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. John hisXmark Denton

NOTE: On 30 January 1844 Mary Denton, 78, applied for a pension stating that she married John Denton on 1 April 1782, and he died on 2 July 1842. She submitted a family record from her Bible, which is transcribed below.

John Denton Sen'r was Born June the 17 AD. 1759

Mary Denton, Wife of John Denton, was Born February 27 AD. 1766

Births of the sons and daughters of John & mary Denton

Phebe Denton Was born February 15 AD. 1783

Sarah Denton was born February 1 AD. 1786

Reuben Denton Was born January 22 AD. 1788

Marthew Denton was born May 21 AD. 1790.

Abigail Denton Was born March 11[?] AD. 1792