

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Dobbins W3784 Elizabeth Dobbins PA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia Greenbrier County (towit)

At a Court held for the County of Greenbrier on the 22nd day of June 1819.

On this 22nd day of June 1819 personally appeared before the County Court of Greenbrier the same being a Court of Record, John Dobbins aged seventy two years past last New years day. And who being duly sworn on the Holy evangelist of Almighty God declared that he was in the revolutionary War on Continental establishment that he enlisted in the year seventeen hundred and seventy six in Lancaster County Pennsylvania for one year That he was enlisted by a Captain James Taylor and that he then belonged to 4th Pennsylvania Regiment Commanded by Colo. Anthony Waine [sic: Anthony Wayne] that he served out said Term of time and enlisted again in Chester Town in the County of Chester State of Pennsylvania in the year seventeen hundred & seventy seven for three years or during the War That he was enlisted by the said Capt. James Taylor and that he belonged to his company which belonged to the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment Commanded by Colo. Francis Johnston. That he served under said last enlistment untill the year 1783 when Colo. Harman [probably Josiah Harmar, pension application W3246] gave him a furlough without date that is to return again into the service again if required. That he never was ordered into the Service. That this furlough was given to him in said year of 1783 by said Colo. Harman at James Island South Carolina That said Furlough was lost. That he belonged to the Waggon department & that he was in no Battles That he is in reduced circumstances & stands in need of the Assitance of his Country for support.

Martin Dulany [Martin Delany S39425] a credible Witness also stated upon oath that said John Dobbins was in the revolutionary War upon Continental establishment that he enlisted in the year 1777 & that he served untill 1783. That he belonged to the same Regiment with himself that he knew him well & that said John Dobbins is poor

Virginia

At a Court held for the County of Nicholas on the fifth day of September 1820 before the Commonwealths Justices of the peace for the County aforesaid being a Court of Record constituted by General Assembly of the state of Virginia aforesaid

Be it Remembered that on the day & year aforesaid the following declaration was made by John Dobbins in the words & figures following to wit, "Virginia Nicholas County to wit, on this fifth day of September 1820 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of Record for the said County of Nicholas constituted such by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia John Dobbins aged 74 years resident in said County of Nicholas who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. That he enlisted in the company commanded by Capt. James Taylor in the 4th Pennsylvania Reg't commanded by Col. Waine That on the 22^d day of June 1819 he made his original declaration before the County Court of Greenbrier which was transmitted to the war department & thereupon he received a pension certificate No. 16401 dated the twenty sixth of December 1820. 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. All the property which I own or possess is as follows – one old Horse, one mare, 4 Cows, 3 Calves, twenty head of hogs most of them pigs, six old knives & forks, four or five old pewter plat[es] four or five earthen plates six cups & saucers

one tea pot one cream pot one or two old pails, one chain, & some few old tin cups number I do not recollect.

I am a farmer but I am at this time & have been for some time past unable to work owing to old age, and an accident of having my left foot split from the big toe to instep by the cut of an Ax. I have also lost the sight of one of my eyes, my right knee has been put out of joint for eighteen years past, so that I am entirely unable to contribute the smallest to my support. I have no family except a wife 70 years of age last November who has been continually sick she is helpless & less able than myself to contribute to our support. signed Jno. Dobbins

United States of America, State of Virginia and County of Gilmer August 14th 1845

In order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 Entitled an act allowing widows of Revolutionary Officers and Soldiers who were married before the 1st day of January 1794 and after the last period of service of their husbands a pension for five years from the 4th day of March 1836 and of a later act or resolution extending the same from the 4th day of March 1842 to the 4th day of March 1843, and of another act or resolution extending the same from the 4th day of March 1843 to the 4th day of March 1844 and also of the act or resolution of Congress passed the 17th June 1844 extending the benefits of the aforesaid act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 to four years from the 4th day of March 1844

I Elizabeth Dobbins now make the following statements under oath. I am the widow of John Dobbins who was a soldier in the War of the Revolution of the Pennsylvania line and enlisted in a company commanded I think by James Taylor of the 4th Reg't of said line Commanded by Col Wayne, that my said Husband was in several Battles and rec'd four diferent wounds and drew a pension of 96 Dollars a year from about 1820 or 21 to the day of his death which took place the 11th day of April 1833 that my said husband lost his original certificate and obtained from the deparment of War a Duplicate thereof about the year 1830 or 31. And I farther say that I am about ninety years of age, cannot say precisely there being no record of my birth now to be found, that I was born near the Shenandoah River bout one mile from Millerstown now call'd Woodstock in Va as I am inform'd and there lived to about ten years of age, when my Father whose name was Samuel Keener removed with his family to the state of Pensylvania on to what was called Whiteley Creek and about fifteen miles from Morgantown in Va, and there resided most of the time with my parents to the time of my marriage which took place in the state of Penna. aforesaid but the name of the place or County & Township I do not now remember at near thirty years of age and in the immediate vicinity where my parents lived to John Dobbins aforesaid by one John Minor Esq'r. I farther state that after my marraige I lived some two years near where I was married and from there I removed to Pattersons Creek in Hampshire Va where my son Samuel and the only child I ever had was born who is now in the fifty ninth year of his age, but how long I lived there I cannot now state as my husband was poor and after moving from place to place I remember to have lived several year in Monongalia Cy Va but all the places and lenght of time I lived at those places I cannot now remmember, but when my son was about eighteen years old we removed to Harrison Cy on Little Kanhawa [sic: Little Kanawha River] and there lived five years from there we removed to Elk River in Randolph County and there lived nine years from there to Lewis County and there lived seventeen years till the death of my husband, and there resided from the death of my husband till last April, when I removed to Kanhawa County with one of my Grandsons. That parts of Harrison Lewis and Randolph before stated wh[ere] I lived is now within the limits of a new County call'd Braxton and I farther state that from the day of my marriage with John Dobbins aforesaid, which was about sixty years ago, to day of the death of said Dobbins, I always lived with him and ever faithfully perform'd the duties of wife, that I was legally and lawfully married and before the first day of Jan'y 1794, and ever since the death of my husband John Dobbins aforesaid I have remained a widow I therefore claim the benefits of the acts & resolutions before written entitling me to a pension of Eighty Dols a year from the 4th day of March 1836 to the 4th March 1841, from the 4th of March 1842 to the 4th of March 1843 and from the 4th of March 1843 to the 4th March 1844, and from the 4th of March 1844 for 4 years. I hereby state that I am old and feeble, and unable to go Charleston the County seat of the County where I now live It being thirty seven miles and from where I live no waggon road, there being

only a riding path rough and mountainous, and from those causes cannot get there to make the Declaration, and cannot obtain two Magistrates within twenty miles of the place of my residence, and living near the County line of Gilmer County and convenient to two Magistrates in said County is the reason why I make this my declaration in Gilmer.

To the Secretary of War of the United States and the Commissioner of Pensions.

Elizabeth herXmark Dobbins

NOTES:

A document from the November Term 1830 of Lewis County Court certified that "John Dobbins of this County has become unsound in mind, and incapable of managing and conducting his business."

John Dobbins, Jr certified that this John Dobbins was the former soldier and pensioner.

On 17 Nov 1845 Samuel Dobbins, 58, of Braxton County VA, made a statement in support of his mother's application, stating that he was married on 9 August 1808, and that his oldest child was born 2 Aug 1809. On 25 Aug 1845 George Keener, 72, of Taylor County VA, also made a supporting statement for Elizabeth Dobbins, his oldest sibling. He stated that John Dobbins was a stranger not long out of the service, and that her parents at first objected to the marriage.