

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of John Dickey: W3962

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of North Carolina} SS.
Iredell County}

On this 12 day of September 1844 personally appeared before the presiding Judge of the Supreme Court of Law and Equity for the County of Iredell Elizabeth Dickey a resident of the County of Rowan in the State aforesaid aged about Seventy nine years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Captain John Dickey who was a Captain in the Militia of North Carolina and served one or more Tours under Gen'l [Griffith] Rutherford on the borders of South Carolina and one other tour under Gen'l. [William Lee] Davidson and was near the person of that General when he fell in the Skirmish with the British when they crossed the Catawba River at Cowans Ford [1 Feb 1781] and served as Captain of a Company under Col [Francis] Locke in the Battle of Ramsours Mill [20 June 1780]. That he courageously led on the attack in that battle. That when a retreat was ordered by the Commander in that battle the said Captain Dickey refused to quit his post bravely fighting Sword in hand until the line which was broken and driven back was restored and the Battle gained. that he was nearly all his time in the army from the time the British landed in the City of Charleston [spring 1780] till the close of the war. That he was in other battles & skirmishes the name of which she can not recollect. that he had the care of several Barrels of Powder which he kept hid about his own House till about the time the British crossed the Catawba, when finding he was watched by some suspicious neighbours he procured the Removal of the powder through the aid of some trusty friends to a place of safety. That her Husband John Dickey resided during the war and afterwards till his death in the County & State above named [sic: Iredell County formed from Rowan in 1788]. That he always served as a Volunteer. That she has no documentary evidence as to her husband's services to support her claim. She further declares that she was married to the said Captain John Dickey on the 18th day of November 1793 and that her Husband the aforesaid John Dickey died on the 20th day of March 1808. That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but that the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 viz at the time above stated. She further declares that her reason for making this declaration with County of Iredell aforesaid is that she has been spending the summer at the Mineral springs in the aforesaid County of Iredell, and further that she never knew until about the month of July last past that she was entitled to a pension or had any claim to one. - all of which will more fully appear on reference being had to the proof hereunto annexed. - Sworn to & Subscribed before the Court as aforesaid. Elizabeth herXmark Dickey

State of North Carolina}

Rowan County}

on this 10 day of April 1852 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for said County John S Johnson a resident of said County aged thirty five years [illegible word] maks oath that he well acquainted with Elizabeth Dickey who was the widow of the late Capt John Dickey and who affiant was not acquainted with having died before affiant was born but who affiant always understood was a captain in the militia Service in the Revolutionary war from said Rowan County that affiant was well well acquainted with his widow the said Elizabeth Dicky his earliest recollection that previous to her death she was an applicant for a pension in rite of her said husband John Dickey dec'd but which claim affiant does not think was ever allowed that she died in said Rowan County N.C. some time in the month of September 1845 that she left Margrett Anderson who is still living and who was the only living child and heir of her the said Elizabeth Dickey [illegible word] that after the death of the husband the said John Dickey His widow the said Elizabeth did not again intermarry that affiant from his earliest recolection always understood from the old persons in the neighborhood that said John Dickey was a captain in the service of the united States in the

revolutionary war that he was one of the first to resist the oppression in North Carolina and that he was one of the best whigs in the County at that day Sworn to and subscribed before me the date above [signed] J S Johnston
[signed] Jas H Enniss JP

NOTES:

A typed summary in the file adds the following: "[I]t appears that John Dickey was a resident of Center Congregation, Rowan County, North Carolina, at the commencement of the Revolution. He served from the beginning to the end of the Revolution as a Captain of the North Carolina militia and was engaged in the battles of Ramsour's Mill, Camden, King's Mountain and Cowan's Ford."

In the file is a copy of a marriage bond signed by John Dickey of Iredell County and Thomas Harris of Mecklenburg County on 10 Nov 1793 for the marriage of Dickey to Elizabeth Leacy.

The file also includes pages from a Bible with the following handwritten entries:

"John Dickey departed this life 20th of March 1808 Aged 84 Years
Judith[?] Dickey was Born ye 12th day of July 175 [last digit illegible]
Mary Dickey was Born October ye 9 1759
Samuel Dickey was Born August ye 29 1765
John Dickey and Elisabeth Leasey was Married November ye 18 1793
Peggy Dickey was Born September ye 21 1795
John Dickey Junior was Born October ye 8th 1799"

The typed summary states that the three people listed above the marriage were children of John Dickey by a previous wife. It further states that Elizabeth Dickey died 27 Sep 1845 at age 79.

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Supplement to John Dickey W3962

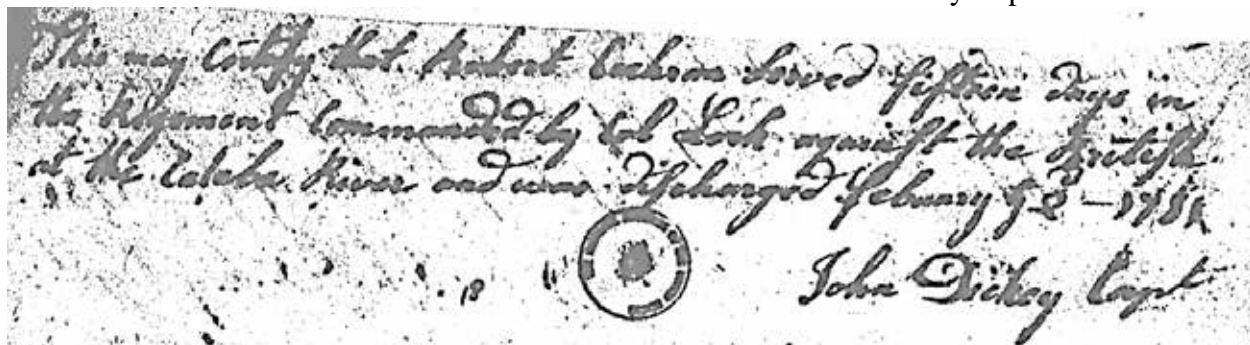
Transcribed and submitted by Fred Weyler 4/20/13

John Dickey FPA w3962

[p18, a discharge certificate with illegible rubber stamp or seal]

This may certify that Robert Cochran served fifteen days in the regiment commanded by Col Lock against the British at the Cataba [sic Catawba] River and was discharged February 12, 1781.

s/ John Dickey Capt



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State of North Carolina

Iredell County

On this 30th day of Sep^r 1840 personally appeared before me D F Cowan, one of the acting justices of the peace in & for the county aforesaid David Hair¹ a resident of said county who is a pensioner of the United States aged about eighty five years who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and sayeth that he was well acquainted with Captain John Dickey who served in the Revolutionary War, this identical person who was the husband of present applicant Elizabeth Dickey. That the said Captain Dickey resided during the war in Center Congregation then Rowan County now Iredell, state aforesaid in the neighborhood of the Brevards. That he served one campaign of five months with said Dickey who commanded a company under General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford] in South Carolina at Camdin [sic Camden, the battle of which was fought on August 15-16, 1780] and in that region of country. That deponent and Captain Dickey were both under Genl Rutherford when that General was taken prisoner. That he & Capt. Dickey served one other tour of three months together under Genl Davidson & were both under that Genl when he was killed at Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River & when the Brittish [sic] crossed the said river at said ford the said Dickey still serving as captain & commanding a company. That the deponent thinks Capt Dickey served with him in one other tour to Wilming-

[p61] ton [Wilmington] state aforesaid of three months. The deponent is not certain of this service but thinks he is well known that Captain Dickey was almost continually in the service during the whole war & generally acted as captain in all his services. That he was usually called

¹ [David Hair S6978](#)

“old Captain Dickey” in consequence of his being as deponent supposes about fifty years of age at that time. That deponent in going from his farm to join his company in South Carolina lodged at Capt Dickey’s house over night at one time. That he always understood that Capt Dickey commanded a company under Col Locke at the battle of Ramsour’s Mill [June 20, 1780]. Deponent was not in that battle but his brother Robt Hair² was & he often heard him Robt Hair speak of Capt Dickey’s gallant conduct in that battle. That Capt Dickey was always reputed in this region of country up to the time of his death to have been a soldier of the Revolution, that from old age & loss of memory deponent cannot recollect any other particular services of Captain Dickey, but deponent knows that said Dickey was in the service as aforesaid & was almost continually out during the war as aforesaid that from bodily infirmities, deponent cannot appear in open court to make this affidavit. Further he sayeth not. Sworn to & subscribed on the day and year above written.

Before me

David Hair, x his mark

W. F. Cowan J.P.

Supplemented by Will Graves

4/20/13

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State of North Carolina Iredell County

On this 26 day of September 1840 Personally appeared before me W. T. Cowin a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid John Cochran aged about eighty years a resident of the County [&] State aforesaid who after being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is well acquainted with Elizabeth Dickey and that she is the widow of the identical Captain John Dickey who served in the Revolutionary War as stated in the declaration of Elizabeth Dickey – his said widow. He further says that he was well acquainted with the said John Dickey before during and after the Revolutionary War, that said Dickey served as a Captain during the said war, under General Rutherford sometimes, also that said Dickey was Captain of a company in the battle of Ramsour's Mill [June 20, 1780], where he acted with great bravery during the battle so much so, that his conduct on that day was the chief topic of conversation in his neighborhood & the country around for some time afterwards, that he still recollects part of a song that was composed immediately after that battle & frequently sung for a long time afterwards – the only verse or part of a first that has not escaped his memory is as follows viz.

"As for old Colonel C___, he kept pretty well back,

While brave Captain Dickey brought on the attack

He ordered them to retreat & form

Which made our old hero graviously [grievously?] Storm"

That [he, Dickey] was Captain of a company & served under General Davidson in guarding the Fords on the Catawba River & was at Cowans Ford when the British crossed at that place when General Davidson was killed & continued firing until his men had nearly all left him & till numbers of the enemy had passed him, when he (Dickey) secretive himself under the bank of the River till the British had passed on, he then followed on & joined his company – that he does not recollect any other Battles, the said Dickey was engaged in, but has no doubt he was in others, as deponent well knows said Dickey was engaged as a volunteer in various Services, pretty much during the whole of the war from first to last and was accounted & revered in his neighborhood

² [Robert Hair S9567](#)

as a brave Captain of the Revolution up to the time of his death which took place about the year 1808 – in the spring that said Dickey was about 50 years of age or upwards of 50 when he quit the service that he the said Dickey & Elizabeth Leasy were married in the fall or winter of 1793 & that they lived together as man & wife up to the period of said Dickey's death – that he was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church for a long time before & up to the time of his death further deponent saith not.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year above written.

W. T. Cowan, JP

S/ John Cochran



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State of North Carolina Comptroller's Office

I William J Clarke, Comptroller of Public Accounts in and for the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that it appears of record, in my office among the payments made by said State to sundry persons, in the Revolutionary War, as follows, to wit:

John Dickey

Indent or Army Certificate No. 3071 issued by Auditors of Salisbury July 2nd 1782 £41 S1 D6 specie allowed Captain John Dickey for Militia Service"

Ditto No. 1570 Ditto August 29th 1782 £106 S10 specie

Ditto No. 4002 ditto date illegible £14 S3 D6 specie

Ditto No. 7713 ditto March 31st 1784 £9 S9 specie for Militia service –

Ditto No. 3617 issued by Auditors of Hillsboro District August 20th 1783 £22 S10 D2 specie

Book No. 5 page 40 £14 S3– specie

" A " 81 £12 S16 – specie

Vol. C. 4782 £40 – specie

" " 3860 £12 S16 – specie

" " 3611 £4 – specie

I further certify that the above payments are all that I have been able to find of record, but it does not follow as a necessary consequence that they are all that were made, as it is perfectly certain that many of the records are lost or destroyed, and the returns from the Western part of this State, where John Dickey lived our very defective.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office this 19th April 1852

S/ Wm J. Clarke, Comptr

[p 47: Power of attorney dated April 24, 1852 given by Martha Anderson of Rowan County North Carolina in which she authorizes her attorney to pursue the claim of her mother Elizabeth Dickey widow of Captain John Dickey



] [Note: there are a number of letters in the file from Margaret Anderson to J L Edwards regarding her claim.]

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State of North Carolina Rowan County: On this the 14th day of April 1852 personally appeared before me James H Ennis an acting Justice of the Peace in & for said County Alfred D Kerr resident of Iredell County, aged fifty-seven years makes oath in due form of law that he is the son of James Kerr late of Rowan County in North Carolina who was Lieutenant under Captain Falls [Gilbraith Falls] who fell at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill in the Revolutionary War in 1780, and that he now resides on the same plantation owned during the Revolutionary War by Adam Terrence and called Terrence's cross roads. That he was in his youth, well acquainted with Captain John Dickey who resided within two miles of said Cross Roads; That his Father and the said Captain Dickey lived in the same neighborhood & were elders in the same church at that time – from Affiant's earliest recollection, That affiant's Father & said Dickey belonged to the same Committee of Safety – previous to the Revolutionary War – in said Rowan County, That Affiant has often heard his Father & said Dickey speak of the various occurrences of that day, that the said Dickey was Captain in command of a militia Company in the Revolutionary War, & performed considerable service during said war. Affiant distinctly recollects hearing his Father & said Captain Dickey speak of being in the same service at the Battle at Ramsour's Mill. That when Captain Falls was shot down Affiant's Father being Lieutenant under said Falls his horse was shot from under him – at that time, just at this time, as affiant always understood from his Father – that the said Captain Dickey being in command of a Company of Infantry marched up immediately in the rear using the following words to wit: "*Huzzah Boys fight on – take good aim – I see some of them falling every time we shoot.*"

That from Affiant's earliest recollection he has frequently heard his Father & said Captain Dickey speak of the language used by said Captain Dickey on that occasion and which sense, Affiant can recollect he has often heard various others repeat – having become a byword, Among the old soldiers of that day – Affiant does not know how long said Captain Dickey remained in actual service during said war – but always understood that he took a very active part in & performed considerable service in said War that he was among the first in said Rowan County to resist the Oppression of Great Britain. Affiant recollects that previous to his Father's death he was shown by his said Father the Battle Ground of Ramsour's Mills – that his Father showed him where Captain Falls fell and showed him where Falls, Bowman, & Smith were all buried in the same grave, Affiant does not recollect the precise time, when Captain Dickey died – but that he died in the same neighborhood many years ago – that at the time of his Death, he left his widow who survived him several years but the precise date of her Death affiant does not know – nor does affiant now recollect who were for living children.

S/ A. D. Kerr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. D. Kerr". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 74: Application dated November 19, 1846 filed in Iredell County North Carolina by Elizabeth Anderson, aged about 55 years, under the 1838 act for the pension due her mother Elizabeth Dickey deceased late of Rowan County; that her mother died September 27, 1845 leaving 2 children viz. John Dickey now dead & this affiant.]