

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of Frederick Debow W7005  
Transcribed by Will Graves

Rachel  
fn62NC  
2/23/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Tennessee Smith County: On this first day of July 1837 Personally appeared Rachel Debow a resident of the County of Smith and State of Tennessee before me Charles McMurry one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for said County aged seventy-eight years on ~~the last~~ the 15th of last March who being first 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 the fourth 1836.

That she is the widow of Frederick Debow who was a wagon master General in the Army of the Revolution and entered the said Service in that capacity in the spring of 1777 as well as she recollects. He left Edenton in North Carolina having in charge and under his command the baggage wagons with ammunition and military equipments clothing etc. for the Soldiers and marched to Philadelphia. Major Tilmon Dixon [sic, Tilghman Dixon] was then a Capt. and was ordered he and his men to march as a guard to the Wagons. He was out a three months tour in this Service. In about six or seven weeks after this tour of service this applicant and the said Frederick Debow were married in September of the same year. He entered the service again immediately or rather was continued as he had a regular commission for wagon master General and acted in that capacity but sometimes acted as Commissary for certain detachments of the armies of North and South Carolina he served from the time they were married to the close of the war when Cornwallis was taken at Little York Virginia but this affiant cannot recollect whether he was detained in North Carolina or was in Virginia at that time. During the three or four years that he was in the service he would frequently come home and stay a few days and then join the Army more especially when he was not far off. She recollects but one battle that he was engaged in and that was the battle of Guilford. She recollects well the day before she lived in Caswell County adjoining and could hear distinctly cannon firing in that direction. She and her Negro woman were endeavoring to sow oats it was the spring of the year and an American officer rode by and asked her if she knew what was the cause of the firing of cannon and upon her answering in the negative he told her it was no doubt the great battle that was fighting at Guilford Court House. He even asked her if her husband was there and alighted, showed her Negro woman how to sow the oats and then proceeded on his route. She could give a history of most of the transactions of the war in North and South Carolina but deems it unnecessary as she can she thinks produce abundant proof of her husband's Services by living witnesses and will close this declaration by one or two other circumstances. After the battle of Guilford her husband and Major Archibald Murphey came home and the British was in the neighborhood at the Red house which was a considerable tavern kept at the forks of the roads and she had to watch while her husband and Murphey slept they had their swords each of them and a gun a piece and they hid

their guns out and directed her to watch so that on the approach of a hostile so they could get their guns and at the least defend themselves and the house; they rose early next morning and joined the Army under General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] across the River Dan. She thinks that his last tour of service was after the Tories he acted as Capt. and went to Hillsboro. She cannot say whether he was in the service three or four years but must rely upon other proof that she is convinced three years would not be more than he served.

She further declares that she was married to the said Frederick Debow in September 1777 as well as she now recollects. That her husband the aforesaid Frederick Debow died in October or September 1810 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed. She further states that she had his commission for many years after his death together with a great many papers but she cannot say whether any of them can now be family. She further declares that through old age and bodily infirmity she cannot travel to the Courthouse in order to make this declaration in open court. Sworn to and subscribed before me this day and date above written.

S/ Rachel Debow, X her mark

S/ Charles McMurry, JP

[fn p. 6]

State of Tennessee Smith County

On this day personally appeared Sarah Thomson aged about seventy-three years of age and made oath in due form of law that she recollects the service of Frederick Debow in the war of the revolution he was this affiant's brother but lived some distance from her on a plantation that her mother had left on the death of this affiant's father. She knows that Frederick Debow was a tour of service and was stationed at Hillsboro and also another tour he went to South Carolina believes one of these tours to have been to subdue the Tories but she cannot say how long each tour was or whether he served longer. She knows of the marriage very well but this affiant was at home but her Brother and his wife came to her mother's in a few days after the marriage her Brother Frederick Debow and his wife had to come 30 or 40 miles from to her mother's. This affiant believes Frederick Debow served most of the time during the war of the North and South Carolina but on account their living at such distance she cannot give particulars.

She believes most of the service was after they were married.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ninth day of August 1837

S/ Charles McMurry, JP

S/ Sarah Thompson, X her mark

[fn p. 10]

State of Tennessee Smith County: On this day personally appeared Sarah Thomson before me Charles McMurry one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath in due form of law that she is desirous of amending her testimony in favor of Rachel Debow for a Pension. She has reflected and thought more about it since her affidavit was taken and finds that she has a distinct recollection of one tour of service performed by her Brother Frederick Debow in the War of the Revolution. She in her former testimony mentioned that her brother lived about 30 miles off on a Plantation left him by his father at the time of his marriage with Rachel Debow his present widow. She cannot say whether it was before or after the marriage that her Brother Frederick Debow came to her mother's he was on his way then to join his company and persuaded his younger brother Benjamin Debow to go with him it was a volunteer company raised for the term of three months and was then organizing at Hillsborough.

Her mother was very reluctant at first to let Benjamin go but finally consented they both left her mother's together and joined as volunteer light horse troops their company at Hillsboro they were gone a three months tour and returned together. They were marched to the high hills of Santee and stationed there and on the borders of South Carolina partly as a check upon the Tories, thinks it was before the battle of Gates defeat and is certain it was some time before the battle of Guilford. She cannot State who was their Capt. nor any of their officers names. Sworn to and subscribed before made this 13th October 1837

S/ Charles McMurry, JP

S/ Sarah Thompson, X her mark

[fn p. 47]

State of Tennessee Haywood County

On this 10th day of September 1838 before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the County of Haywood aforesaid personally appeared Herndon Haralson<sup>1</sup> of lawful age, and a man of veracity and made oath in due form: That during the Revolutionary War he was personally acquainted with Frederick Debow then of Caswell County, North Carolina. That in the year 1779 or 1780, as well as this affiant recollects, this said the bow was on a Tour of duty to the North, that he acted as wagon master under Col. Tilmon Dixon then Capt. Dixon probably for three months. That on his return he continued & entered on a Tour to the South of three months then as a mounted militia man, and this affiant further saith that at the time when General Greene retreated before Lord Cornwallis from the South through North Carolina into Virginia about the first of the year 1781, this said Debow was in the Army, he frequently saw him in actual service, but as he did not belong to this affiant's company he does not recollect in what capacity. -- this affiant saith that after the Battle at Guilford he himself had charge of a company of mounted militia and marched with General Greene to the South and continued till after the battle of the Eutaw Springs, during this time affiant saith that said Debow acquired the title of Capt. and that he had been in form that he served and commanded as such six months at or near Hillsboro he was a very active man and generally in the service of his Country at that time and from the belief of this affiant he must have (at least) served 12 months and six months of that time as Capt. of a company in the revolutionary army.

Sworn and subscribed before me the day and year aforesaid.

S/ W. E. Owen, JP

S/ H. Haralson

[fn p. 55]

State of Tennessee, Smith County

This day personally appeared Reuben Graves<sup>2</sup> a resident of Jackson County in State aforesaid before me Silas C. Cornwell one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Smith and State of Tennessee and made oath before me in due form of law that he is about seventy-seven years of age. That he is now a Pensioner of the United States. He states that he was well acquainted with Rachel Debow before her marriage with Frederick Debow they went to school together lived close neighbor's her name previous to her marriage was Rachel Rogers. This affiant was present at their marriage believes it was the identical time she mentions in her Declaration to wit in September 1777 he knows it was in the time of the year they were making cider at her father's who had a large orchard and made a great quantity of cider he recollects it was at the time also the country people were making and taking care of their fodder:

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<sup>1</sup> [Herndon Haralson S1828](#)

<sup>2</sup> FPA S3408

he knows that she was legally married to the said Frederick Debow he thinks Major Archibald Murphey married them he was a Justice of the peace. This affiant knows from his own knowledge that Frederick Debow was a wagon master in the War of the Revolution. But this affiant does not recollect the particulars of his service as after his marriage he moved higher up in North Carolina and this affiant lived in Virginia close to the line and when this affiant was called to serve the tours of service he performed he always had to go North in his own state except one tour he went south when the battle of Stono on Savannah River was fought at which time this affiant was at Camden. Mrs. the bow's father lived at the time of the marriage on the line between North Carolina and Virginia.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of July 1837

S/ Silas C. Cornwell, JP

S/ Reuben Graves

[fn p. 57]

State of Tennessee Wilson County: On this day personally appeared Alexander McMenemy<sup>3</sup> a resident of Wilson County State of Tennessee before me George Brown one of the acting Justices of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid and made oath in due form of law. That he was well acquainted with Frederick Debow in the War of the Revolution. They lived in the same County of Caswell North Carolina. Frederick Debow had been out in the service before this affiant served under him which he will mention during his relation of facts. This affiant states that about the fall of 1780 and as well as he can now recollect he volunteered as a private Soldier for the term of six months as well as he recollects but would refer in this matter as to dates to the statement made by him in support of his own Pension, and Frederick Debow was their Capt. his Lieut.'s name was Gatewood Col. Moore was then Col. they were marched to Hillsboro and there stationed to guard the General Assembly and suppress the Tories he therefore knows of his own knowledge that Frederick Debow was a Capt. during this tour of service and continued as Capt. until the tour of service was performed. This affiant got a discharge from under the hand of Capt. F. Debow but lost it and has sent a copy of it which he fortunately retained to Washington with his declaration in support of his Pension. It was during this tour when they were out after the Tories and having met some soldiers who were discharged from the service in South Carolina and the soldiers recognized their old Capt. saying as they met each other "how do you do Capt. what out again in the service" this led to a conversation with the soldiers and this affiant gathered from their friendly conversation that these were soldiers that had served under Capt. F. Debow previous to that time and that the bow was their Capt. He thinks it must have been a tour to the North or at least some time before for he distinctly recollects one of the soldiers saying during this conversation "we have no such good times as we had when we served under you Capt." It was at the close of this tour of service that this affiant recollects Capt. F. Debow expressing great anxiety to go home and see his wife and children.

This affiant after their return home which was in the latter part of the winter and the beginning of the year 1781 volunteered again and entered the service as the British was at that time advancing upon North Carolina in the direction of Guilford Court House he did not know as well as he now recollects at what time F. Debow entered the service again but recollects distinctly on the morning of Guilford battle this affiant was the Sgt. of twelve men and was guarding seven prisoners and Capt. Debow came up in a hurry on horseback and ordered this affiant to take charge of General Butler's baggage wagon but this affiant refused stating to F. Debow that they were ordered to march the prisoners they had twelve miles to Troublesome Iron

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<sup>3</sup> [Alexander McMenemy S4201](#)

Works in the rear of the American Army and that he must get some others for that he would not. This affiant understood afterwards and at that time that he was wagon master and had the command of the baggage wagons. After the close of the war Capt. F. Debow and this affiant had several conversations about the war of the Revolution and this affiant learned from the conversations that Debow was out in most of the time that the war raged in North and South Carolina but as these conversations were had long ago he cannot state any particulars with certainty except those before mentioned.

This affiant will therefore only say that he knows of his own knowledge that Frederick Debow served as Capt. one tour of six months, one other tour during the time when the battle of Guilford was fought of six months and believes from the circumstances he witnessed and information he got in the Army he must have served the last tour in the capacity of wagon master.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this 14th day of August 1837

S/ Alexr. McMennamy

S/ George Brown, JP

[fn p. 8]

State of Tennessee Davidson County

On this 14th day of August 1852, personally appeared John A Debow, Solomon Debow and Bird Debow, residents of Smith & Wilson Counties Tennessee and made oath in due form of law that they are the only surviving children & heirs at law of Rachel Debow deceased who was the widow of Frederick Debow, who was a private, Capt., Deputy Commissary, and Wagon Master, in the Revolutionary War from the State of North Carolina, and who served for a considerable length of time in said War, that they received from the United States a pension, as children of Rachel Debow deceased, of \$146 per annum under the act of July four, 1836, after deducting former pavements at the rate of \$26.67 from the fourth day of March 1831 to 6th January 1840 when she died, that they do not believe that they have received as large an amount per annum as they are entitled to, as they are satisfied that their deceased father, Frederick Debow performed more service that has been allowed them, and that they make this Declaration for the purpose of obtaining and increase of said Pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 14th day of August 1852

S/ Robert W. Greene, JP

S/ John A Debow

S/ Solomon Debow

S/ Bird Debow

[fn p. 13: certificate dated June 24, 1851 from the North Carolina Comptroller's Office indicating payments made to Frederic Debow and August 1782 & also to him as Deputy Commissary and wagon master.]

[fn p. 15: on August 18, 1851 in Smith County Tennessee John A. Debow, 67 filed a claim stating that he is the son and one of the heirs at law of Rachel Debow, a pensioner as a widow of a revolutionary war soldier; he states his mother died January sixth, 1840 survived by John Debow, Solomon Debow and Bird Debow.]

[fn p. 36]

Raleigh 11th April 1838

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 27th Ultimo was received yesterday enclosing one dollar Alabama money -- I may get it off with someone traveling to the South or West.

I have very carefully examined the rolls and the settlements of the line of this State in the revolutionary war for the name of Frederick Debow, but do not find [it]. From what I have seen & heard I don't think wagon master's were returned on the rolls generally, as they were off probably attending to their duties when the rolls of those who bore arms were called.

Very respectfully Yours etc.

S/ Wm Hill [NC Secretary of State]

A. Ferguson, Esqr.