

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Robert Donelson (Donalson, Donaldson) W7041 Margaret fn20NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd3/8/10

[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, Williamson County

On this ___ day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County of Williamson, State of Tennessee now sitting, Robert Donelson, a resident of Williamson aforesaid in the state aforesaid aged about 65 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 as a substitute for a stranger whom he met as he was going on to join the army under Gen. Butler who received him as a substitute as aforesaid & was placed in the company commanded by Captain Thomas Thompson about the first day of January 1781, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Thomas Taylor then stationed at Granville Court House in General Butler's Brigade. After remaining there some time he marched to the neighborhood of Guilford Court House & there joined General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] & his army. He remained with the army under his command until after the battle at Guilford Court House then retreated to the Iron Works & remained there some time. Then to Deep River at Ramsey's Mills, he stayed there some time with the troops under General Butler after General Greene left them in pursuit of the enemy. He then was marched to Granville Court House & remained there until discharged in April same year making a tour of three months in which he served this campaign for which he received a discharge but which has been lost or destroyed.

He entered the service of the United States a second time in the fall of the year 1781; as a substitute for James Dorherty in the company commanded by Captain William Rylie, rest of company officers not recollected. Captain Rylie's company was stationed at Hillsboro for the purpose of protecting that place against the Tories under Colonel Fanning. He was, however, marched twice to Randolph as reconnoitering parties. But his duties were principally performed at Hillsboro as aforesaid & also to guard the prisoners at that place who were released by the Tories a few days after he was discharged, which took place sometime in the winter of same year. He received a discharge for this tour but lost it. He served this campaign three months. He was in no battle during his service except the one at Guilford Court House. He does not remember the names of any other Regular officers with whom he served except those above mentioned. Nor does he remember the number of the Regiments of Regular or Continental troops with which he served. He has no documentary evidence in his possession by which he can prove his services nor does he know if any person living by whom he could prove them. He has no record of his age but from the best information he can obtain he was born on the 10th day of January 1765, in Orange County, North Carolina at which place he resided when he entered the service of the United States as above set forth. After the Revolution he resided in said County of Orange, N.C. until about the year 1790 at which time he moved to Davidson County in the State of Tennessee. He then moved to Sumner County in Tennessee; then to Rutherford County, same state, then to Williamson aforesaid about the year 1805 or 1806 & has resided there since that time.

That by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory – he is unable to state precisely the dates of his having entered & quit the service of the United States & many other events connected with the war. But he knows he served six months as above stated in this declaration & under the officers as therein named & for such service he claims a pension. In both of said campaigns he was a private.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the presents & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state whatever.

S/ Robert Donelson, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid

S/ Thos. Hardeman, Clerk

We, M.L. Andrews, a Clergyman, residing in the County of Williamson, State of Tennessee aforesaid & Thomas Berry residing in the same County & State last aforesaid hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Robert Donelson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be 68 years of age, that he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution & that we concur in that opinion.

S/ M.L. Andrews

S/ Thos. Berry

Sworn to & subscribed in open court the day & year aforesaid

S/ Thos. Hardeman, Clerk

State of Tennessee, Marshall County

On this 3rd day of June 1853 personally appeared before me, J.H.L. Neil, a Justice of the Peace in & for the County of Marshal[1], & State of Tennessee, Margaret Donalson, a resident of Tennessee, in the County of Marshal, aged seventy seven years, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed on the 3rd day of February 1853 declaring granting pensions to widows of persons who served during the Revolutionary War, that she is the widow of Robert Donalson who was a private in said war & she thinks belong[ed] to the North Carolina State Troops & on account of his services while in said war he received a pension of twenty dollars per annum & she further states that she was married to her said husband on the 29th of December eighteen hundred & six & that her said husband died on the 15th of June 1837, & she further states that she is holy [sic] unable to appear in court on the account of her feebleness. She further states that she has no documental evidence in support of her claim, only the family record & she states that the record has been in her possession ever since the death of her said husband, which took place as above stated, & that it contains her marriage & the ages of all of her children & she herewith files the family record & makes the same a part of the declaration in support of her claim. She further states that her said husband died in Williamson County, State of Tennessee. She further states that she is still a widow & that she has never since the death of her said husband intermarried, but still continues his widow.

S/ Margaret Donalson, X her mark

Sworn to & subscribed on the day & year above written before me

S/ J.H.L. Neil.

[fn p. 5: Bible record in file]

Margaret Donalson was born 29th February 1776

Robert & Margaret Donalson was married 25th December 1806

Polly Donalson was born 22nd November 1807

Jane Donalson was born 31 January 1809

Ann M. Donalson was born 25th December 1811

Leah [Donalson marked out] was born 15th October 1812

Minerva [surname marked out] was born 14 February 1814