

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Ambrose Month W7477 Daphne Month VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 26 Nov 2014.

State of Tennessee } On this 7th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open Court at a
Knox County } Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for said County, Ambrose
Month a citizen of said County aged 69 years who being sworn according to law doth on his oath make
the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of an act of Congress passed on
the 7th of June 1832. That he was born at the Hawfields in Spotsylvania County, Virginia on the 4th day of
March 1764 or 1765 where he continued to live until the commencement of the Revolutionary war and
during its continuance and after its termination for several years – that at the time he was 16 or 17 years
of age he was drafted in the said County and was enrolled as a private in the army of the United States
into a company commanded by Captain Crane, and Lieutenant Robt. Spill Coleman [Robert Spill
Coleman], that this company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Col. Buchner [sic: Mordecai
Buckner]. under these officers applicant marched from New Market, the place of rendezvous, to Hobbs
hole [on Rappahannock River] where they were stationed several months to repel an attack which it was
thought the British meditated in Virginia. after remaining here several months applicant marched he
thinks under his same captain Crane, though of this he is not certain, to some place in North Carolina he
thinks Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] where there were many of the continental troops collected after
Gates defeat [defeat of Gen. Horatio Gates, Battle of Camden SC, 16 Aug 1780]; here applicant was
induced by a call from the officers of the Continental army to join their ranks – and he with several
others was enrolled into a company under the command of Captain James Wilson which company he
thinks belonged to the 39th Regiment [see endnote], but of this he is not certain. applicant does not know
whether his name was entered on the rolls of the enlistment or not. he knows however that he voluntarily
entered the regular army, was put under the command of the said Captain, was invested with a musket,
knapsack, and canteen and done military service as a volunteer soldier. he states that he continued in the
regular army under Gen'l. [Nathanael] Greene. marched to Charlotte N. C. and to the various other
places, not now recollected which were occupied by that officer, untill at the battle of Guilford [Guilford
Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781], where he was engaged by the enemy and was wounded in the belly by a
bayonette. after his said wound he was taken from the field of battle and carried to Halifax Va. where he
remained a few weeks until his wound got well, when he joined the army again at Mecklenburg
courthouse Va. and from there marched to York Va. where he remained doing duty untill after the
surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781] – shortly after this time he was discharged at Portsmouth Va. and
returned home. applicant states that he is of mixed blood, having part Shawnee and part Negro, that he
was born free. that he is illiterate. that being altogether unacquainted with the geography of the country
throug which he marched, and his coulour keeping him aloof from the officers, he cannot more minutely
detail the places and persons than he has done. he states that from the time he first entered the army he
never left it until he was finally discharged at Portsmouth. and although from his great age and the great
lapse of time since he performed his services he cannot detail more particularly his services he cannot
detail more particularly than he has done his services, but feels confident that he served at least two years
for which he claims a pension. he states that he has a record of his age in his mothers Bible. he states that
the persons with whom he is acquainted in his neighbourhood and who can testify as to his veracity and
his reputation for military services, are William Lutrell, John Fitzgerald, & William Trout and others. he
states that there is no clergyman in his neighbourhood. he states that for several years after the war he
lived in Spotsylvania County Va. when he moved to Pearson [sic: Person] County N.C. where he lived
several years when he moved to Grainger County Tenn. where he lived four or five years when he moved
to Knox County Tenn. where he has lived ever since. he states that he got a discharge when he left the
service but he has long since lost it nor does he now recollect by whom it was given. he states that he has
no documentary evidence whatever of his services nor does he know of any person whose testimony he

can procure who can testify to his services. he hereby relinquishes every claim 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 Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 7th Jany. 1834 Ambrose hisXmark Month

NOTES:

There was no 39th Regiment in the Virginia Continental Line. It is likely that Month served only in a militia company that was attached to a Continental regiment.

On 9 April 1853 Daphney Month, 63, applied for a pension stating that she married Ambrose Month in Knox County on 12 Nov 1833, and he died 8 June 1842. On 23 March 1855 she applied for bounty land.

The file contains the following undated letter to the Pension Commissioner:

Pension Agency/ Knoxville Ten.

Sir, I have on my pension list Roll, since 23^d Decr. 1853, a pensioner, whose name is Daphney Month, widow of Ambrose, private, under Act of Feb. 3^d 1853, at \$80— pr. annum, who has been regularly paid to the 4th Sept. 1856. She is a free Negro, living in this county, & perhaps in the suburbs of this city. And on yesterday, the attorney general for this district, called on me to know whether it was a fact that I was paying a pension by order of the Department to a free negro; and I answered in the affirmative.

The question with the attorney is, whether she, the pensioner, could, under any act of Congress, be entitled to a pension, being a slave until sometime after the death of her said husband Ambrose. Her case was brought to his notice by taking a deposition of some gentleman in relation to the estate of the former Mistress and owner of said pensioner. At the close of our conversation on the subject I promised the attorney that I would state the case to you and get your opinion on the legality of the pension. Neither the attorney nor myself knows any thing of the evidence by which the pensioner's claim was established, nor whether she was represented to the Department as indeed and truth she is, a free Negro of full blood.

Your early attention to this subject will be an obligation to the attorney gen. and information to myself which will be thankfully received. Your obt. Servt./ Isaac Lewis Pension Agent

On 24 Feb 1866, Charles Burger, the administrator of the estate of "Daphney Mouthe," applied for the pension that was suspended during the Civil War up to her death on 27 July 1864, stating that during the war she was dependent on "her daughter and friendly neighbors." He listed the heirs as follows: Mahaly McDaniel, Agnes Harveson, and Mary Swayers. An official document lists the heirs as follows:

Mahala McDonald now residing in the 1st Dist. of Knox County Tenn.

Mary Sawyers in the 4th Dist of Knox County Tenn.

Aggy Harbison in 5th Dist of Knox County Tenn.