

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Dunkeson W8680
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Lucretia Dunkeson VA

State of Kentucky } Ss.
Christian County }

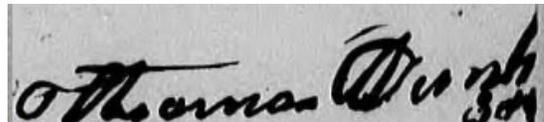
On this fourth day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court before the justices of the court of Christian County now sitting Thos Dunkinson aged 69 years who is a resident of said County & state of Kentucky, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress of June 7 1832.

Thomas Dunkinson states that he was born in Spotsylvania County Virginia 20th May 1763 and has a record of his age & was baptised in the Protestant church of the county; at an early stage of his infancy his parents moved to Rockingham where he was raised and where he was drafted out of the Regiment of Col Abram Smith [Abraham Smith] and placed under the Command of Capt Robert Cravens [sic: Robert Craven] & Lieutenant William Smith & marched September 1st 1780 to the Army under the Command of General [Nathanael] Greene at Hillsboro [sic: Hillsborough] North Carolina. Remained with the army on their march down the country to Charlotte & was at Hicks creek [near Cheraw SC] when Gen'l Greene left the army [28 Jan 1781], to join General [Daniel] Morgan who had beat Col Tarleton [Battle of Cowpens SC, 17 Jan 1781] & directed General [Isaac] Huger under whom he marched to Guilford Court House when they were retreating. Continued the retreat until they crossed the River Dan as he believes sometime in February [14th]. Cornwallis having then gone back to Hillsboro General Greene recrossed the river & sometime in the month of March say about 19th had a battle with the British at Guilford Court House [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. He states he was not in the battle, for there was a great rising of the Tories about this time and he was on a scout after some of them who were it was said preparing to go to Cornwallis. He thinks General [Andrew] Pickens & Col [Henry] Lee were the names of two officers who went from the main army after Col [John] Pyle & 350 or 400 of the Tories [who were defeated on 25 Feb 1781]. During the latter part of his service in the spring of 1781 he was a substitute for one Cutlip Homan a Dutchman [i.e. German] and continued in the service for him until Cornwallis left the country for his shipping [see endnote]. Then he went home & shortly after Cornwallis having come into Petersburg [20 May] he volunteered and joined the Army (Commanded by General LaFayette) when within 4 miles of Richmond Va Continued with the army retreating towards Albemarle Court House to preserve the stores at that place and to form a junction with General Wayne [Anthony Wayne, 10 June]. In doing this Cornwallis got between out army & the stores & by opening a new route in the night [Marquis Road, 12-14 June] succeeded in getting between Cornwallis & the Court House. In a few days Cornwallis retreated to Richmond & then to Williamsburg & afterwards to York Town where the war ended [sic: Yorktown, where Cornwallis surrendered, 19 Oct]. He states he was during the last service under Capt Coger or Koger [Michael Coger] and Lieutenant Hammond and thinks this service was about 3 or 4 months. The Capt wrote his discharge but who signed it he does not recollect. Has lost or mislaid the papers that would establish his service. But is known to Johnathan Clark [sic: Jonathan Clark, pension application S2438] & William Gray respectable worthies of the revolution & is personally known to every officer of the court who will testify as to his general character for veracity.

He was raised in Rockingham & moved to this county in the year 1810 where he has resided ever since. He would state further that Reuben Harrison has known him from infancy to this time & will perhaps be found to testify & that he marched from York to Winchester with the prisoners.

He hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency of the united states.

Sworn & subscribed to the day & year aforesaid

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Dunkinson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

State of Kentucky
County of Christian

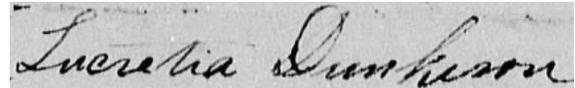
This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace in & for Christian County & State of Kentucky Thomas Dunkinson who, being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. For six months I served as a private. For three months I served as a substitute for Cutlip Homan as a private and for three months I served as a volunteer private and for such service I claim a pension – And I David S Patton do further certify that Reuben Harrison & Daniel Harrison who have attested to the service as stated under Capt Craven and reputed march to Capture of Cornwallis in the with declaration of Thomas Dunkenson are of age, situation & their circumstances have been such as to justify the conclusion that they had a personal knowledge of Thomas Dunkinsons service.

Hopkinsville Nov'r 17th 1832

NOTES:

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse Cornwallis took the remnant of his army to Wilmington NC to recover, then marched by land into Virginia beginning 8 May 1781.

On 20 Feb 1843 Lucretia Dunkeson, 77, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Dunkeson on 3 Dec 1785, and he died on 1 July 1835. She appears to have signed her name as shown:

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Lucretia Dunkeson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

On 13 Jan 1844 Lucretia Dunkeson made a statement before Robert Dunkeson, acting Justice of the Peace, which she signed with an X.

On 7 March 1843 the Clerk of Rockingham County stated that Lucretia Dunkeson was reputed to be the daughter of Thomas Moore, and that upon the death of her father she and her husband sued her brother for part of the father's estate.