

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Forguson (Ferguson) W10777 ¹ Bethany Forguson f57NC[sic,VA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/2/09 rev'd 3/12/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana County of Boon [Boone]: SS

On this 21st day of April A.D. 1834 personally appeared in open court, to wit, in the Circuit Court of Boon County State of Indiana, now sitting, John Forguson, a resident of Sugar Creek Township, in the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-nine 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, to wit: That he was born in York County, Virginia, about twelve miles below Little York, has no precise recollection of having heard the year in which he was born but knows, from what was told him by his parents that he was seventy-nine years old the fifteenth day of last January -- that he has no record of his age -- that his parents were members of the Church of England, and the names of their children registered by the clerk of the parish -- but his parents when they moved from the place of his birth aforesaid neglected to take a copy of the record, as he believes. That while a lad he moved with his father from York County to Brunswick County, Virginia, and was living there when he was first drafted, as hereinafter mentioned, into the service of the United States, about seven miles from a place called Hicks Ford. That, as near as he can now recollect, he was drafted from the last mentioned place about the year 'seventy-seven -- cannot name the day nor the month -- thinks it was either in the spring or fall from the recollection he has that the weather was pleasant believes it was in the month of September into the company of Captain Charles Lucas, of the last mentioned County -- that he marched with his company to Sussex County, Virginia, and there joined the troops under Colonel Grey Jenkins of said County. Thinks the number of the troops was about eight hundred. The troops were all militia. That they staid there but a few days, and then marched to Smithfield, on James River, Virginia. That nothing memorable occurred during the march. That a number of British soldiers had landed from British ships then lying in the River off the town, and were plundering [p 7] the neighboring country, but embarked on board the ships on the approach of Colonel Jenkins, and the ships moved down the River. That the troops garrisoned the town between two and three months (the time for which he was drafted) and were then discharged; and that he returned back to Brunswick County. That no English troops visited the town during his stay there with the other militia. That there were no regular troops with the militia. That neither he nor any other the troops under Colonel Jenkins had any skirmishes during the said tour. That sometime afterwards he moved from Brunswick County to Guilford County North Carolina in that part of said County which was shortly after

¹ BLWt26926-160-55

separated, and took the name of Rockingham County, about 17 miles from the County seat of the latter. That he was drafted from the latter place into the Company of Captain William Bethel, of the last mentioned County. That Captain Bethel [William Bethel] and Captain John Mackedew [John McAdow], of Guilford County joined companies. That he joined the troops under Colonel Abram Philips [Abraham Phillips], of Rockingham County, with his company. That there were about eight hundred troops, perhaps more or less, under Colonel Philips. That they were all militia. That he marched with the troops under Colonel Philips from Guilford Court House to Salisbury, on the South side of the River Yadkin, and from thence to Cambden [Camden, SC, Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], and joined the troops under General Gates [Horatio Gates]. [Entire line of text lined out and obliterated so as to be illegible.] That he retreated with the other troops from the British. That during the retreat, a party of the company to which he belonged, stopped in a field to cook, and were surprised by a party of British light horse, and nearly all cut to pieces. That he continued with his company under Colonel Philips five months, the time for which he was drafted. That he and the troops under Colonel Philips had a skirmish with a detachment of British troops at the Eutaw Springs, South Carolina in which no damage was done on either side. That he knew none of the regular officers under Gates. That he was discharged with the other troops under Colonel Philips at Salisbury, after the expiration of five months, the time for which he was drafted. That he cannot recollect in what year he served this tour. Thinks it was about the commencement of the summer when he joined General Gates as aforesaid. That he returned to Rockingham County. That sometime afterwards he was drafted into the company of Captain John Mackedew aforesaid, to go against the Tories on Deep River, North Carolina under Colonel John Pasely [sic, John Paisley]. That he served two tours of three months each under Captain Mackedew & Colonel Paisley against the Tories on said River. Cannot recollect the time when he served these tours except that the first was in September & the second in the summer but they were in different years, he thinks an interval of a year or more. The first he served as Sergeant, in the second as private. The troops were light horse in the first, and foot in the second tour. During these two tours they took a great many Tories. That afterwards he was drafted from Rockingham County aforesaid into Captain George Peagru's [?]² Company, of the same County for three months, destined, as he thinks, for the Cowpens; but the [sic, then?] he hired a substitute. That in all the tours aforesaid, except the first against the Tories, he served as private. That he has never been wounded, has never received any pay for his services. That in the year A.D. 1811 he moved from Rockingham County aforesaid to Green County of Ohio; and in 1813 from thence to Wayne County Indiana, that part since struck off and called Union County; and from thence in 1831, as he believes, to Boone County, Indiana, his present residence. That he has never received any written discharge. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. That he recollects none of the regular officers, except Colonel Washington [William Washington], of the American Light Horse; and never served with him, or any other regular officer, except under General Gates as aforesaid. That there is no clergyman residing in his neighborhood with whom he is acquainted. That among others in his present neighborhood Theophilus Bryan, William Maxwell, Abram Utter are acquainted with him & can testify to his character.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ John Ferguson, X his mark

² George Peagru's

[William Maxwell and Abram Utter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Indiana County of Boon: Sct.

On this 20th day of October A.D. 1834, personally appeared in open Court, (to wit, the Circuit Court of Boon County, state aforesaid, being a court of record) now sitting, John Forguson a resident of Sugar Creek Township, in the County and State aforesaid, aged 79 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 under the following named officers, and served as herein stated to wit. The Deponent says that he was drafted from Brunswick County, State of Virginia, into the Company of Captain Charles Lucas of said County; that he and his company joined the troops under Colonel Gray Jenkins in Surry County, Virginia. He supposes said troops amounted to four or five hundred. They were all militia. That he (the deponent) marched with said troops from Surry County aforesaid to Smithfield on James River, Virginia where some British ships had for some time then lying, sending their men on shore, and plundering the country. That the British ships had sailed from Smithfield when he and the troops arrived there. That he and the troops garrisoned the town near three months, and were then discharged. That he served in this tour three months, the time for which he was drafted. He (deponent) was discharged by Captain Lucas aforesaid. He received no written discharge. Deponent says he cannot recollect the day nor the year he was drafted into the above service. He thinks it was the latter part of the summer from the recollection he has that there was fruit on the trees. That sometime afterwards, he cannot tell how long, he was drafted from Brunswick County aforesaid, into the Company of Captain John Mackedew of Guilford County North Carolina. That he joined the troops under Colonel John Paisley, in said County of Guilford. That Colonel Paisley was joined there by Colonel Isaacs, from Rowan County North Carolina with (as deponent thinks) two or three hundred troops. That the whole number of troops as near as he can judge, amounted to from five to seven hundred. That they were all militia. That the troops marched from thence to Sandy Creek a stream running into Deep River North Carolina. That this expedition was designed against the Tories in those parts. That he (Deponent) and the troops continued there three months, except that the Deponent was allowed to go home a few days, not to exceed one week, before the other troops, on account of indisposition. During this tour the troops were sent out in detachments against the Tories, many of whom were taken prisoners, but Deponent does not know how they were disposed of, as he left the troops before they were disposed of. Deponent served on this tour three months (the time for which he was drafted) except the few days, not to exceed one week, as before stated. That all the troops in this expedition were militia. That sometime afterwards, he cannot tell how long, he was drafted from Brunswick County aforesaid into the Company of Captain William Bethel of Guilford County aforesaid. That he and his Company joined the troops under Colonel Abram Philips at said County of Guilford. There were about five hundred troops under Colonel Philips, all militia. That they marched from thence to Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina on the Yadkin River. That they joined a number of troops at that place. That they staid there several days, and then marched towards Camden South Carolina. That some where he cannot recollect where, he joined the troops under General Gates. That near Camden the troops under Gates were defeated by the British. That after the defeat the troops separated, and Deponent retreated with the troops under Colonel Philips towards Salisbury aforesaid. That they were a considerable time in getting to Salisbury, cannot tell how long. Nothing memorable occurred on the march except that a party of Deponent's Company, who had stopped in a field to cook -- were surprised by a party of

British Light horsemen, and cut to pieces. That he (Deponent) and the other troops under Colonel Philips were discharged at Salisbury, after the expiration of five months, the time for which they were drafted. That he returned home, and some time afterwards removed from Brunswick County, Virginia to Guilford County, North Carolina, from whence, some time afterwards, he was drafted again into the Company of Captain John Mackedew aforesaid, and went with Colonel Paisley aforesaid on an expedition against the Tories on Deep River aforesaid. The troops were employed in expeditions against the Tories, and in the expedition before mentioned. But he does not recollect that any prisoners were taken this tour. The Deponent served for three months on this tour, time for which he was drafted, and was then discharged. Deponent served as Sergeant in the first tour under Captain Mackedew. In all the other tours he served as private. Altogether, he has served fourteen months, with the exception of the few days in the first tour under Captain Mackedew, not to exceed one week. In answer to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, Deponent says he was born in York County, Virginia twelve miles below Little York -- he cannot recollect the year, but knows, from what his parents have told him, that he was seventy-nine years old the fifteenth of January last past. That he has no record of his age. That he lived in Brunswick County, Virginia when called into the service of the United States as aforesaid except the last tour, when he lived in Guilford County, North Carolina. That since the Revolutionary War he has lived two years, from 1811 to 1813 in Green County Ohio. From thence he removed to Union County Indiana -- where he lived until 1831, when he removed to Boon County Indiana, his present residence. That he was drafted into the service. That he recollects the names of no regular officers with whom he served, except General Gates, cannot name any particular regiments, except those of Colonel Jenkins, Colonel Paisley, Colonel Isaacs, and Colonel Philips. That he never received any written discharge from the service. That he has no documentary evidence of his services; nor does he know of any person whose testimony he can procure, that can testify to his service. That he is known in his present neighborhood to John P. Miller and Er. Cox who will testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution. Deponent further says that there is no clergyman in his neighborhood with whom he is acquainted. Deponent says that his memory is much weakened by old age, and that therefore he cannot recollect dates as well as formerly. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever 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.

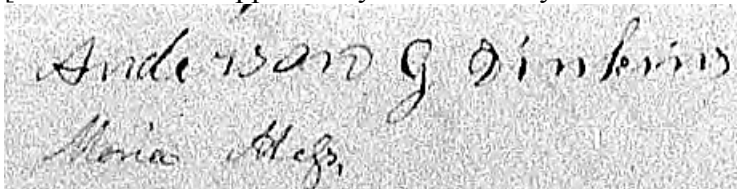
Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John Ferguson, X his mark

[John D. Miller and Abram Utter gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 10: On April 27, 1855, Bethany Ferguson, 61, filed in Putnam County, Indiana, for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of John Ferguson stating that she married him May 12, 1828; that they were married by John McClain, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Bethany Dinkins; that her husband died February 14, 1843 at age 89. She signed this application with her mark.]

[Her claim was supported by the testimony of Anderson G. Dinkins and Maria Hess

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "Anderson G. Dinkins" and the bottom signature reads "Maria Hess". The ink is dark and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and fluid.

. If either of these affiants were related to either the veteran or his widow, that relationship is not stated.]

[p 13: On April 10, 1856 in Putnam County Indiana, the widow, 62, filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of John Ferguson who was a pensioner of the United States at the rate of \$40 per annum for his services in the revolutionary war; that she married him in Union County Indiana May 26, 1828; that they were married by one Samuel McLane, JP; that her name prior to her marriage was Bethena Deacons; that her husband died in Boone County Indiana on or about February 14, 18___. She signed this document with her mark.]

[p 16: copy of a Bible record which states that Johathan Ferguson, son of John and Bethany Ferguson was born December 7th, 1829 and that Bethany Ferguson a daughter of John and Bethany Ferguson was born March 20th, 1831.]

[p 54: Is a copy of a marriage license issued May 20, 1828, in Union County, Indiana, for the marriage of John Ferguson to Bethena Deacons.]

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Know all Men by these Presents, That I *Bethany Ferguson* Widow of *John Ferguson* of
The State of Indiana, claiming a back pension, do hereby
constitute and appoint *Amos Joy*, of *Ovid, N. Y.*, my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name, being directly and
personally interested in the claim or application for a back pension
Witness my hand and seal, this *13* day of *April* 185*7*
Sealed and delivered in
the presence of
Philip Porter *Bethany Ferguson* (L. S.)
Amos Carpenter

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one-year in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]