

Pension Application for Robert Dickson, Dixon, Dickerson, Dickeson, etc.

R.13762

Former Widow: Ruth Young

Evidence in the case of Robert Dickson dec'd in order to enable his widow to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of New York

Chautauqua County SS.

On this 13th day of October 1832, personally appeared in open court before the Judges of the court of Common Pleas in & for the county of Chautauqua, now sitting James Dickson, a resident of the town of Northeast, in the County of Erie & State of Pennsylvania, aged seventy seven years the third day of February next, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say, that from his childhood he was acquainted with his brother Robert Dickson late of the town of Ripley in the County of Chautauqua, deceased, that his brother Robert was born in Cherry Valley, now Otsego County, New York on the 22d day of February 1763 as he recollects from the family record of the ages of himself, 2 brothers. That he & his brother Robert lived together in their father's family 'till the spring of 1778.

At that time, the enemy began to make depredations upon the inhabitants of Cherry Valley then on the western frontier of New York. He early in that season had orders to raise a company of Batteaux men & was absent 'till some time in June of that year, when he returned home for a short time on furlough. At that time a garrison was formed & kept up in Cherry Valley & his brother Robert then 16 years of age, but large & athletic in person & ambitious & spirited in the cause in which he had engaged, had enrolled himself in the militia & was doing duty in the Garrison & deponent, at the time he was there, understood & believed that he entered the service the May preceding. That deponent while there saw him doing duty, standing centry in garrison & recollects his once at that time going out in a scouting party or as Indian Spies to watch the movements & ascertain the numbers & designs of the savages prowling around the neighborhood. The company & other officers at that place & under whose command said Robert was were Capt. Thomas Whitaker (1), Major Clyde & Col. Campbell. The said Robert continued in the service, in this way, until the latter part of October of that year, when deponent on his return from White Plains visited home a few days. About the same time the garrison was relieved by Col. Alden (2) & about 200 Continental Soldiers & it was said the enemy had gone to Niagara in to winter quarters, on the morning of the 11th of November 1778, his brother Robert then being at his father's was sent by him of an errand on horseback a few miles & on his return fell in with a party of about 800 Indians & Tories, within a miles & a half of his father's; finding that he was stopped in that direction he turned his horse towards the Garrison. About the three quarters of a mile distant & soon fell in with flanking party of the enemy between himself & the fort. In this predicament he determined to pass them or die & putting his horse to his heel, rushed on; the enemy attempted to bayonet his horse & as soon as he got by discharged volleys of musketry at him, but though the bullets were falling thickly around him, he escaped & rode through the sally port & entered the garrison in safety. It was reported that Brant (3) the Indian Chief, who had command of the expedition frequently declared that he would have murdered & taken the Garrison had it not been for a little d—d [damned] Yankee boy that they could not take or shoot from his horse who gave the alarm. That the enemy devastated the country & massacred many of these inhabitants & among them killed and scalped the mother of deponent & said Robert. (4)

That the next year 1780 his brother rendered the nine months service as set forth in the annexed affidavit of his brother Benjamin Dickson, which this deponent has read & which he knows to be true.

About the 1st of May 1781, his brother Robert again entered the service & served a period of about three months in Capt. French's (5) Company as at first organized but he declined & Capt. White was appointed the Capt. in Col. Marinus Willetts regiment & while out assisted in building a block house at Sacandaga about 12 miles north of the Mohawk River in Montgomery County. He had enlisted for a term of nine months but at the expiration of three months returned home sick & hired a young man whose name deponent does not now recollect, as his substitute who as deponent believes & always understood went & did duty in the name of his brother & served out the nine months, the period of his said enlistment. That his brother soon recovered his health, & in about two weeks after his return home & about the middle of July joined Capt. Deifendorf's (6) company in Col. Klock's regiment as deponent believes & did duty in this company at German Flatts & Fort Plain until the beginning of the following winter being a period of six months when he was discharged and returned home.

That about the winter of 1817 his brother married Ruth Griffin his present widow & lived with & had two children by her. That on Monday the 20th of August last, his brother Robert died very suddenly at Ripley where he then resided leaving his said widow Ruth & a number of children by a former marriage & two by his said wife Ruth, surviving him. That his widow yet resides in the said town of Ripley in the County of Chautauqua. (Signed) James Dickson

Reply to an inquiry dated February 11, 1929.

I advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, R.13762, it appears that Robert Dickson was born, February 22, 1763, in Cherry Valley, later Otsego County, New York.

He enlisted in May, 1778, served as a private in Captain Thomas Whitaker's Company, Colonel Campbell's New York Regiment and was discharged the latter part of October, 1778.

On November 11, 1778, while returning on horseback from an errand on which he had been sent by his father, whose name was not given, he was surrounded by about eight hundred Indians and Tories under Brandt, the Indian Chief. He determined to pass them or die, and escaping their bayonets and musketry, he reached the garrison in safety and gave warning of the impending attack.

The enemy devastated the country, massacred many of the inhabitants and among others killed and scalped the soldier's mother.

He enlisted in April, 1780, and served nine month as a private in Captain Robert McKean's (7) New York Company.

He enlisted May 1, 1781 and served three months as a private in Captains French's and White's Company, Colonel Marinus Willett's New York Regiment.

In July, 1781, he enlisted and served six months as a private in Captain Diefendorff's Company, Colonel Klock's New York Regiment.

The soldier married, February 9, 1817, at Cherry Valley, Otsego County, New York, Ruth Griffin. They had two children, names not stated.

He died suddenly while apparently in good health, August 10, 1832, at Ripley, Chautauqua County, New York, leaving his widow, Ruth, their two children the name of his former wife is not given, and the only child by her whose name is stated is William, who was living in Ripley, New York, in 1832.

His widow, Ruth, was allowed the pension due her husband, Robert Dickson, at the time of his death. The certificate was issued, October 28, 1833, at which time she was living in Ripley, New York.

In 1860, she was aged seventy four years and living in Westfield, Chautauqua County, New York and then stated that subsequent to the death of her husband, Robert Dickson, she married William Young, of Westfield, New York. He abandoned her in October, 1847 and went west. In 1860, he was aged eighty seven years and was living in Joliet, Illinois, with D.C. Young, his son by a former wife, her name is not given.

The soldier's brother, James Dickson, who was born, February 3, 1757, was living in Northeast, Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1832, and another brother, Benjamin Dickson, was a resident of Vernon Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, in 1832, then in the seventy-ninth year or his age. He was formerly of Montgomery County, New York.

Many of the above soldiers served in the War of 1812.

This bureau is unable to furnish the full history of a soldier of the Revolution unless a claim for pension or bounty land has been made on account of his services.

A careful search of the records fails to show such a claim on file on account of the services of a William Dickson, who could have been the father of William Dickson, W.22940, or Robert Dickson, R.13762, and said records fail to show such a claim on file on account of the services of John Dickson as described by you or of any Samuel Dickson.

End Notes—R.13762—Robert Dickson

1. Thomas Whitaker was appointed Captain in 1776 or 1777 in Colonel Ebenezer Cox's First Regiment of Tryon County Militia. On June 25, 1778, Whitaker was commissioned Captain. The following were officers in his company: John Campbell as First Lieutenant; Samuel Campbell as Second Lieutenant and Samuel Whorfield as Ensign. On the same date Samuel Campbell was commissioned Colonel and Samuel Clyde as Lieutenant-Colonel. Colonel Cox and Lieutenant-Colonel William Seeber were either killed or died of wounds after the Battle of Oriskany fought on August 6, 1777. Robert was only fifteen in 1778 and not yet of legal age to serve in the militia.
2. Ichabod Alden was the Colonel of the Sixth Massachusetts Continental Regiment. Alden and his regiment was sent to protect Cherry Valley and the surrounding area. A fort had been built and called Fort Alden.
3. Joseph Brant, Captain of Brant's Volunteers was second-in-command of the attack on Cherry Valley. Captain Walter Butler of Butler's Rangers was in command of the raiding party.
4. Robert served as a private in Captain Garret Putman's Company in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant John Harper's Regiment of New York State Levies in 1780.
5. Abner French had served in the Second New York Continental Regiment as Captain of the Light Infantry Company. He was discharged on January 1, 1781, and returned home to Warren's Bush, which is now the Town of Florida, in Montgomery County. There appears to be no evidence of his appointment in 1781 in Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant Marinus Willett's Regiment. Stephen White was appointed Captain on April 27, 1781 in Willett's Regiment. Robert's name does not appear on White's payroll. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 78, folder 73, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

6. Jacob Dieffendorf was Captain of the Fifth Company in Colonel Samuel Campbell's Regiment. Jacob Klock was the Colonel of the Second Regiment of Tryon County Militia. Robert's name does not appear on Captain Dieffendorf's Company payroll. FROM: Revolutionary War Rolls 1775-1783, Series M-246, Roll 72, folder 89, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. Robert McKean served as Captain in Harper's Regiment in 1780 but there is no muster roll known to exist for this company.