

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Petition relating to David Rogers VAS1975

2+

Transcribed by Will Graves

5/10/15

[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.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Hampshire County Legislative Petitions

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia. The Petition and Remonstrance of John J Jacob & Mary his wife, Humbly Sheweth – that your Petitioner Mary was formally intermarried with, and widow of Colonel David Rogers – who was murdered by the Savages on the River Ohio in the year 1778. That the said Colonel Rogers was at the time he was killed in the service of the State of Virginia and on his return from New Orleans whither he had been sent to negotiate some business for the State of Virginia by order of then Governor and Council of said State,

Your Petitioners therefore beg leave to represent to your Honorable House, that they conceive themselves as representatives and Devises of said Colonel Rogers entitled to in common with others to the State's Bounty of Land.

Your Petitioners would also beg leave to suggest in confirmation of the facts stated above, that they formerly applied by petition to the then Assembly of Virginia for a compensation in money for the wages & Expenses of said Colonel Rogers, which petition was granted, but by some Means they have always hitherto neglected to solicit the Honorable Assembly to grant them a warrant for Land Although they believe all others have obtained it, Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable house to take the premises into consideration & grant or reject it, as appears unto you Just & right.

Hampshire

November 15th, 1797

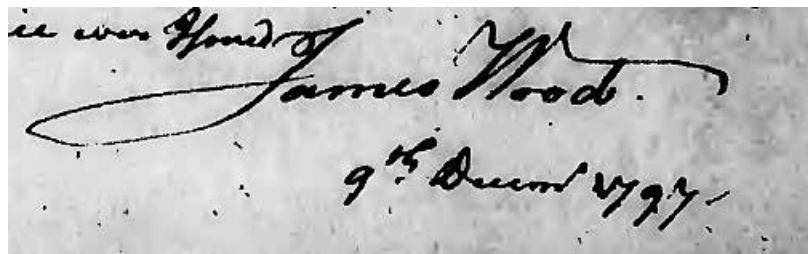
S/John J Jacob

S/ Mary Jacob

I do Certify that certificate to entitle Major Rogers or his legal representatives to the Bounty of Lands allowed to Officers or Soldiers in the State or Continental Service was issued.

S/ James Wood

9th of December 1797

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "James Wood" and is followed by the date "9th Dec 1797". The ink is dark and the paper appears aged.

[Reverse]

Jacob's petition
December 9, 1797
to Claims
Reasonable
December 13 1997
reported

[Another file in the Hampshire County Legislative Petitions]

To the Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia the Petition of John J Jacob Administrator of the Estate of Colonel David Rogers, begs leave on behalf of the Ayers and representatives of said Colonel Rogers to State –

That at a most perilous time of our revolutionary War and when the Nation were much in want of powder and lead, and with a view if possible to procure these necessary Articles – Colonel Rogers a resident of the Western Country – a man of energy and much enterprise, and an Irishman and as such considered most likely to succeed with the Spanish Authorities in New Orleans and who was it is believed in the Senate at Richmond was [indecipherable word] & [indecipherable word]¹ by the then Governor (Henry) [Patrick Henry] to proceed to Orleans on this delicate and dangerous business, Spain and England being then at peace – Anxious to serve his Country with the best of his Abilities Colonel Rogers undertook this hazardous enterprise, and being furnished with a Colonel's commission and the necessary Credentials and instructions he proceeded to the Monongalia [River] & procured two keel Boats, the necessary provisions for his voyage down the river and about fifty or sixty hardy sons of the West – proceeded down the river to New Orleans the place of his destination where so dexterously did he manage this intricate business that he succeeded to the extent of his wishes, loaded his Boats and proceeded up the Mississippi and the Ohio – without Accident or disaster until near the place where the Town of Cincinnati now stands, where he was suddenly attacked by about 500 Indians with Simon Girty at their head and his whole party himself among the number massacred, two or three only escaping & they wounded.

Thus fell Colonel Rogers and about fifty-five Young Heroes of the West – and thus failed all the advantages of this Expedition so propitious and happy in its commencement. The loss to the State of Virginia in the disastrous result of this Expedition was no doubt greatly felt and regretted, but no human wisdom, foresight or power could have prevented it –

But unhappily for the family of Colonel Rogers their loss also was incalculable with the loss of his life, much and [indecipherable word]² loss of property also followed all the land mentioned in his Will as lying in the State of Kentucky were lost – also a Negro lad he had with him worth about #500 [sic] taken by the Indians, a considerable sum of money of his own private property he had taken with him, part of which was laid out in purchasing a supply of meat for his

1 *Salisbury, Virginia*

2 *indecipherable*

voyage – as all his first purchased spoiled, he also bought several Rifles for his men, and a good many Articles for family use in New Orleans – and to all which add two hundred Horses purchased by an Agent in the Apalusa [Appaloosa?] Country – which are were also lost.

If it is asked how came Colonel Rogers in possession of so great funds – I answer he had married the widow of Captain Michael Cresap who was wealthy and no doubt added all she had to his own – from this view of the Subject it must Eventually appear that the loss to the family of Colonel Rogers could not be less than #10,000 [sic].

Your petitioner therefore praise your Honorable body to grant to the Heirs of Colonel Rogers the quantity of land to which a Colonel in the Virginia line in the Revolutionary War is entitled or to your petitioner or some other person in trust for the use of said Ayers and your petitioner will pray &c

S/ John J Jacob

[Reverse]

Petition of John J Jacobs [sic] administrator of Colonel David Rogers, praying and allowance of bounty land.

January 26 18?? [Last 2 digits too faint to discern]

Thomas Sloan

[several words to thank to discern]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)] 49-page file

[This file contains images of documents which are largely illegible as posted. If anyone has transcriptions of these documents which they are willing to share with us, we would like to include them in our database.. What follows are excerpts from some of those documents to the extent I can discern any of the text or, alternatively, summaries of what I think I see].

[p 3: appears to be a Memorial by an attorney on behalf of Mary Jacob widow of Colonel David Rogers late of Hampshire County Virginia. The memorial appears to be seeking a bounty land warrant for the services of Colonel Rogers. It appears that Colonel Rogers was stationed at Fort Pitt on the head of the Ohio River and at Redstone old Fort on the Monongahela River; that he was sent to New Orleans then in the possession of the Spanish to obtain military stores for use among the post on the upper Ohio and Mississippi rivers. That upon completing his messing to New Orleans, on his return, Colonel Rogers was killed or mortally wounded in a battle with the Indians near the mouth of Licking River in what is now the state of Kentucky. That due to the lapse of time, the memorialist cannot state the dates of Colonel Rogers' service the petition is acknowledged January 21st 1835.]

[p 5]

Report on the claims of the heirs of David Rogers – Colonel in the service of the State of Virginia in the war of the Revolution, for bounty land for his services

To the Governor

Sir,

The facts, in this case, are that Colonel David Rogers was employed by the Government of Virginia, on a special mission to New Orleans then belonging to Spain, to bring up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers certain military Stores & munitions of war &c which

had been purchased at that place by the State of Virginia. That he built boats at Pittsburgh, and sometime in June 1778 descended the Ohio & Mississippi rivers, with about 40 men under his command. That after encountering great fatigue & danger he got into his possession the military stores & munitions of war &c for which he was sent – That he ascended the Mississippi & Ohio, nearly to the mouth of Licking River where his whole party, except about 13 were killed by Indians – that he was among the number of slain – That he was believed to have been a Captain in the Virginia line, before he undertook the said Expedition to New Orleans. That he was then appointed Colonel, in consequence of the importance & hazard of his mission – That he was considered by the witness who testifies in support of this claim, and who served in the expedition to New Orleans and was severely wounded in the battle with the Indians at or near the mouth of Licking River, as actions throughout the said Expedition in a military capacity – That the men who were with him were soldiers, except to Isaac Collins who was Lieutenant, and Patrick McElroy who was Ensign to the company (see the affidavit of Basil Brown,³ which is very long and minute & particular in its statements).

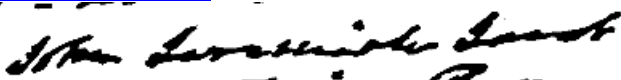
The name of Colonel David Rogers is on the Army Register of the State line; but appears that in a manner somewhat different from that in which the names of officers of the line normally appear. A certificate issued to his Administrator for £315 January 9th 1787, which certificate was "delivered to Mr. Drew, for public services performed in Revolution" &c (see the Auditors Certificate.)

A Petition was presented to the General Assembly November 8, 1782 (page 81 of the Journal of the House of Delegates) by John Jeremiah [?]⁴ Jacob & Mary his wife who was the widow of David Rogers quote setting forth that David Rogers, late the husband of the petitioner Mary, was, during the war, employed on by half of this State, to undertake an expedition to New Orleans, upon some important business, which he actually performed; but on his return was intercepted by a party of Indians & killed; and praying that some compensation may be made to the Petitioners, for the services performed by the said Rogers." This Petition was referred to the Committee of Claims, with instruction to examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their opinion thereupon to the house. (See Journal House of Delegates – November 3, 1786 – page 21).

On the 2nd December 1786 – the House of Delegates came to the following Resolution – viz. – "That the Petition of the said John Jeremiah Jacob & Mary his wife, with the [indecipherable word] papers in support thereof, all to be forwarded to the executive; that they may be authorized to examine the Petitioner's Claim, and [indecipherable word or words] such allowance as they may be entitled to." (See Journal of the House of Delegates – December 2, 1786 page 84)

The following Advice of Council was made on this Petition – December 19, 1786 – viz. – "It is advised that the Solicitor be directed to examine the different offices, and report what sums of money were advanced by the Commonwealth, or Mr. Oliver Pollock, or other person, in behalf of the Commonwealth to Colonel David Rogers or to his men, from January 14, 1778 to the 10th of October 1779, or any other matter that will throw light on the subject of Colonel Rogers' Services, in going to New Orleans with Public dispatches." (See Journal of the Council – December 19, 1786).

³ [Basil Brown S9713](#)

⁴  John Jeremiah Jacob?

Again, on Monday January 1, 1787 (after the report of the Solicitor came) the following advice of Council was made – viz. – "That the auditor be directed to make to the Representatives of Colonel D. Rogers deceased an allowance of \$50 per month, for 21 months, the time he was in public employe, and to grant a warrant therefore for the use of the said Rogers' estate, giving a [indecipherable word] for all monies drawn by him from the Commonwealth – there being sufficient reason to induce a believe, that the same were properly expended." (See Journal of the Council January 1, 1787)

The following Resolution was agreed to in the House of Delegates January 8, 1787 – viz. – "Resolved, that the auditor be instructed to grant a certificate in favor of John Jeremiah Jacob, and Mary his wife Administrator of Captain David Rogers deceased; for the allowance made them by the Executive, pursuant to a former Resolution of the present [indecipherable word], bearing interest at 6% per annum from the 1st day of January 1782; and that he also issue warrants for such interest." (See Journal of the House of delegates January 7-8, 1787 – page 147) This Resolution was agreed to by the Senate, the next day (See Journal of the House of Delegates January 9, 1787 – page 148.) – On the same day – January 9, 1787 – the Auditor issued a certificate for £315; (above spoken of) and placed the name of Colonel David Rogers on the Army Register of the State line, with a memorandum annexed that the certificate aforesaid was delivered to Mr. Drew, for public services performed per Resolution.

It does not appear that the heirs of David Rogers have ever received bounty land for his services: nor does it appear, that David Rogers was a Captain of the State line, or Continental line, before his mission to New Orleans except by copies of Payrolls now on file in this office, which were marked – "Romney & [indecipherable word or words] – Copy Payrolls" – on Page 41 & 42 of this document the said Payrolls of Captain David Rogers' Company there is no date to either Payroll; but a [the balance of this insert is rendered illegible by the poor quality of the image thereof]

The above-mentioned facts are all that I have it in my power to report, in relation to this claim. I beg leave to present, with them, the following brief remarks – There is no proof that Colonel Rogers was ever an officer in the regular Army within the Continental or State line – He does not appear from public documents to have been (as the witness thinks) a Captain of the State line before 1778 – His appointment of Colonel (if he [Indecipherable word] his Commission, of which I have no knowledge) in 1778, did not make him an officer commanding the regulars in the State service, and entitle him to the privileges & emoluments of officers of that Line – he probably belonged to no particular Regiment – his command was a Lieutenant, Ensign and about 40 men, or less. – His men were enlisted for no specific term he was not bound for three years nor for the war. He received only \$50 per month, which was the pay of a Captain of Artillery. He was employed on a special mission, whose duties it was known, would soon be performed, if he should be so fortunate as to perform them at all – The Government of Virginia could not have believed that he would be engaged for three years, or during the war, in going to & returning from New Orleans – they did not send him on a military expedition, but with Public dispatches – and to receive, & bring up the Mississippi & Ohio, certain military stores and munitions of War & which had been purchased at New Orleans for the use of the Western Army of Virginia. They gave him no military command, in the Regular Army, but allowed him a few men, to protect him and the property entrusted to his care, from the hostile Indians &c; and his name all not to have been placed on the Army Register of the State line – under these circumstances, I do not consider the heirs of Colonel David Rogers entitled to bounty land for his services.

Respectfully submitted
S/ John H Smith, Commissioner &c
July 31, 1835

[p 11]

State of Pennsylvania Fayette County SS

Be it remembered that on the day of the date hereof Basil Brown of the said County of Fayette personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and being duly sworn deposed and sayeth that from the best information he had been able to obtain on that subject he the said Affiant is now between seventy-one and seventy-two years of age – That during the Revolutionary War he resided for the most part at or near what was then called Red Stone old Fort on the Monongahela River in what was then claimed as a part of Yohogania County Virginia – that whilst living at his father's upon that place in the year 1778 David Rogers who was an Officer in the Virginia State line was ordered by the Executive of that State to bring up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Fort Pitt from New Orleans certain Military stores munitions of war &c which had been previously purchased by that State from the Spanish Government or people at that place. Said Rogers as well as affiant recollects had been a Captain in the Virginia State line previously to undertaking the said Expedition but was promoted at that time as affiant always understood and now believes to the office of Colonel in consequence of the great hazard that was supposed would and that did attend the said expedition. The said David Rogers was always after the undertaking of said expedition called and denominated as a Colonel in the Virginia State Line. Affiant further states that the said Colonel Rogers built or procured to be built two boats for said expedition, at what was then Fort Pitt, now the City of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania – That after their completion he brought one of said Boats to Red Stone old Fort on the Monongahela for the purpose of receiving at that point the stores &c necessary for the expedition, and the men who were to compose and who did compose the party under his command after which he returned with it to Fort Pitt and was there joined by the other Boat. The whole party consisted as well as affiant now recollects of about 40 men and accompanied by one or perhaps more family Boats, embarked from Fort Pitt some time in the month of June 1778 – The party descended the Ohio and Mississippi rivers without meeting any material obstructions and at length landed at the mouth of what was then called the Ozark, now the Arkansas River, and ascended it a short distance to a small Fort or military Post built and then occupied by the Spaniards. Here Colonel Rogers was informed that the stores, munitions &c for which he had been dispatched had been forwarded by the Spanish authorities at New Orleans to a Post then held by them at the point now occupied by the City of St. Louis on the Mississippi several hundred miles above the Ozark or Arkansas. It had become necessary however to go on to New Orleans in order to obtain from the Authorities there some order or direction to the persons having said stores [indecipherable word or words] as in charge, to deliver to Colonel Rogers and his party. For this purpose, Colonel Rogers, having left his Boats at the Post on Ozark procured a large peargure [pirogue] and with some six or seven of his men amongst whom was Affiant himself, he descended the Ozark and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. At this place the British occupied the Post of Natchez on the Mississippi between Ozark or Arkansas and New Orleans, which rendered a voyage from one of those places to the other very dangerous. Having this place of destination we procured the necessary order to the proper Officer or authorities for said stores munitions of war &c. Colonel Rogers and his party, owing to the danger of navigating the Mississippi in consequence of the British Post at Natchez was compelled to return to the Post on

Ozark by an interim trip, which was accomplished with great hazard and fatigue, the entire country being a wilderness and the journey several hundred miles in length – Having reached Ozark they reentered their Boats and ascended the Mississippi and procured said stores &c. Colonel Rogers and his party returned to the mouth of the Ohio and ascended that River a considerable distance above the Falls where Louisville now stands, nearly to the mouth of the Licking River when a small party of Indians were seen crossing the river a short distance above them. By the order of Colonel Rogers the Boats were landed in the mouth of Licking River and most of his party, a few being left in charge of the Boats, ascended the bank of the river, when an engagement immediately ensued. Instead of the small party before mentioned it was now discovered there was a very large party of the Indians – Colonel Rogers and his party were surrounded almost immediately, and overpowered by numbers. Of the whole party but 13 as well as Affiant now recollects escaped and two of them were severely wounded – Colonel Rogers himself was mortally wounded shortly after the commencement of the engagement – but escaped at that time as Affiant was afterwards frequently informed by one John Knotts who belonged to the party and who escaped at the same time – Knotts also informed Affiant that Colonel Rogers and himself remained together in the woods during the night after the Battle – and described his wounds being in the abdomen and mortal – That during the night and the succeeding morning when he left him he was in extreme pain and utterly [2 indecipherable words]⁵ as thought, particularly in a wilderness where no aid could be rendered – Left in this situation Colonel Rogers was never afterwards seen or heard of by the survivors of the party – Affiant was himself severely wounded in the right arm and in the left shoulder in said engagement by means whereof he has always since been disabled and from the nature of his wounds must so continued through life. Affiant and another of the party whose name was Robert Benham, and who acted as commissary to the party, and who was also wounded, remained for some time after the close of the battle and until the Indians had withdrawn. They afterwards subsisted for 19 days on the game that chanced to pass by them – when with much difficulty they succeeded in getting on board of a boat which had descended the Great Kanawha & Ohio & were carried to the Post at the Falls –

Affiant further states that he then and always since that time considered Colonel Rogers as acting throughout said expedition in a military capacity. That Affiant and the other men under his command were soldiers, except so far as he now recollects, two other officers in the party, to wit Isaac Collier and Patrick McElroy the former a Lieutenant & the latter an ensign to the company – Colonel Rogers and the said last mentioned Officers were always respected and obeyed by Affiant and the other soldiers composing the party according to their said ranks, respectively –

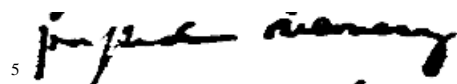
Affiant further states that the wife and family of Colonel Rogers at the time he came to Red Stone old Fort, resided on the Potomac River near Old Town Maryland –

Affiant always esteemed Colonel Rogers, as all others who knew him, and that he has heard speak on the subject they esteemed him, a worthy man and a brave Officer.

Affiant further states that the battle in which Colonel Rogers was killed occurred as well as he now recollects in the month of October 1779.

And further Affiant saith not.

S/ Basil Brown

⁵ 



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of September 1834
S/ Nathaniel [indecipherable last name], JP

[p 15]

Be it known to all to whom these Presents shall come That in the Summer of the year of our Lord 1778 I Douglas Baker being Present at the [indecipherable word] of Colonel David Rogers at the Arkansas Town so called who saluted the Spanish Garrison by the Discharge of 13 Guns and after having landed sent his officers up to the Garrison to inform Commandant Debilic [?] of his arrival was also honored in return with three Discharges of heavy ordinance at the same time Colonel David Rogers had his Troops landed and under arms and marched up towards the Garrison at the head of his men all in Military order under the Banner of the United States being the 1st 13 Stripes ever seen on that Ground and was received in front of the Fort Gate by Commandant Debilic⁶ at the head of His Catholic Majesty's Troops and so returned into the Garrison and as it was early in the afternoon the Colonel requested the permission to have his Credentials opened which was granted as I was a Stranger I was ordered out of the Fort the next morning all the Troops paraded on the Levy and went through the common military Discipline. The few days which Colonel Rogers stayed with his men I recollect that he wore a beautiful silver tilted Sword and an excellent Gold Laced hat in complete uniform order his other apparel as well as his officers were very neat and I well remember of his being much honored and respected at his return from New Orleans much more then Captain Lord or any other officer, and when my Father ascended the Mississippi up to Easkoske I also well remember that Colonel David Rogers was also highly Honored and Respected by Colonel John Montgomery Commandant in the latter end of the Summer and Fall of 1779 as one of the most Respected United States officers at that time in that Country. I further state that I have frequently conversed with several of his Soldiers who made their Escape out of the Battle which took place on his return from the Mississippi at the confluence of the Licking River in Kentucky. That Colonel David Rogers was murdered there.

29th of June A.D. 1835

S/ Douglas Baker

[p 23]

This is to Certify, That it appears from a List in this Office of such Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia State Line, during the Revolutionary War, as settled their Accounts, and received Certificates for the balance of their Full Pay, according to an Act of Assembly, passed the November Session 1781, that a Certificate issued on the 9th day of January 1787, in the name of David Rogers, as a Colonel for £315.0.0, which Certificate appears to have been delivered to Mister Drew for public services and was given for services prior to the 1st January 1782.

Given under my hand, at the Auditor's Office, Richmond, this
29th day of February 1835.

S/ J. Adams Smith, 1st Clerk Acting Auditor

⁶ Debilic