

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Roebuck VAS67

VSL90VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/16/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

At a Court held for Culpeper County this 17th day of April 1787

Ordered that it be certified to his Excellency the Governor that William Roebuck a private in the Militia from this County at the Siege of York died in said service, and left a Widow (Mary Roebuck) with five small children, and that the said Mary Roebuck is of insane mind and has but two old Negroes (about the value of a good Negro) a tract of Land containing three hundred seventy-five acres of mean quality a small stock and but little other property left by the said Deceased to the said widow & children.

Test: S/ John Jamieson, Clerk

I have known the Bearer Richard Vernon more than forty years and he has always appeared to me to be an honest industrious man he is the father of the unfortunate woman mentioned in the within & I believe her case to be justly represented.

S/ Thomas Walker

To his Excellency
Edmond Randolph, Esquire

The insane widow Mary Roebuck and her 5 children are under his care and has been ever since the death of her husband who died at the Siege of York, the father of the said deceased is an old man, I think in the eighty third year of his age and though a good man yet takes no care of the widow or her children and the loss is your petitioner has sustained by fire, by the laws of his slaves and by insolvent debtors has disabled him from being so serviceable to the family as he would willingly be wherefore he humbly prays your Excellency to take their case into your consideration and order such provision to be made for them as may in some measure answer of their Necessities and relieve them from approaching poverty and your petitioner as in duty Bound will ever pray &c
[not signed]

[Note: the following document is very compromised with both the top and bottom portions of the digital image being cut off, but I've transcribed a portion that I thought interesting because it described the manner in which the veteran died and the conditions of the hospital where he died. That portion is as follows: "*I hope it will not be taken amiss if I relate how or by what means she became thus unhappy. About the 16th of October while our Army lay at York [indecipherable word] page was sent to me that he had the small pox at York but was Like to do well. I was*

advised not to send for him till the 6th of November by which time the Doctor thought he might be Carried home with safety. On the day appointed I arrived at the hospital where he and six others were moved and where he died and three others and to more leg very Like to die. The [they] lay in an open Tobo [tobacco ?] house and were nursed by Negroes. I saw some of the physical Tribe who lived about a mile from thence but they could give me no account of him or his money or clothes. It gave me great pain to see the other three who were yet alive lying on littered straw no better than hog-beds. One of the unhappy men was Like to recover and described my son-in-law, his person, family, age and place of abode so fully that I was sure of his death. When I returned home the Distressed widow was delivered of a son. "[The rest of the document is so compromised that I could not make it out well enough to warrant its transcription. The document is signed by Richard Vernon and dated 14th October 1783.

Obliged and very
Richard Vernon
at Mr. Beckdells Richmond
14th of Oct^r 1787

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I do with the advice of the Council hereby certify that Mary Roebuck widow of William Roebuck who was a private in the Militia of Culpeper and died in the Service of the Commonwealth is entitled to the sum of 15 pounds yearly, which allows is to commence from the 1st day of January 1787.

Given under my hand as Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Richmond, this 15th day of October 1787

T. Meriwether

S/ Edm Randolph