

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Tully Robinson¹ R17465

f35VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/14/12

[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.]

[f p. 6: A copy of the last will and testament of Tully Robinson in which he names his wife Frances, daughter Mary, mother Mary Robinson, brother James Robinson and nephew Tully Robinson. He appointed his friends Nathaniel Godfrey, Benjamin K. Johnson and James Robinson as executors of his estate. His will was probated in Norfolk County May 16, 1796.]

[f p. 8]

Executive Department June 1 1832

The Heirs of Tully Robinson are allowed land bounty for 3 years service as a Captain in the State Line

S/ John Floyd

Attest

S/ J. W. Pleasants

Warrant No. 7149 for 4,000 acres issued to Benjamin K. Johnson of the said Robinson own 7 June 1832

[f p. 15]

I Ann Payne of Hampton in the County of Elizabeth City and State of Virginia do hereby certify that I knew Tully Robinson of Princess Anne County, who was a Captain on State establishment in the Revolutionary war: not long before the siege of York I resided with my mother at a place called Mark Parrish, near Newports news [Newport News]: at that time a large number of American troops were encamped there, and I distinctly remember Captain Tully Robinson coming across from the neighborhood of Norfolk and being in command of a company of Infantry at Newport News 'till all the troops were carried from there to York, and that he went with his company to York, and remained in service there until after the siege. I remember Captain Robinson's being engaged in a skirmish that took place whilst he was stationed at Newport News between the British barges and American troops at that place, or near there, in which, one of the Barges got aground and was taken by the Americans: Mr. John Smith, a particular acquaintance of mine was killed in that skirmish. Shortly after the siege I saw the said Tully Robinson passing from York to Hampton on his way to Norfolk to visit his friends in that neighborhood, but understood he was then on furlough and was to return to your very soon. I have a perfect recollection of seeing him, sometime afterwards, at a rejoicing ball at the Red House on Newport News point: I was a young woman grown at the time, and remembered dancing frequently with the said Tully Robinson at that ball, and I am certain that the said Tully

¹ Va. Half Pay

Robinson served till the war was entirely over. I moved to Hampton about thirty-two years ago, where I have lived ever since. As witness my hand and seal this 30th day of May A.D. 1833.

S/ Ann Payne, X her mark

[f p. 17]

I William Cannon² of Princess Anne County in the State of Virginia do hereby certify that shortly after the Battle of the Great Bridge [December 9, 1775] I enlisted in the service of my country in the Revolutionary war as a soldier in Captain Augustine Tabb's company of Infantry attached to Colonel Charles Dabney's Regiment: at that time Tully Robinson of this County was in the service as a Lieutenant in the same Regiment, and I believe he was attached to either Captain Davis' or Captain Mathews' Company, but which of them I cannot now say with certainty, though I rather incline to think it was Captain Davis' Company to which he then belonged. I well remember that the said Robinson was on duty in Portsmouth when the British set fire to Norfolk [January 1, 1776], and that he afterwards marched with Colonel Dabney's Regiment to the northern station near Philadelphia, and that he was engaged in the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and Trenton [the December 26, 1776], and several skirmishes that took place between the British and American troops, particularly the one at Mud Fort [perhaps a reference to the Siege of Fort Mifflin, September 26 – November 16th, 1777], in which, one of the enemy's vessels was blown up a short time previous to our marching to the North, the said Tully Robinson received the commission of Captain, and was in command as a Captain during the whole tour, which he served out faithfully till the return of the Regiment when he also returned to Portsmouth, where he remained sometime, but how long I do not exactly know – I have a very distinct recollection that the said Tully Robinson was in command as a Captain in the state line, at the Town of little York, where I was myself station, and where we both remained in active service till the close of the war, when we were returned to Portsmouth, and I was discharged. Captain Robinson was always regarded as a brave & meritorious officer. I knew him well, both before and after the war, and esteemed him highly as a gentleman, and believe all others did who knew him. I was born and raised in this (the County of Princess Anne) within about ten miles of Captain Robinson's residence, where I have continued to live till the present time. As witness my hand and seal, this 12th day of April A.D. 1833

S/ William Cannon



I Thomas Williams³ of the County of Currituck and State of North Carolina do hereby state that I was well acquainted with Tully Robinson of Princess Anne County in the State of Virginia: I was born in that County and resided there (within eleven miles of said Tully Robinson) till the year 1792 when I removed to this State, where I have lived ever since: and I do hereby certify that said Robinson entered into the service of his country in the Revolutionary war in the year 1776 as a Lieutenant under Captain Mathews attached to the 4th Virginia Regiment and went with that Regiment in 1777 to the North, where he remained in service two years or more, when he

² I could not find that a veteran by this name claiming the services described above to have filed for a federal pension in his own right. Consequently, this may be the only record of this veteran's service in the federal pension documents.

³ [Thomas Williams S14843](#)

returned home: I have no recollection of his engagements from the period of his return from the North, till sometime in the year 1781, during which year being myself attached to Captain Amos Weeks' Company, and taken prisoner by a party of British Light Horse in the month of February or March: in previous to my being taken prisoner I had frequent opportunities of seeing said Tully Robinson, who I well remember was engaged in the skirmishes at Kempsville and Norfolk: From thence, he went away with the troops, and I have always understood and believe he remained with them, in active service, till the close of the war. I do not recollect what Regiment said Robinson was attached to from and after his leaving the neighborhood of Norfolk as I was then a prisoner of war, nor can I say positively, what command he held, but distinctly recollect that he was called Captain Robinson, and have always thought and I still believe he was a Captain on State establishment. Captain Robinson was always regarded as a very meritorious officer, and highly respected, through the whole of his life, by all who knew him. Given from under my hand and seal this 10th day of April A.D. 1833.

S/ Thos. Williams

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thos. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a circular seal or stamp at the end, which is partially obscured and difficult to read.

Having been requested to state my knowledge of the services of Tully Robinson, of this County, in the Revolutionary War, I do hereby certify that some considerable time, perhaps, several years, after the Battle at the Great Bridge, I was engaged in the service, as a soldier, under the command of said Tully Robinson, who was then in command of a company owned state establishment, attached to Mathews' Regiment or Brigade, the said Mathews having at that time received the appointment of General, and commanding as such in and about the town of Portsmouth: at least, I believe he was then a General, for I well remember the circumstance of his (Mathews) deserting Fort Nelson, near Norfolk, and leaving the colors of the Fort flying, upon the approach of the British: I am perfectly certain that the said Tully Robinson continued in service, as a Captain, sometime thereafter, but precisely how long, or whether to the close of the war or not, I cannot now recollect, though I am strongly inclined to believe he did remain in service till peace took place: the said Tully Robinson was always considered a brave and meritorious officer, than whom, no man was esteemed more highly as a gentleman in private life. As witness my hand & seal this 12th day of April A.D. 1833

S/ Thomas Bouney,⁴ X his mark

I Elizabeth Owens of the Town of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk, in State of Virginia do hereby certify that I was well acquainted with Tully Robinson formerly a Captain in the Virginia State line during the Revolutionary War: To the best of my knowledge and belief said Robinson was engaged in the battle of the Great Bridge, and that he continued in the service for a considerable time thereafter, and, as I have always understood and believe, he remained in service to the end of the war: I was at the time, a resident of Princess Anne County, about four miles distant from the residence of Captain Robinson: My Father (with whom I was then living) resided at what was called the halfway house between Kempsville in the Great Bridge and I distinctly recollect that during the war Captain Robinson frequently called there in passing to & fro as did many others for the purpose of getting water, which was much better than could be

⁴ Sic, [Thomas Bonney S6688](#)

procured elsewhere in that neighborhood: Captain Robinson's frequent calls and the friendship that existed between him & my father made a strong & lasting impression on my mind, so that even at this distance of time I have no hesitation in saying he was a Captain & that he served to the end of the war. Given under my hand this 8th day of April 1833.

S/ Elizabeth Owens

Elizabeth Owens

The [Library of Virginia](#) online digital collection of documents relating to bounty land claims made on that state contains the following documents relating to this veteran:

I William Cannon of the County of Princess Anne in State of Virginia and formally a soldier of Colonel Charles Dabney's Regiment Virginia State Line during the War of the Revolution – do hereby certify that Thomas Mathews and James Davis were captains in the said Line during the war. Given under my hand this 5th day of November 1831.

S/ Wm Cannon

I do hereby Certify that Tully Robinson was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Line at the time of the War of Revolution and afterwards received a Commission as Captain in the said Line and held the Commission until the close of the War – given under my hand this 5th day of November 1831

S/ Wm Cannon

Wm Cannon