

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Ezra (Isrey) Roberts R8874

Patsey

f23VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/5/12

[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.]

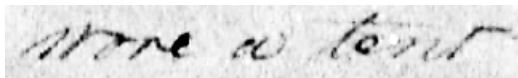
[f p. 23: very faint document]

State of Tennessee Lawrence County: Personally appeared Patsey Roberts before me Thomas G. Rosson an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County and made oath in due form of law and says she was born in Charlotte County Virginia. She was raised in Chatham Town there you remained until me the said Patsey and Isrey Roberts was married there. He said Irsey Roberts [word too faint to discern] enlisted soldier in the old revolutionary war, He said Isrey Roberts was cut over the eye bayoneted in the shoulder and lay on it or in his blood for some time at last he the said Irsey Roberts struggled out of his blood and also bayoneted in the body and wore a tent¹ in his body about six months it was considered by all the physicians that tended on him the wound in the body was the cause of the said Isrey Roberts' death. The said Isrey Roberts died in North Carolina on Dan River. The said Patsey Roberts says she has never been married to no man but the said Isrey Roberts. Her father was a Captain in the old war and my brother in law were both captains in the said war named James Breanon [?]² and James Roberts.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 27th of [indecipherable] 1848

S/ Thomas G. Rosson, JP

S/ Patsey Roberts, X her mark

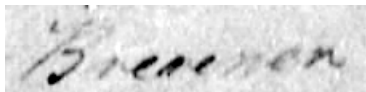
1 

Dr. Malcolm Marion advises:

Taber's Medical Dictionary does have the term "tent" which derives from the Latin tenta (stretched out). The definition is "maintaining or dilating the opening to a sinus, canal, or body cavity. A variety of cylindrically shaped materials may be used." Before I looked this up, that is the concept I thought would make sense. These days, we use a drain of sterile gauze to keep an abscess site open until it heals. Early suturing just complicates an infected site.

For any deep wound or abscess, the aim is to keep the surface open to drain fluids and to let the wound granulate from the bottom. Failure to keep this opening will allow early closure and the formation of an abscess. In the case of a bayonet wound, I would bet it would take months to heal.

The noted wound was in a shoulder joint, certainly complicating healing and future motion of the joint. As to the cause of death with the description of "corruption" running from the mouth, unless he had some weird wound of the abdomen or lung, I can't list the wound to the shoulder as a cause of death many years later.

2 

State of Tennessee County of Lawrence: On this 30th day of January 1850 before me the undersigned chairman of the County Court of Lawrence County Personally appeared Patsey Roberts, at her own dwelling she being unable from bodily infirmity to attend at court, and who is a resident of Lawrence County Tennessee and aged about ninety-four years, and after being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Congress granting half pay and pensions to certain widows. That she is the widow of Isra (Ezra or Isrey) Roberts Dec'd who was an enlisted soldier in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, that he resided in Chatham Town in Charlotte County Virginia when he enlisted which was about the year 1780 or 1781. The said Patsy does not recollect who were the officers under whom her said husband enlisted, or the precise time but supposes that he was under Captain James Brewer, or Captain James Roberts, and she thinks perhaps he served part of his time under General Stephens [perhaps a reference to Edward Stevens], but she is not at all certain as to the officers under whom he served, but she states that he was wounded at a battle called Bewford's or Blewford's defeat [Buford's Defeat, also known as the Battle of Waxhaws, May 29, 1780], but she does not know when or where at that battle was fought, but thinks it was in North or South Carolina and about 1780 or 1782. That he received in said battle a wound over the eye and on the arm with a sword, and was bayoneted in the body and near the shoulder blade, which wound last mentioned Nether finally healed up to the day of his death. And that the doctors who attended on him said that the bayonet stab which he received in his body was the cause of his death. That he the said Isra Roberts wore a tent in his body for a great while after he returned home from the Army. She further declares that she was married to said Ezra Roberts before he enlisted, but does not now recollect the date, but supposes that the marriage took place sometime about the year 1773 or 1775 in Charlotte County Virginia and that her husband the aforesaid Isra died in North Carolina on Dan River in or about the year 1795. That she was married to said Roberts before he enlisted in the service, and that she has not been married to any person but the said Isra Roberts. And she further states that she and has no documentary evidence in support of her claim.

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and date above written

S/ Rufus W. McWhirter, Judge

S/ Patsey Roberts, X her mark

[Isaac Morris and G. H. Vandiver, both Baptist ministers, gave testimony that they have been acquainted with Patsey Roberts for 20 years; that she is a virtuous and truthful woman of good character; that the physicians who attended her husband stated that he died of the wounds he received at Blewford's defeat in the revolutionary war.]

[f p. 7: On February 6, 1850 in Lawrence County Tennessee, James Roberts, aged about 66 years, gave testimony that he is the son of Ezra Roberts and Patsey Roberts his wife; that he saw upon the body of his father the wound of a sword and also mark or scar on the arm and over the eye which had the appearance of a wound which had been made by a sword; that his father also had a wound of a bayonet in the body near the shoulder blade which last mentioned wound never finally 'cured' but remained a sore until his death which took place on the Dan River in North Carolina about the year 1795. That he "saw all the corruption run out of his mouth after he was dead, and the Doctors who attended on him in his last sickness said that was caused by the wound of the bayonet which wound they said caused his death, he has also heard his Father and mother say when he was on his deathbed that he served in the United States Army against the British in the revolutionary war, and in the Battle called Blewford's defeat he received the wounds above mentioned." He signed his affidavit with his mark.]

[f p. 8: On February 6, 1850 in Lawrence County Tennessee, Nancy Roberts, gave testimony that she has been acquainted with Patsey Roberts the widow of Isra Roberts for the past 40 years irreproachable character; that she has heard Patsey say many years ago and before she had any knowledge that she might be entitled to a pension from the government that her husband had served in the revolutionary war and had been wounded in a battle called Blewford's defeat from which wound he ultimately died. She also testified that the veteran and his wife had 4 children, all sons. Her relationship, if any, to the veteran or his widow is not stated. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]