

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of William Robinson R8909 Mason Robinson VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 14 Oct 2014.

Virginia County of Bedford SS

On this 11 day of April in the year 1853 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Mrs. Mason Robinson a resident of the said County aged 91 years to me well and personally known who after being first duly sworn according to law declares as follows. that she is the widow of William Robinson dc'd who was a private in the War of the Revolution and at the time of his death a resident also of the County of Bedford in the State aforesaid – That her said husband entered the service as an inlisted soldier in the service of the Continental Army as she thinks though he may have been in the State Line of Virginia troops – that he went from the County of Cumberland in Virginia where he then resided about the year 1777 or 1778 as she thinks and entered the service for three years as she believes – she thinks however he was in the battle of Princeton [3 Jan 1777] and was afterwards in the battle of Yorktown at the surrender of Cornwallis and the Capture of the British Army [19 Oct 1781] so that his service may have been of longer continuance than these years. That her said husband had an older brother whose name was James [James Robinson] who had been in the service for some time and when he returned home, he enlisted the second time when her said husband then entered the service with him. that there was also another brother John [John Robinson who was in the said service also. That she has heard her husband often speak of his services and of the great length of time he served. she has however no means of ascertaining the time when he entered the service or when he left it, the number of the Regiment he was in or the officers under whom he served though she has no doubt she has heard him speak of these things also – She has understood that William Davenport [pension application S8309] late of this County, has told others that her said husband served with him in the war of the Revolution, while he the said Davenport was himself a soldier and that they were both as she thinks in the battles of the South together. that said Davenport spoke of being with her husband at several places in South Carolina in service in the said war, though she did not hear the said Davenport make these statements himself. That she has also understood, that Thomas Andrews [S6506] now living in this County has been heard to say that he was in the service with her said husband and that said Andrews has told others they were at the battle of Yorktown together. That both the said Davenport and the said Andrews were in the War of the Revolution will appear from the fact that pensions were granted them for their services – The said Davenport died about two years past, as she thinks, in the said County of Bedford where he then lived and she refers to his declaration and certificate of pension under the control of the pension office as she supposes in support of her claims – That the said Andrews is now though living so infirm and aged and his mind so much impaired with the loss of all memory almost, that she is unable to avail herself of any statement that he now could [illegible word] make. that he is now as she understands about 93 years old. she refers however to his declaration and pension certificate also in support of her application. That she knows of no other person now living by whom she can prove her husbands services, unless she can prove facts of importance to her by William Clark who she understands lives in the County of Campbell in Virginia – she has understood that the said Clark has told others that he knew her husband, that they lived in the same neighbourhood during the war of the Revolution and that he knows when her said husband entered the service and when he returned – she does not know that the said Clark was in the service with him, but that he was old enough at the time to remember the circumstances. she will endeavor if she can do so to obtain his affidavit of the facts as stated by him. Though she is unable by reason of the great length of time which has elapsed to prove the length of time her husband served she is confident he did serve at least three years or thereabouts and perhaps much longer. she refers to the records of the Army if any exist in support of her claim declaring as she does her inability to furnish any primary evidence of the said services other than as she has stated the same – That she would long since have made her application for a pension, but for the fact that for many years after the passage of the law for the relief of

the widows of Revolutionary soldiers, she was ignorant of its existence herself. That her children also now separated from her and she thinks as ignorant of its existence as herself. and even when she ascertained there was such a law she did not know how to proceed and as from time to time the subject has been neglected for these reasons til the present time. She could have availed herself of the personal testimony of the said Davenport and the said Andrews long since if she had the assistance of any one who could have secured them for her; but woman as she is she had no opportunity – no ability – strength and means at her advanced age to aid her in prosecuting her claim even if she had been made acquainted with her proper rights That she was married to the said William Robinson in the County of Bedford Va in or about the year 1788 as she thinks, by [blank] a Baptist minister, that her name before her marriage was Mason Gibbs That she does not know whether there is any record of her marriage or not, does not think there is unless it can be found in the Clerks office and after search should it be found she will forward it with this declaration. She refers however to the Declaration affidavit or statement of her brother William Gibbs who was present at her marriage and knows the fact. – That her said husband lived in the County of Bedford Va to which place he removed from Cumberland County after the close of the war – that he resided in said County of Bedford from the time of his removal til the period of his death which took place in the year 1817. That he was at the time about three years older than herself. She makes this Declaration to enable her to receive the benefit of the provision of the Acts of Congress granting pensions to certain widows &c to the titles and dates of which she refers for certainty in their description. Subscribed and sworn to before me this day and year first above written and I further certify that I believe the said Mrs Mason Robinson is of the age she has stated. I also further certify that I believe she is the widow of William Robinson as she has stated who was as said a Revolutionary soldier which said fact I duly certify from the statement of others, his having died many years since. That Mrs Robinson is a widow I have no doubt as she lives not far from me and I have known her many years and she has in all that time been reputed to be a widow – Given under my hand as aforesaid and subscribed as aforesaid as first above written

Mason Robinson herXmark
Jno. Callaway JP.

Virginia County of Bedford to wit

This day David M. Wright came before me and made oath that he was well acquainted with William Davenport dec who was a Revolutionary soldier and who died some two years since in the Count of Bedford Va. That he has several times heard the said Davenport say he was in the service in the War of the Revolution with William Robinson de'd whose widow has signed the above declaration. That he thinks the said Davenport not only said he knew him, the said Robinson, but also that they were in the same Regiment with each other in the War of the Revolution – that he thinks they were also to together as the said Davenport said in the same battles in the South – he remembers distinctly that he mentioned the battle of Camden [16 Aug 1780] as one of the places they were at. He the said Davenport when quite an old man was in the habit of stopping at the house of this affiant (who lived immediately at the toll gate which affiant kept) for the purpose of resting himself when passing and while there he spoke often of the events of his life while in the war of the Revolution and he mentioned the said Robinson as one of his companions and fellow soldiers. He was perhaps led to this from the fact that this affiants wife was a descendant of the said Robinson. This affiant also well recollects that old Mr John Wigginton [W6547] late of said County told this affiant that he was in the service with Wm Robinson and the said William Davenport in the war of the Revolution – he the said Wigginton was a regular soldier as affiant thinks and served five years as well as he recollects – he drew a pension for many years and died in said County some years ago. The said David M Wright further says that he has known Mrs Mason Robinson well for upwards of thirty years – that she has in all that time been looked upon and regarded by all as the widow of William Robinson dec; a fact which he has never heard questioned by any one – he knows of his own knowledge that she is now a widow as he sees her every day. That he has heard the said William Robinson spoken of in the family and by others all his life or since his acquaintance with it as a Revolutionary soldier who had seen much service and he has never heard the fact called in question. He

further says that Mrs Mason Robinson is a very aged woman and he has every reason for believing that but for her ignorance of her rights and her inability to attend personally to her application for a pension she would long since have preferred her claim for the services of her said husband. The said affiant further declares that he is 53 years old and I further certify that he is known to me personally as a man truth and I further certify that I believe he is of the age he has stated.

subscribed and sworn to before me this 11 day of April in the year 1853

[signed] David M. Wright

Jno. Callaway JP.

Va Campbell Co to Wit

This day John Andrews who is personally known to me as a man of truth and respectability and who is known to me as a resident also of said County made oath that he is now about 55 years of age – that he has often heard his father Thomas Andrews (a Revolutionary soldier now living in the County of Bedford Va) say that James and William Robinson were both at York Town with him at the surrender of Cornwallis. The affiant further says that his father Thomas Andrews, by reason of age – loss of memory and mental decay is now incapable of giving any statement in regard to the same – though before his mind became so impaired which has been the case for a year or two, he has heard him make the above statement. That his father lived in Cumberland County Va when he entered the Revolutionary service as he has always heard him say. That he is now about 93 years (his father) and is perhaps the only Revolutionary pensioner now living in the County of Bedford.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of April 1853 [signed] Jno Andrews

James Russell J.P.

Virginia County of Campbell SS

On this 26 day of April in the year 1853 came before me a Justice of the peace in said county William Clark who is personally known to me as a man of truth and made the following statement – that he was born in the County of Campbell in Virginia on the 28th day of January 1767 – that his father died when he was three years old only – that he was raised and brought up by his Grandfather Edmund Taney – that when a boy perhaps 10 years old he knew Samuel Robinson an old man who had four sons James, William, John and Samuel – the two first the oldest – he was well and intimately acquainted with the family of old Mr Robinson. The war of the Revolution was going on. That James and William Robinson both enlisted in the service and he verily believes this was about the year 1777-8 as he was he thinks ten or eleven years old – that they both continued in the service from the time they entered til the close of the war – he knows that it was so understood by their acquaintances at the time – they were away from home as he knows for several years – he distinctly remembers their going into the Regular service – they were not militia men. He knows that the day was set for the Regulars (as the troops of that class were called) to start from the barracks at Cumberland Courthouse and he went with his grandfather to see them and there he saw James and William Robinson among the troops as soldiers, when the war ended they returned – after their return home he was intimate with them for some years and he has often herd relate many things that happened while in the service. That he the affiant remained and lived in Cumberland and Powhattan [sic: Powhatan] for a number of years when about 26 years past he removed to the County of Campbell. Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and year aforesaid and I further certify that I believe the above named William Clark is of the age he has stated that is of the age of 86 years

James Russell J.P.

William hisXmark Clark

Virginia County of Bedford to Wit

This day Daniel Mitchell aged sixty six years a resident of said County came before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County and made oath that he was well acquainted with William Robinson in his lifetime and that he was also a resident of said County where his widow Mason Robinson now lives – that said William lived near this affiant within a mile and a half (and very near him at another period of his acquaintance) for a great number of years. That he has always understood from various persons that

the said Robinson was a soldier of the Revolution. Among others whom he has heard speak of being in the service with said Robinson were John Wigginton & James Robinson brother of the said William – that said Wigginton and James Robinson both often spoke of William Robinson as having been in the Revolutionary War with them – that he has heard said Wigginton say that said William was with him at the time of the capture of Cornwallis as well as the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] where said Robinson was wounded in the foot – this affiant has often seen the scar when fishing with the said Robinson and when his foot was naked – he has seen it at the same time with the said Wigginton when it was spoken of by him said Wigginton as having been the result of a wound in the battle of Guilford. That the old men very often spoke of the battles they were in and it often was the subject of conversation. He remembers having heard them speak of Cornwallis marching between the lines of our soldiers and officers and that he Cornwallis seemed very much cast down [see endnote] – he remembers they said however that in this affair there was no fighting in which they took part. He remembers having heard William Robinson speak of the length of one tour of his service which was three years in the regular army and that he first enlisted for that time. He remembers to have heard said William Robinson brother James say that he was in the service before William entered – that while he was in the service James Robinson joined the Army and remained in for three years til the close of the War – that he has heard said William speak of one Major Triffoth[?] or a name sounding like it – he does not recollect the other officers said Robinson having gone from Cumberland County as he thinks That said William Robinson died about the year 1817 as this affiant thinks and his brother James awhile before him. That said Wigginton who was in the receipt of a pension died (as did the said Robinsons) in the County of Bedford some years since perhaps 10 or 12. That he is well acquainted with Mrs Mason Robinson the widow of William and has known her for many years – she is now very old – blind and deaf and could not with any safety to her health, be carried to the Courthouse of said County – he knows her to be the widow of William Robinson

Signed and given before me this 27th Feby 1854 and I further certify that said Daniel Mitchell who is well known to me as a man of truth made oath to the forgoing this day & year aforesaid before me
R. G. Bell J.P. Daniel hisXmark Mitchell

NOTES:

Cornwallis was not present at the surrender at Yorktown, having delegated the task to Gen. Charles O'Hara, his second in command.

The file includes a copy of the record of the marriage of William Robinson and Mason Gibbs on 21 Sep 1791 in Bedford County.