

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ross R9023 ½

f46NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

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State of Maine Washington County

On this 15th day of July in the year while Lord 1844, personally appeared in open Court before the Subscriber Judge of the Court of Probate for said County of Washington held within and for the said County, John Ross a resident of Windsor in the County of Hants and Province of Nova Scotia, aged eighty-four years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he the said John Ross was born in the Parish of Croy (or Troy) Inverness-Shire, Scotland, and that at an early period himself and father's family emigrated to Wilmington North Carolina where his father since died and this declarant was bound out as an apprentice to a widow Woman to learn a trade of Baker, in which service he was employed the Revolutionary War commenced and being about 15 years of age he enlisted as a soldier under Captain Ash [Ashe] of the first North Carolina Regiment under the command of Colonel Clark [Thomas Clark]; and in Captain Ashe's company of said Regiment and other companies & Regiments, he served his country faithfully upwards of 5 years and under the following named officers, viz.: Captain Ashe, Captain McKeif or McLeave, Captain Summers, Captain Reid, Captain Hall & Captain Bowman and Colonels Clark, Little [Lytle], Bucklin and Sheppard; and that he was in the following skirmishes and Battles, viz., at Moons (or Moore's) bridge on Bald Head Island with some Tories -- at the Battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Germantown [October 4, 1777] and Monmouth [June 28, 1778] he fought against the British --

During his service to the southward he was dangerously wounded in the neck by the accidental discharge of a musket in the hands of a Boy -- his wound was dressed by Doctor Johnston of the Army -- And this Declarant further states that afterwards the Troops to which he belonged marched to the Southward to reinforce the Southern Army, and at Charleston South Carolina he was taken prisoner when that post surrendered to the British Army [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] -- and that he with many others were confined on board of a Prison Ship in the Harbor, where he suffered many privations and hardships and likewise ill treatment because he would not enlist into the enemies service as many of his fellow prisoners did, all their offers he rejected with disdain. At length when the Spanish and French Prisoners were ordered to be sent home he was set on shore and was immediately set upon by two Hessian soldiers and severely beaten by them, which had nearly cost him his life, and confined him to the Hospital many months, how long he cannot now recollect --

And this Declarant further states that after the peace he sailed to New York in an American vessel: thence he sailed in a vessel engaged in the coasting trade to Nova Scotia where and in process of time he married and has continued to reside ever since --

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State or Province and the known world.

S/ John Ross, X his mark

Witness: S/ J. C. Talbot

S/ James Mosher

He the said Declarant living in a long distance from the United States in a remote from any source of information whereby he can get assistance in the prosecution of his claim for a pension under the provisions of the now existing Pension laws, is the reason why he has not heretofore made application.

S/ John Ross, X his mark

Interrogatories propounded to John Ross by the Court of Probate for Washington County July 15th 1844

1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In the Parish of Croy in Inverness Shire Scotland A.D. 1760

2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: no I have not

3<sup>rd</sup> Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In Wilmington North Carolina, at Windsor Nova Scotia, where I now live and have lived ever since the Revolution

4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: I enlisted in the service

5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: I served while in the service of America under Colonels Clark, Little, Buckern and Sheppard and Captain McLeave, Summers, Reed, Hall and Bowen

6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I did not receive a discharge I was taken prisoner by the enemy and kept as such until I was discharged

7<sup>th</sup> State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: Hon. Lewis M. Wilkins, Revd. Wm C. King, Rector of the English Church and Richard W. Haffey, Farmer, are all well acquainted with me

8<sup>th</sup> Were you wounded while in the American service

Ans: I was severely wounded by a boy whose gun went off by accident, and the ball and two buck shot poured [?] through my neck (the scars are now visible)

S/ John Ross, X his mark

John Ross of Windsor in the Province of Nova Scotia, Farmer, maketh oath and saith that he joined the American Army in the revolutionary war at Wilmington, in the year 1775, and entered in the first Regiment of North Carolina Troops under Captain Ash [Ashe] who resigned and Captain McKief [? could be McRief?] got the company and the Deponent served the time stated in his former affidavits, that he [2 indecipherable words, possibly "never was"] in the 4th Regiment and [indecipherable word or words, possibly "never"] served under Captain Williams, that when he was but a boy he entered the Army and cannot say for what period of time he entered, whether for the War or for any other definite [?] time, but that he served the Americans Army faithfully for six years, and has not yet received any compensation for his services, that before he entered the Army his Father died, and he saw his mother only once after he joined the Army, at a place called Bluford Bridge [Beaufort bridge?] where he left her very ill and thinks she must have died for he never after heard of her, his Father was named Hugh Ross his mother Margaret, he had seven sisters but has never heard of them since he joined the Army their names are Margaret, June, Jennet, Isabel, Rachel, Catherine and Elizabeth and one Brother who was left in England or Scotland when he came over to America with his father, he understood that his father died at a place called the Cross Creeks, but Deponent was young and may be mistaken in the name, But the two persons with whom he was most intimate in the Army were John Hancock and John Ingram that he and Hancock attempted to make their escape from the British in Charles Town [Charleston], and they were retaken and put on board a Prison Ship as stated in Deponent's former Affidavits. And this Deponent further saith that two men of the Army in which Deponent was, were charged with Robbing a house and ill using the inhabitants and were tried by a Court martial and condemned, and Deponents recollects that when they had marched one day from West Point one of them was hung and the other flogged under the gallows the name of the one that was hung was Peter Bengis, Wyley Burrow was the other and was whipped , and this Deponent further saith that he recollects when on the march from West Point to Charles town a man of the 2nd Regiment of the name of Thomas Glover [sic, Samuel Glover NC38] was shot for mutiny, and this Deponent further saith that when he enlisted he was but young and had but few acquaintance none of whom he now recollects being upwards of eighty-four years of age, and his recollection is much impaired, but this much he recollects well, that he honestly and faithfully served the American Cause for 6 years and never has received any compensation and further this Deponent saith not.

S/ John Ross, X his mark

Sworn before me at Windsor in the Province of Nova Scotia this 5th day of December A.D. 1844  
S/ Lewis M. Wilkins, Judge Sup: Court

I John Ross of Windsor in the County of Hants and Province of Nova Scotia does hereby declare that I was born in Inverness Shire in the parish of Troy [sic, Croy] North Britain in the year of our Lord 1760 where my Father and Mother with seven daughters and myself the only son emigrated about two years before the revolutionary war into the States of America to Wilmington in North Carolina in the States of America as soon as the war broke out at the age of 15 years I enlisted in the American service under Captain Ashe the first action under Captain Ashe was at Moore's bridge where a number of Tories were killed and a number (I do not remember how many) were taken prisoners we were then ordered to Cape fair [sic, Cape Fear River] where we had a skirmish with some British Man of War Sailors, where we had one man killed shortly after we were ordered to headquarters to join General Washington's Army at the White Plains the first battle after joining the General's Army was Brandywine the next battle fought at was the battle of

Germantown, the next I thought was at Monmouth. I was four Campaigns at headquarters we marched from West Point to Sunbury from thence to Paramus a Dutch settlement where we wintered under General Washington there I was while standing up in my quarters accidentally shot through the back part of my neck with a musket ball was taken up for dead, but did recover, being under the Doctor Johnson hands for some time. I was marched from West Point to Charlestown South Carolina where after a Siege of 6 weeks enduring hunger and fatigue I was taken Prisoner and was kept as such by the British till the war ended, the next Captain after Ashe I served under was Captain McKief -- the Regiment I enlisted into was first Regiment of North Carolina troops Colonel Clark Captain Ashe. I enlisted in 1775. I served about 5 or 6 years till taken a prisoner, thus I have been preserved through many dangers to a very advanced age, and were I capable of writing what my mind yet contains of the various marches trials and dangers that I went through in the revolutionary war and America it would make a volume, these all facts as near as my recollection gives me and am willing to give testimony to the same --

Battle of Brandywine terminated in favor of the British the American Army retreated over Chester Bridge in cut away the bridge in the battle ended

Battle of Germantown

the British maintained the ground with Great courage but was overpowered by the superior numbers of the American Army they had to retreat until that they met a reinforcement from Philadelphia they then renewed the action and the American Army had to retreat

Battle of Monmouth

when the British evacuated Philadelphia the American Army pursued them so close that they had to leave their kettles on the fire with the beef cut up with the hide on General Sterling commanded the left wing of the Army did not come to any action with small arms only cannonading General Washington came to view the left wing the cannon was aimed for him but he did not appear to be any alarmed a column of the British came on the left wing but they received the grape shot and cannon they had to retreat over Monmouth bridge and cut it down