

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Matthew Robinson (Robison, Roberson, Robertson) S11309

Transcribed by Mona Robinson Mills

The State of Alabama
Lawrence County

This day personally appeared before me Hodge L. Stephenson (illegible) Justice of the peace for said county, Buthey(?) Martin and made oath in due form of same that he was personally and well acquainted with Mathew Robison Senior from the commencement of the Revolutionary War and he the Snr Robison belonged to what was cald the whig party and that he was out the greater part of the time until the close of the war. This the 27 of August 1832.

Buthey (his X mark) Martin

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

H.L. Stephenson, J.P.

The State of Alabama
Lawrence County

Personally appeared before me, Crockett McDonald a justice of the peace for said County, James Strain a citizen of said County, and made oath that he was acquainted with Matthew Robinson an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress of June 7th 1832 in the time of the Revolutionary War that said Robinson was a soldier, and served the American cause under Captain William Strain, a militia Captain, and was always reputed to have been a faithful and courageous soldier. He states that they both lived in Abbeville District, state of South Carolina. Affiant was at the time (illegible) to quite young so that he cannot give a detail of the terms.

(signed) James L. Strain

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th October 1832. (signed) C. McDonald J.P.

State of Alabama
Lawrence County

I, John Gregg, Clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that Crockett McDonald Esquire whose name is subscribed to the written affidavit was on the day of the acct thereof an acting Justice of the Peace in and for said county duly commissioned and sworn (illegible) that full faith and credit (illegible) his official acts as such.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and affixed my seal of office the 10th day of October 1832. (signed) John Gregg, Clerk

State of Alabama
Marion County

County Court for November Term for Eighteen Hundred & Thirty Two

On this 24th day of November Eighteen Hundred thirty-two personally appeared in open court before William H. Duke Judge of the County Court for Marion County now sitting (said court being a court of record) Mathew Robison a resident citizen of said county and state aged about seventy-three years [note: born 1759] who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. He entered the Service of the United States as a Militia Man under the command of Capt. Andrew Pickens (afterward Genl Pickens) in a Regiment commanded by a Col. Anderson and continued in the Service of the United States during the continuance of the War. He was commanded by Capt. A Pickens but a short time until he Capt Pickens was promoted to the office of Mayor and he this deponent was then commanded by Capt. James McCall in a Volunteer Home Company for about two years, Commanded by the said Pickens and Anderson as field officer. He was then commanded by Capt Andrew Miller for about Eighteen Months in a company of Indian spies and served on the frontier of South Carolina. He was then commanded by Capt. William Strain until the closing of the war. He was under the command of Genl Andrew Pickens further as a company Regimental or Genl officer during the whole of the (illegible) he was in Service. He fought at the Battle of Cambridge under Capt. McCall. He was engaged (illegible) with the Tories and Indians fought with the Tories at a creek called Kettle Creek in Georgia fought near the mouth of this River St. Marys with the English Tories and Indians under the command of Capt James McCall. He hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any states.

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid in open court.

(signed) Teste. Harley Tuttle Clerk
signed Mathew (his X mark) Robison

And the said court do hereby declares their opinion after this investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department that the applicant was a Revolutionary Soldier and Served as he states and the Court further certifies that Buthey (Ruthey?) Martin and James L. Strain are citizens of Lawrence County as he believes in the State aforesaid and that they are credible persons and that their statement is (illegible) to credit.

(signed) William H. Dukes, Judge of the County Court of Marion County

I, Harley Tuttle, clerk of the county court of Marion County, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Mathew Robeson for a pension. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this 24th day of November 1832.

(signed) Teste Harley Tuttle Clerk

About a year after the original application was submitted, with no apparent response, a letter was submitted by Alabama's U.S. Representative J. L. Martin. The letter reads as follows:

Washington
Sept 28th 1833

Sir,

Some time during last session, as I believe, I sent to you the application of Mathew Robinson of Lawrence Cty Ala for a pension. I rec'd an answer in which you stated that he was entitled to a small amt but the application was held up as a suspended case. This is my recollection of the transaction, which may be incorrect. Mr. Robinson's application is before you at any rate and he is uninformed of what disposition is made of it. I must request you to let me be informed upon this subject. If according to my recollection an allowance was made, whatever it was, he desires the benefit and requests a certificate.

Respectfully, your obt svt
J. L. Martin

[to] Hon. J. L. Edwards Comm. Pensions

The War Department's Pension Office, returned the papers on November 27, 1833, with the following notation among the official language:

"A Statement, shewing (sic) the Service of Matthew Robeson (sic).
Names and rank of the Field officers under whom he served:
Cap. Pickens
Col. Anderson
Cap McCall
Age at present and place of abode when he entered the service:
73 years
So. Ca.
Proof by which the declaration is supported:
Living Witnesses"

Between 1833 and 1835, it is not known what may have transpired. The records at the National Archives, as forwarded to me by the South Carolina Archives, did not contain any documents from November 1833 until the March 1835 re-submission of the Matthew's pension application.

Here is the full transcription of Matthew Robinson's 1835 re-application for his Revolutionary War pension:

State of Alabama

Lawrence County

On the 25th day of March 1835 personally appeared before me James B. Wallace judge of the county court of said county in open court Matthew Robinson a resident of Marion County State aforesaid of seventy-five years of age who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he enlisted as a volunteer in the army of the United States in the year 1777 as well as he recollects, under command of Captain James McCall, the number of his regiment is not recollected, and he served under the following named officers to wit: Maj Andrew Pickens who was afterwards promoted and commanded as Colonel, that he served as a private soldier two years under said officer and during which service he was engaged in several skirmishes with the Indians and the Tories, and in a very severe contest on Kettle Creek in the state of Georgia. That immediately after his return home he again entered the service under Captain Andrew Miller who commanded a spy company, and he served under him two years as a private during this latter period they had many skirmishes with the Indians and Tories, but had no particular engagement with the enemy, that he recollects Captain Miller was killed at the battle of Cowpens and Captain Strain took command of said Company and declarant served under him one year. They were stationed on the frontier guarding against the attacks of the Indians - He states that during his service under Captain McCall that he was in the battle of Ninety-Six in South Carolina, Colonel Williamson commanded at that battle. He resided in Abbeville District, South Carolina, when he enlisted the army and all the services as above stated were rendered in said state of South Carolina and state of Georgia in the South Carolina state troops. He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state, that he had some written discharges but they are all lost and he can only prove his services by Samuel McCluskey whose affidavit he presents him with.

Matthew (X) Robinson

Sworn to and subscribed in open court, by J.B. Wallace, Judge

State of Alabama
Lawrence County

Mr. Edward McMillen, a clergyman residing in said county and Argyle Campbell residing in the same county, do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Matthew Robinson by reputation, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, and that we believe him to be seventy-five years of age [note: born 1760], that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he has resided in Lawrence County, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th day of March 1835
(signed) Edward McMillan and Argyle Campbell
by James B. Wallace Judge, Cnty Court

And said Court do hereby declare the opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the war department that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states, and the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Edward McMillan who has signed the preceeding certificate is a clergy man resident in said county of Lawrence, and that Argyle Campbell who has also signed the same is a resident of the same county and is a credible person, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

(signed) James B. Wallace
Judge of the County Court of Lawrence County, Alabama

State of Alabama
Lawrence County

Personally appeared in open Court for said county, Samuel McCluskey and made oath that he was raised in the same neighborhood in the State of South Carolina with Matthew Robinson the foregoing declarant, that affiant is about five years younger than said Robinson [note: Samuel's year of birth was 1765 per his Bible] but that he distinctly recollects that said Matthew was engaged in the service of the United States as a private soldier almost constantly from an early period in the war until the close of it and the restoration of peace which restored him to the society of his friends. Affiant states that he was too young to accompany said Robinson but he lived in the same neighborhood with him in said Abbeville District, South Carolina long after the war and it was always believed and reputed that said Robinson performed the services as a soldier as above stated by him in the foregoing declaration. It was also reputed that he was brave and intrepid as a soldier in the cause of American Liberty. Affiant's elder brother was a companion in same with the said Matthew Robinson, which circumstances impress more deeply on his mind at his advanced stages of life the fact of said Robinson's patriotism.

Sworn to in open Court this 25th March, 1835.

Saml (X his mark) McCluskey
(signed) J.B. Wallace Judge

Interrogatories put by the court to the foregoing declarant and the answers then to be made on oath in open court.

1. Where and in what year were you born? Answer: I was born in the State of Virginia in Augusta County and was raised as a little boy in the State of South Carolina, Abbeville district. I do not recollect the year in which I was born but I am seventy-five years of age.
2. Have you any record of your age and if so, where is it? Answer: I have none. My age was recorded in the family Bible of my father and when I left South Carolina, the Bible was left behind and I do not know what has become of it.
3. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you live now? Answer: I lived in Abbeville District, South Carolina when I entered the service and remained there until twelve years ago when I moved to

Lawrence County, State of Alabama, where I lived six years. I then moved to Marion County in said state where I now live.

4. How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom? Answer: I volunteered under Captain James McCall, served two years, and again under Captain Andrew Miller served two years more and after the death of Captain Miller I was commanded as a volunteer by Captain William Strain one year as a militia man.

5. 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. Answer: There was Major Andrew Pickens who I believe was a militia officer. He was promoted to the command of Colonel and afterward to that of General. I recollect as Regular officers Captain George Diddle [my note: this is probably George Liddell] and Major Aaron Smith but time and infirmity have obliterated from my memory many of the Regular officers, of that day(?) I cannot now recollect the Regiments by name or number in which I served, but I served as stated in the foregoing declaration.

6. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer: I did receive several, some of them by General Pickens and some by Captains McCall and Miller, and before the close of the war my house was pillaged by the Tories and my discharges destroyed.

To the 7th Interrogatory. I can state Ambrose R. Hunter, Samuel McCluskey, Samuel McGaughy and many others in Lawrence County where I lived six years. And in the neighborhood where I now live I can name James White and Peter Noe and John Bigham [NOTE: Bigham and Noe are found on the 1830 census near Matthew] and many others who will all bear testimony to my veracity and I am constrained to believe have no doubt of my Revolutionary War services and I have made the foregoing declaration in the county of Lawrence because I am there best known and there only can I prove a surviving witness (to wit, Samuel McCluskey) that I was a Revolutionary soldier.

I, James B. Wallace, Judge of the county court aforesaid hereby certify that the foregoing interrogatories were answered as stated by Matthew Robinson when he made his declaration in order to obtain a pension in open court on this day March 25, 1835. Signed: James B. Wallace, Judge of the County Court, Lawrence County, Alabama.

A note in the file indicates the pension application was suspended as of April 29, 1835:

Mathew Robinson
Alabama

Suspended
29 April 1835

John Gregg

See letter 23 Feb 36 Hon. J. L. Martin

[Apparently Rep. Martin submitted another letter on Matthew's behalf in 1836.]

Finally, in 1837, the application was approved:

Alabama

Matthew Robinson

Marion Co in the State of Alabama who was a private in the company commanded by Captian Miller of the regt commanded by Col. ___(blank)___ in the S. Carolina (illegible) for six months.

Inscribed on the Roll of Alabama (Decatur) at the rate of 20 Dollars _(blank)___ Cents per annum to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 29th day of Sept 1837 and sent to (illegible).
(signed) J. Martin, H. Reprs.

Arrears to the 4th of Sept '37 - \$130 [\$20 per yr x 6.5 years from 3.4.1831]
Semi-ann allowance ending 4 March '37 - \$10
Total - \$140

Revolutionary Claim Act June 7, 1832

Recorded by Wm. Allison Clerk

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Letter to Pensioner viz Audit 30th July 1839

Paid at the Treasury under the Act of the 6 April 1838

from 4th Sept 1837 to 4 Sept 1838

Notified 9 Aug 1839.

An official Treasury Department document is in the pension file:

Treasury Department

Second Comptroller's Office

August 2, 1839

Sir:

Under the act of the 6th of April, 1838 entitled "An act directing the transfer of money remaining unclaimed by certain Pensioners, and authorizing the payment of the same at the Treasury of the United States," Mathew Robinson, a Pensioner on the Roll of the Huntsville, Ala Agency at the rate of Twenty Dollars per annum, under the law of the 7th June 1832, has been paid at the Department, from the 4th of Sept. 1837 to the 4th Sept. 1838.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) illegible

Comptroller