

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John M. Roseberry ¹ S14316

f113NJ

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/8/18

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 4 begins the original of the application but beginning on p 47 is a copy of the original which is much more legible and appears to be a faithful copy]

State of Virginia County of Mason } to wit

On this 3rd day of March 1841 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Mason County now sitting John M Roseberry a resident of the vicinity of Point Pleasant in the County of Mason and State of Virginia aged seventy-nine years the 28th day of April 1840 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 the 7th 1832.

That in the month of September 1776 at pitch town in Hunterdon County (Trenton being the seat of Justice of said County) in the State of New Jersey he entered the public service as a volunteer for nine months under a Captain who served name Everett [James Everett] (Christian name now forgotten) and rendezvoused at the aforesaid village of Pitch town and at the aforesaid place of rendezvous the aforesaid Volunteer Company was attached to a drafted militia company who rendezvoused at the same place and the whole was commanded by an officer whose name was Piatt [perhaps Daniel Piatt] (the Christian name not remembered) whose rank it is believed was that of a Major. Shortly after the Junction aforesaid both companies marched to headquarters under Major Piatt and Joined General Washington's Army between the North River and Newark about one days march from the last named place – the British then being in pursuit of the American Army at the time deponent in connection with his company Joined it. The enemy still pressing the American Army it continued its retreat to Newark and in a day or two moved to Brunswick the British it is believed entered Newark [paper damaged and text missing] day after the Americans left it. From Brunswick [paper damaged and words missing] American Army retreated to Prince town [Princeton] and from there to Trenton and retreated from there across the Delaware River and took post along the river in the state of Pennsylvania the British entering Trenton the day after the American Army left and were in close and hot pursuit of them. To advance the retreat of the American Army as well as to retard the advance of the British at that period, Deponent recollects the collection of the boats and all kind of river craft by the American Army and the care with which they were watched. Deponent does not distinctly remember precisely where he crossed the Delaware River but believes that he crossed at or near Coryell's ferry above the falls and course consequently above the head of tide-water. The weather at that time was quite cold. After laying on the South side of the Delaware River between two and three

¹ BLWt12731-160-55 The veteran is also referred to in the file as "John Roseborough"; "John Roseburgh" etc.

weeks and in the interval having received a considerable accession of numbers by the influx of some Pennsylvania militia and it is also believed General Sullivan's Army or a part thereof towards the latter in of the month of December Deponent as one of and with the American Army re-crossed the Delaware River in a violent snow storm on a very cold night and after crossing the river the Army was divided into two parts one of which marched down the River Road to Trenton and into this division (what it is believed was commanded by General Sullivan) Deponent fell. Deponent was in the battle at Trenton [December 26, 1776] and aided in the capture of the part of the British Army then lying at that place. After a short delay at Trenton the American Army was again put in motion for Princeton and at that place had a sharp action [January 3, 1777] and the British returned to Brunswick and the Americans went into winter quarters at Morristown the British having principally concentrated at Amboy. After wintering the first thing that occurred in the spring of 1777 or in the latter end of the winter of 1776-7 was an attempt made by the British Army to capture or destroy some American military stores at Dansberry [Danbury]. The British Army it is believed was commanded by General Tryon [William Tryon] and he was opposed in his attempt by the command of Generals Arnold [Benedict Arnold] and Wooster [David Wooster] the latter of whom then and there received a wound which afterwards proved mortal. Tryon was also to have been opposed in his attempt by General Sullivan's command to which Deponent was attached but before Sullivan's troops could get up to go into action the British had effected the destruction of the stores at Dansberry and retired to the sound to the protection afforded by their shipping though not without having sustained severe loss from the troops under the command of Arnold and Wooster. Deponent having some short time after this occurrence completed his term of nine months for which he had volunteered in some four or six weeks after the expiration of his term aforesaid and without leaving the Army entered into the regular service for during the war. This enlistment took place in the vicinity of Princeton in the state of New Jersey. Henry Barnes was the recruiting officer with whom Deponent entered. Soon after the enlistment Deponent was attached to a company under the command of Colonel Smith (Christian name not remembered) who was wounded at the battle of Chadds Ford [a.k.a. Germantown, September 11, 1777] and deponent never saw or heard of him afterwards. To return after the enlistment aforesaid Deponent continued with the Army under General Washington and in the fall of 1777, was present at the aforesaid battle of Chadds Ford – the British being commanded by Howe [Sir William Howe] and the Americans by Washington. The British attacked the American Army on this occasion and the Americans were forced to retire with severe loss. Some short time after the battle of Chadds Ford Deponent thinks that a Mr. Field (Christian name not recollected) took the command after the wounding of Smith. In about from five to eight weeks after the battle of Chadds Ford the Americans attacked the British Army at Germantown [October 4, 1777] in which battle the Americans gained the advantage and Deponent thinks that General Washington commanded the Americans in that affair. The Army then went into winter quarters at Germantown where the soldiers suffered severely for want of shoes clothing and provisions and were kept on the alert watching the British Army who occupied the city of Philadelphia to which place those engaged at Germantown retired after that affair. The Corps to which Deponent was attached was not engaged in any skirmish or any considerable march though skirmishes were fought and short and rapid marches were performed by numerous detachments of the American Army hovering around and in the neighborhood of Philadelphia contracting as much as possible the British Army within that city till the news arrived of the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British Army commanded by Sir Henry Clinton and with the news came orders to march which placed Deponent again

North of the Delaware River and concentrated the various divisions and detachment of the American Army and the whole followed in hot and full pursuit of the retiring British Army which was overtaken at Monmouth [June 28, 1778] where an engagement took place in which Deponent participated which eventuated in the partial success of the American arms. At the time this battle was fought the weather was very warm and the day on which the engagement took place was a very sultry one and Deponent states it as a matter personally known to himself that much of the American Army died through the excess of heat and want of water. The battle of Monmouth commenced late in the afternoon and only ended the close of daylight and the American Army lay upon their arms all night in order to recommence the battle next morning but when morning arrived it was found that in the interval the British had decamped. The American Army did not pursue the retreating British but lay in Monmouth for some time.

Not long after the action at Monmouth Deponent was one of two thousand men detached to reinforce General Sullivan then in Rhode Island. This detachment was commanded by General Green and the Marquis de Lafayette. We marched from Monmouth to Tivertown [Tiverton, Rhode Island?]² crossing a river believed to be the Raritan and at Tivertown the men embarked on board of vessels and crossed over to Rhode Island and disembarked not at but near Portsmouth. The troops did not remain long on the Island. The American Army was by General Sullivan marched to the North end of the island and embarked again and landed at an old barrack and town in the State of New York.

In leaving the island the rear guard of the Americans was attacked by the advanced guard of the British and some fighting took place. This Deponent then understood that the hasty evacuation of that island took place in consequence of a storm that arose and dispersed and swallowed the French Fleet and a large British Fleet approaching the Storm prevented an engagement and the superiority of the British in point of number – guns – and men and the dilapidated state of the French fleet after the storm made them seek the first shelter they could find and therefore throw into the power of the British the ability to cut off the retreat of the Americans with the naval force whilst the land force of the enemy might harass and destroy them.

After leaving Rhode Island Deponent remained in the states of New York and New Jersey at various places covering some places and at other times in some measure unemployed in active service until an expedition came from Staten Island under the command of Tryon, Lord Sterling [William Alexander, Lord Stirling, an American officer] and General Knyphausen [Wilhelm Knyphausen] into the State of New Jersey with General Green [Nathanael Greene] was directed to hold them in check. Their object appeared to be Springfield a town in New Jersey and to ease that place various small affairs took place between the advanced guard of the British and the rear guard of the American Army which invariably resulted in the loss and driving of the American troops. The American Army continued to retire up the country to the high lands where the British effected their object of destroying Springfield and General Green having received a considerable reinforcement (it is believed from General Washington's Army) as well as a large body of militia from the neighborhood when the American Army began to act on the offensive and a series of very severe and sanguinary engagements took place between the advanced and rear guards of the pursuing and pursued armies occasionally entering [?] to a large portion of each Army until the British got under cover of their shipping in the sound.

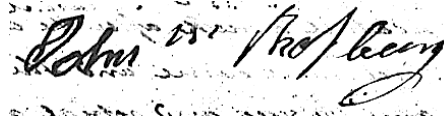
Shortly after the defeat of General Gates [Horatio Gates] at Camden [Battle of Camden, August 15-16, 1780], Deponent went to the South in company as he thinks with about fifteen hundred men. The route traveled was through Maryland and across the bay to Virginia and through Virginia to North Carolina through which last named State the route laid above the head of tide-water. We there were harassed by various fatiguing marches for a considerable time until the action at Guilford courthouse [Guilford County Court House, March 15, 1781] took place. At this battle Green commanded the American and Lord Cornwallis the British Army. In this battle the American Army was routed and this result was brought about by the militia giving away almost immediately after the first fire leaving the regulars to bear up against the whole weight of the British Army which in consequence of their inferiority in point of numbers they were unable to do with any hope of success and under orders retreated from the field the British omitting to press or at all follow the retiring American regulars. In a short time after the affair at Guilford courthouse as soon the stragglers could be collected the American Army under the command of General Green took up their line of March for South Carolina and in not much more than three weeks the Americans and British armies under the command of General Green and Lord Rawdon respectfully were in conflict at Camden [Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] in which engagement Deponent was as well as at the battle of Guilford courthouse. The battle of Camden [sic, Hobkirk Hill or the Second Battle of Camden] was brought on by the American advanced guard attacking soon in the day and the battle lasted until night when both parties withdrew from the conflict the American Army leaving the wounded on the field for ten or twelve hours after the action ceased. This battle was fought about 4 miles from the town of Camden. After the battle of Camden the American troops almost immediately took up their line of March for fort Ninety Six. On our March on this occasion we crossed deep river. On arriving in the district of Ninety Six we laid siege to the Fort of that name and there were strong hopes were entertained of capturing that place but in about a week after the American Army got it a reinforcement came and the American Army was compelled to raise the siege and retreat very hastily to the hills of the Santee a very piney region. The American Army passed a bridge over a small stream on that retreat and that bridge in passing over the baggage broke down by which occurrence three men were killed and some three or four with the Deponent were badly wounded. Deponent was carried with the Army to the Hills of Santee where he was placed in the hospital and some time afterwards together with some other men transferred to a hospital at a place called Newtown in Virginia. The time that occurred between the period receiving his wound and leaving the hospital was in all about six months and during his confinement in the hospital Lord Cornwallis and his army were captured at Yorktown Virginia [Yorktown, October 19, 1781]. Deponent left the hospital with a furlough and walked on crutches when he left it and so poor in purse was he that in a great measure he begged his way home. He arrived at home in Hunterdon County in New Jersey in the latter end of February 1782. The furlough gave Deponent leave of absence until he was fit for duty again and then he was to report to headquarters and report himself but he was not fit for duty before the peace took place. The furlough is lost. Deponent has no documentary evidence whatever and he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service he having left the scene of his military operations nearly a half-century ago and has never been back to the state of New Jersey since he left and during all that period he has resided in the West and for the greater portion thereof he has resided in and in the vicinity of Point Pleasant Mason County Virginia.

He hereby relinquishes every 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 state or territory or district

of the United States.

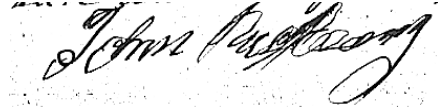
Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ John M. Roseberry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Roseberry", written in dark ink on a light background.

[William George and James B Goodwin gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 15: On April 17, 1755 in Mason County Virginia, the veteran applied for his bounty land entitlement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Roseberry", written in dark ink on a light background.

[p 59: undated document]

The petition of John Roseberry of the County of Mason and State of Virginia to the Congress of the United States: I ask a pension for services rendered and injuries received in the war of the revolution. It is my misfortune to present but few of the evidences required by law to establish this claim, The desultory character of the war in its early period, the irregularity in the transfer of the troops, The destruction in part of the archives of the War Department; but more than all the circumstances of my being left by the Army in a disabled condition at a time when I should have received an honorable discharge, and from the difficulty growing out of my long confinement and weak health from again reaching the Army for the purpose of obtaining my discharge. The circumstances obliges me to throw myself upon the credibility of my narrative and upon my character for truth and veracity, which you will find sustained by the most reputable persons in my County, together with the certificate of its Court: Pardon me to give a history of my services. About the 1st September 1776, when 17 years of age, I volunteered under Captain James Everett for nine months, which time I served out, and the day after Christmas (in that time) was in the battle of Trenton, I was paid for this service. After this service had expired we were solicited to join the regular Army but did not. In ten days afterwards myself and many other of my comrades of the nine months service volunteered under the same Captain (James Everett) for the term of three months, and with the promise of \$8 per month, and a suit of clothes. The clothes I received, but the money I never did, During this term of service we lay at Morristown in New Jersey. After this term of service myself and others were very desirous to go home, but at the solicitation of our officers, and aware of the inestimable principles of liberty for which America was contending, late in August or early in September in the year 1777, I enlisted in the regular Army during the war at Princeton New Jersey under a recruiting officer by the name of Henry Barnes, who was recruiting for Captain Bond [William Bond], We immediately joined the Regiment commanded by Colonel Smith and were soon after marched into Pennsylvania and fought the battle of Brandywine, Colonel Smith here had his thigh broke and I never saw him afterwards, Some 30 days afterwards, I fought at the battle of Germantown, under the same Captain, but under what Colonel, I do not recollect, where I received a flesh wound and a severe concussion on the head, lay for many hours with the wounded and the dead, During the night that followed, I staggered from the field and in the morning not yet restored to my proper mind or strength was humanely conducted by a Farmer to the position the retiring army then occupied, Soon after this we were marched to Valley Forge where I lay in the Hospital, by reason of the same injuries I

had received at Germantown, from December 1777 until June 1778, Sometime in June 1778, I returned to the service, and was marched into New Jersey and participated in the battle of Monmouth under a Colonel whose name was Fields, not long after this I was detailed under the command of General Green, and marched to Trenton New Jersey where we took water and landed near Newport New Jersey news was soon received that the French Fleet was dispersed by a storm, that Sir Henry Clinton with his forces was on board a British Fleet and was expected soon to land in our vicinity, We therefore under an apprehension of meeting a superior force returned to Springfield New Jersey, While there a large British force approached us from Staten Island, plundered and burned the town and destroyed all our military stores Upon their return to their shipping General Green harassed their rear by a series of attacks, in which I participated After this affair we marched to Little Winchester in the State of Maryland, where we lay during the winter of 1778 and 1779. In the spring of the year 1779, we were marched to Norfolk Virginia, and from thence into North Carolina where I participated in the battle of Guilford Court House The night succeeding the day of that battle we retreated 18 miles to an old Iron Works [Troublesome Iron Works], lay there for some time, then took up our line of march to Camden and fought Lord Rawdon on nearly the same ground upon which General Gates had been defeated, General Green then took up his march for Fort 96, and after bombarding it for 7 or 8 days, and finding the British had received a large reinforcement, he made a hasty retreat, during which retreat and while endeavoring to get some 12 Pounders over an old bridge that broke down with the weight, I received a severe contusion in the hip and shoulder that so injured me as to terminate my military career, After this I was, with 8 others, injured from the same cause put into what was called a Hospital at the Hills of Santee, There we were abandoned without medical aid, upon a stock of provisions which soon gave out, and so reduced by the necessity of subsistence as to be obliged to pick Cotton with the Negroes to prevent starvation. This condition of things accounts for the fact so important to me that I am unable to present to the War Department my honorable discharge, I was left, separated from the Army and the Officers who had commanded me, when able to leave home on my crutches there was no one there to give me any official discharge, After laying ill with my wounds for about two months at the Hills of Santee receiving little or no pay but the bounty instead of going to the place where the Army then lay to get my discharge, my heart led me slowly to my home in New Jersey. And now sixty-eight years after those services to my country and injuries to my person I ask your Honorable body to remunerate me as you have under similar circumstances remunerated others.

S/ John Roseberry

[p 75: Robert Love³ gave an affidavit stating that he conversed with Roseberry and believes he was at Guilford Court House based on those conversations.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the New Jersey service.]

³ [Robert Love S18093](#)