

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Benjamin Robinson S16516

f29VA¹

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/13/12: rev'd 11/25/17

[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.]

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State of Kentucky Fayette County Sgt. }

On the 16th day of December 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Fayette County, being a court of record, now sitting, Benjamin Robinson a resident of Fayette County in the said State of Kentucky aged Eighty years on the 17th day of September 1832 who being 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.

He states that he was born in Spotsylvania County in the State of Virginia on the 17th of December 1752, that in the year 1775 to the best of his recollection he enlisted under the command of Captain Oliver Towles of Spotsylvania State of Virginia as a minute man for the term of twelve months, that his memory does not serve him as to the day or month in which he enlisted under said Towles. But he distinctly remembers that he enlisted for twelve months and was under command of said Towles and other officers for that length of time, that to the best of his recollection Robert Dudley [perhaps Peter Dudley] of the same County & State was the Lieutenant of said Company. He states that he was not in any battle during the year, that part of the time he was stationed at Fredericksburg State of Virginia and part at Portsmouth Virginia that these services were rendered at the commencement of the war and before the general government got their regular Army's fully organized, that he was stationed a week or two at old Williamsburg that he went from there to old Yorktown, and down to Portsmouth or Suffolk where he remembers to have been stationed longer than any other place during his said term of service. He says he was discharged at Portsmouth at the end of the year, that he does not remember to have received a written discharge & presumes he did not, but if he did he has lost or mislaid it, as he has none by him at this time and, has no documentary evidence of said services. That he was in the service of Virginia and understood he could not be carried out of the state during his term. He states that after he enlisted as a volunteer under said Towles & Dudley, before the expiration of the year said Towles & Dudley were commissioned in the regular service of the United States to the best of his recollection. That after the promotion of Towles & Dudley to the regular Service he was placed under other officers until his discharge aforesaid. That one of the officer's names was Cunningham but whether he was the Captain or Lieutenant in command this Affiant is not able to state at this great length of time his health and memory being very feeble. The said affiant further states that in the year 1781 he performed a tour of duty of three months in Captain

¹ Thanks to John Bunnell for his help in identifying the officers, dates and places mentioned by the veteran in his application for a pension.

Chow's [probably John Chew's]² Company he believes that ___ Mathews [Sampson Mathews] was the Colonel of the Regiment & ___ Armstead³ was a major in the same, that during the said three months tour he was at Williamsburg, Richmond & York Town & on James River & York River, that he was in a skirmish under the command of Major Armstead at Williamsburg one morning about daybreak, that the said skirmish took place in the suburbs of Williamsburg in the year 1781 to the best of his recollection. After the Service of the said 3 months, he was discharged, and in the fall of the same year moved to Kentucky. He further states that in the year 1782 while living at the Crab Orchard now Lincoln County Kentucky he was drafted in Captain Kincaid's [perhaps Joseph Kincaid's] company for the term of three months to go on a campaign against the Indians, Benjamin Logan was Colonel, Hugh McGary [Hugh McGary] was the Major and David Cook was the Lieutenant of said company that they marched through the present state of Kentucky crossing the Kentucky River at the mouth of Hickman and rendezvoused at Bryans Station and proceeded on to the mouth of Licking and there crossed the Ohio River and went up through the Miami Country and destroyed New Chilicothe, Pickaway and other Indian towns they were gone three months to the best of his recollection. The said affiant further states that in the spring and summer of 1783 he was drafted in Captain Estill Company under the command of Colonel Benjamin Logan for six months and was placed at Estill's Station and was frequently out under said Estill upon excursions in different directions during the said term against the Indians, that the inhabitants were constantly kept in alarm during those times from the incursions of the Indians. –

That he has no written evidence of the aforesaid services and that he does not know of any officer under whom he served is now living and does not remember at this time any private soldier living, with whom he served, and to whom, he could make reference for the whole of the above services, except Joseph Faulconer⁴ of Fayette County Kentucky who was with him when he performed the said services in Kentucky. He says on his arrival in Kentucky in the fall of the year 1781, he settled on Gilbert's Creek near the Crab-Orchard, now Lincoln County that he lived there four years & then moved to the County of Fayette there he has lived for the last forty-seven or eight years that he has been a long time well known to the inhabitants of said County & makes reference to Asa Thompson Esquire presiding Justice of the Fayette County court and also Major William Barn & General James Dudley members of said court & could refer to many other respectable citizens of said County for his character as a man of veracity –

And the said declarant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State or territory.

Sworn to & subscribed this 10th December 1832

² John Bunnell notes: “Agree that "Captain Chow" is Captain John Chew, who was commissioned as the captain of what had previously been John Herndon's militia company on 17 May 1781. From this pension statement, however, it appears he effectively took command several months earlier, which, I'm finding, was common. Of note, this is a different individual than the John Chew who lost an arm and was captured at Camden, who was still a prisoner of the British at this time.”

³ John Bunnell notes: "___ Armstead" was Major Thomas Armistead (R12157)[[Thomas Armistead R12157](#)]. The action he described under the command of Armistead appears to be the one listed in Armistead's pension statement where, on the morning of 18 April 1781, Armistead put together a scratch force and skirmished with Benedict Arnold's infantry in order to cover the withdrawal of the Virginia militia under Colonel James Innes and General Thomas Nelson from Williamsburg.

⁴ [Joseph Faulconer \(Faulkner\) W8805](#). There is no evidence in this file of Faulconer's having given evidence in regard to this application.

S/ B. Robinson, X his mark

[G. G. Boon, a clergyman, and Hezekiah Ellis gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Kentucky Fayette County Sct. }

On the 11th day of February 1833 personally appeared in Open Court, before the County Court of Fayette, being a court of record, now sitting, Benjamin Robison [sic], a resident of the County of Fayette and the same person known to the said court, who signed & made the foregoing declaration for the purpose of obtaining a pension & makes the following additional declaration to the foregoing to enable him to obtain said pension. He states that upon enlisting under said Towles & Dudley as a minute man in August 1775 he went into Service under their command & was in actual Service under them and other officers who succeeded them during the whole year's Service. That he was called out and in service the whole year as aforesaid. He further states that the 6 months service under Captain Estill in the spring & summer 1783 he believes was performed before the treaty of peace was signed between the United States & Great Britain

S/ Benjamin Robison X his mark [sic]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 18 months in the Virginia militia.]