

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of James Robertson S17055

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }  
Augusta County } S.S.

On this 28 day of August 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Crawford a Justice of the Peace for the County of Augusta & State of Virginia, James Robertson a resident of the said County of Augusta & State of Virginia aged about eighty one years, who from bodily infirmity is unable to attend Court. The said James Robertson 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 was born in Augusta County & State of Virginia on the 16th day of Novem'r. 1751 as he has allways understood & believes, that he has no record of his age - that he has allways resided in the said County of Augusta. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

1. He as one of the drafted malitia of Augusta County, marched on or about the 1st day of Septem'r. 1777 from the County of Augusta under the command of Capt George Moffett of the Augusta Malitia on an expedition against the Indians. he was marched to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River, where he remained untill he was discharged. the field officers under whom he served, were Gen'l. [Edward] Hand, Col Huggart [sic: Thomas Hugart] of Augusta, & Maj Sam'l McDowell [Samuel McDowell] of the County of Rockbridge as he believes. he was engaged in no battle, but saw the celebrated Indian Chief Cornstalk killed [murdered while a hostage in fall 1777] - he with the other troops was discharged by Gen'l Hand. he received no written discharge. he returned home he recollects a few days before Christmas in the year 1777 - that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service on this occasion; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than three months on this tour - that he knows of no one now liveing by whom he can prove this tour of duty.

2. His next service was as one of the drafted Malitia of Augusta County. he marched as a private from the said County of Augusta under the command of Capt Thomas Smith of the Augusta Malitia to the City of Richmond in the state of Virginia, and from thence he was marched some distance below Richmond under the command of the said Capt Smith, under whom he served untill he was regularly discharged, that he received no written discharge. that from the failure of his memory arriseing from old age, he is unable to state in what year of the revolutionary war this was, & from the same cause he is unable to give the names of any of the field officers. no incident or battle haveing taken place during this tour of duty calculated to impress it upon his memory. that he cannot from the loss of memory swear positively to the precise length of his service on this occasion, but to the best of his recollection he served as a private in Capt. Smith's company on this tour not less than three months. he remembers that James Johnston now a resident of the County of Augusta, was with him in the service on this tour, and hopes to be able to obtain his testimony. he is also impressed with the belief that Sam'l. McCune [Samuel McCune, pension application S11042] was also in the same service with him, and will make an effort to obtain his testimoney.

3. The Third and last tour of duty performed by this declarent was as one of the drafted Malitia of Augusta County in the summer of the year 1781, he marched immediately after Tarleton's attempt to capture the Legislature in Charlottesville in the County of Albemarle [Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's capture of seven legislators, 4 June] - he marched from the County of Augusta in Capt John Given's company of Augusta Malitia to near old James Town, where he was in a skirmish with the British [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul]. after this battle Capt Given returned home, and the declarant with the rest of the company was placed under the command of Capt. Charles Cameron, and marched toward Richmond, thence back again to near Williamsburg, and after various marches the company to which he was attached was marched to a place called Bottoms Bridge about 15 miles below Richmond, where he was regularly

discharged, but received no written discharge. he remembers that Genl [William] Campbell & Maj [John] McCreery were two of the field officers under whose command he was - from the loss of memory as herein before stated he is unable to state the precise term he served on this occasion, but according to the best of his recollection he served on this tour not less then three months — he expects t be able to establish this tour of duty by James Johnston & Samuel McCune both of Augusta County if he can succeed in obtaining their testimoney.

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

[signed] James Robertson

State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to your character for veracity, and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

Answer. I would refer to Gen'l Robert Porterfield [pension application S8965], Col Alex'r. R. Givens and in short to any one to whom I am known in my neighborhood and who may be at Court when this my declaration is presented.

[signed] James Robertson

Augusta County,

On this 18<sup>th</sup> day November 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Crawford a justice of the peace for said county James Johnson [sic] a resident of said County and made Oath according to Law that he has known James Robertson the person applying for a pension, from his youth to the present time having been born and raised in the same Neighbourhood, that he has a personal knowledge of the said James Robertson having served the second and Third Tours of duty as set forth in his declaration he having been in the same Company with him under the command of Captain Thomas Smith during the Second Tour and he (James Johnson) served under Capt. Zachariah Johnson [sic: Zachariah Johnston] his father in the Third Tour and James Robertson served under the command of Captain John Givens in the third Tour which Two Companies formed a part of the same Regiment under the command of Col. William Bowyers [sic: William Bowyer] but that he cannot state the length of time he served in either of those occasions but that he believes that it was as he has stated, Three months, that being the common term of service and that he has no doubt that he remained in service untill he was discharged and that he does believe him to be about the age that he has stated in his declaration

[signed] Jas Johnston

Virginia Augusta County Sc.

This day Wm. Kennerly [William Kennerly, pension application S8781] aged about 81 years appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the said County, and made oath in due form of law that he has been acquainted James Robertson who is about applying for a pension (under the act of Congress of 7 June 1832) from his youth up to this time haveing resided in the same neighbourhood with him in the said County of Augusta - that he remembers well the said James Robertson marching on a tour of duty during the war of the revolution to the Western parts of Virginia against Indians, but he is not able at this distance of time to state what company he marched in or for what length of time he served on the occasion above alluded to. The said Kennerly further deposed, that he knows the said James Robertson was out on another tour of duty in Capt John Givens company in the summer of 1781, that he said Kennerly was in the service at the same time, though not in the same company with the said Robertson, and saw the said Robertson at different places in the lower part of Virginia while in the service, but he cannot undertake to state the length of his service on this tour - he farther deposed that the character of the said James Robertson for veracity has allways stood fair, and he would have implicit reliance upon any statement the said Robertson would mae

[signed] Wm. Kennerly

Sworn & subscribed to before by the said Wm Kennerly this 13th day of September 1833

John Porterfield JP

Sam'l. Bell (Maj) [Samuel Bell W12267] appeared in open Court this 28th day of July 1834 before the Justices of Augusta County Court, and made oath that he is acquainted James Robertson of

Augusta County, whose declaration under the act 7<sup>th</sup> June 1832 was this day presented to the Court - that he recollects that the said Robertson was upon the first Tour of duty mentioned in his first service in the year 1777 and he verily believes he did serve as he therein states, except that this affiant believes that Col [John] Dickenson and not Col Huggart was the Col. who commanded the Militia of Augusta on that Tour. this affiant states that residing in a different part of the County of Augusta, he was not apprised untill the presentation of the said Robertson declaration this day that he was yet alive - that the said Robertson has always sustained as far he knows or believes the character of a man of truth & respectability. Given under my had this 28th day of July 1834. [signed] Sam'l. Bell