

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension application of James Roberson (Robinson) S1718

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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. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Tennessee McNairy County: On this the 24th day of June in the year of our Lord 1833 Personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of Our Court of pleas and quarter Sessions now sitting James Robinson a resident of McNairy County and State of Tennessee aged seventy-one 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 Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832.

That he was born in Bedford County State of Virginia on the 6th day of November in the year of our Lord 1761 and lived there until the year 1778 or 1779 when his father moved from there and settled in what was then called Washington County North Carolina but now known as East Tennessee early in the spring of the year 1781 the Cherokee Indians was committing a great many murders on the white people who were living in my neighborhood which was the frontiers of North Carolina. About this time they killed the wife and all of the children of a man by the name of Kirkandald [sic, Kirkendall] and the times became so serious that the whole neighborhood forted themselves at a place called Lows Fort about this time which was early in the spring of 1781 I entered the service of the United States as a volunteer Soldier under Lieutenant Kirkandald the father of the children above named, for the purpose of guarding and defending the Fort. I remained there under strict discipline guarding and protecting and defending the citizens which had forted themselves at that place until about the first of September following all this time I was commanded by Lieutenant Kirkandald Colonel John Sevier was by Commander that he was not at the Fort being out on other business connected with the Army. To the best of my recollection I remained at the Fort for 6 or 7 months. I am positive it was not under 6 months but believe it was a short time over. For my services I received a Certificate or Discharge issued by the Board of Commissioners of North Carolina. I kept the certificate for some time and then deposited it in the law office at Hillsboro North Carolina I have never seen or heard of it since.

Immediately on quitting the Fort I joined Captain Landon Carter as a volunteer soldier who was then raising a mounted horse company to go against the British sometime in the month of September 1781 the company rendezvoused at a place called Limestone Cove in Washington County so soon as I mustered into service and placed under the command of Colonel Robertson we struck our march for Colonel John Sevier who was then laying at a place called Tuckaseegee Ford on the Cortorba [sic, Catawba] River waiting for Colonel Robertson's Regiment to join him. So soon as we joined Sevier's Regiment we struck our march and went directly on to join General Marion. On our march we passed General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army who was laying on the high hills of Santee. And General Marion was laying at a place called Santee Swamp. After we joined General Marion be made the place where he was laying our place of

retreat from here we scouted in different directions. While out one day we took 90 or 100 of the British Prisoners. This was done 20 or 30 miles from Charleston. After we took the prisoners we carried them back to Santee Swamp and delivered them to General Marion the British pursued us and near our camp but did not make an attack on us. After I stayed there some time in having served my Tour of 3 months out the length of time I volunteered for, I was dismissed. I obtained a Certificate or discharge for these services and deposited it in the same way I did my first,

In the year 1782 I again volunteered as a mounted horse militia man for 3 months under Captain Newman & Colonel John Sevier who was then raising soldiers to go and quell the Cherokee Nation of Indians who was then committing a great many outrages against the whites so soon as our company was raised we rendezvoused at the Big Island on the French Broad River from which place we marched directly on to the nation. We destroyed a great quantity of their corn, took a great many Prisoners and killed a few Indians. After we accomplished our business in this quarter we marched home and was discharged. I served in this 2 or 3 months the time I volunteered for, the time I entered the Army nor do I recollect what day I was discharged or dismissed, but am positive I served my tour of 3 months. I deposited my discharge in the Land Office at Hillsboro in the same way that I did my first and 2nd. He has no documentary Evidence to prove my services but I can prove my 2nd and 3rd Campaigns by Daniel Hill Senior<sup>1</sup> now of McNairy County Tennessee who was out with me in the same routes. I can also prove by said Hill my character for veracity and good behavior and his belief and the neighborhoods belief of my services as a soldier. I can also prove by Parson Francis Beard that it always has been reputed and believed that I did serve in the Revolutionary War, and that I am a man of character for veracity and good behavior and also that the neighborhood's belief that I did serve in the revolution. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a Pension or Annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of the Agency of any State

Question, Where and in what year were you born

Answer, I was born in Bedford County Virginia on the 6th day of November in the year while Lord 1761

Question, Have you any Record of your age if so where is it,

Answer, I have frequently seen my age in my father's Bible, and after I married I took my age out of my fathers Bible and sent it down in a Bible of my own which I now have it in my possession

Question how did you enter the service did you volunteer or were you drafted

Answer, I volunteered, the first time I served 6 months the 2nd trip 3 months and 3rd trips 3 months

Question, Did you receive discharges & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it,

Answer, At the Expiration of each of my Tours I was dismissed I do not believe I then received discharges, but not long after I performed my last Trip, the Board of Commissioners of North Carolina issued me certificates for my services, which I deposited in the Lay in the Office at Hillsborough and have never heard of them since

Question 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 of your services as a soldier in the Revolution

Answer, Daniel Hill Senior who lives about 10 miles from me in McNairy County has known me ever since the year 1781 he can Testify that I did perform the 2nd and 3rd Tours mentioned in my Declaration he said Hill being out with me and performed the same services mentioned in said

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<sup>1</sup> [Daniel Hill S1670](#)

Tours. I can also prove by said Hill that I am a man of character and veracity and that it is his belief and the neighborhood's belief that I performed the whole of the services mentioned in my Declaration, I can also prove by \_\_\_ who has been acquainted with me for a number of years that I am a man of character and veracity and that it is his belief and the Different neighborhood's belief, where I have lived that I performed the services mentioned.

Question, where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer. I was living in Washington County North Carolina but now known as East Tennessee when I entered the service, I have lived in Tennessee ever since the war, and now live in McNairy County Tennessee

Question, State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your services

Answer, I have stated the names of the Officers and the General Circumstances of my services in the body of my declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed in Open Court the day and date above

S/ Wm S. Wisdom, Clk

S/ James Roberson

I Daniel Hill residing in McNairy County State of Tennessee do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with James Roberson, (our acquaintance having commenced in the year 1781) who has subscribed and sworn to the above Declaration. That I believe him to be seventy-one years of age. And the said Daniel Hill do further state that the said James Robison did do and perform the services that he has mentioned in his second and third campaigns -- myself being out in the same Tours and that he is the same James Roberson that I knew in the Army. I do further state that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that I concur in that Opinion. Given under my hand  
Sworn & subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Daniel Hill

[Francis Beard, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[facts in file: according to a letter postmarked Washington, 8th of August 1855 and signed by Frederick P. Stanton,<sup>2</sup> the veteran died April 6, 1836 survived by his widow Sarah Robinson who died March 5th, 1843; that they were married in January 1785; the widow died without having ever claimed a widow's pension but survived by children not named in the papers contained in this file.]

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<sup>2</sup> STANTON, Frederick Perry, a Representative from Tennessee; born in Alexandria, Va., December 22, 1814; pursued classical studies, and was graduated from Columbian College (now George Washington University), Washington, D.C., in 1833; taught school; studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Memphis, Tenn.; elected as a Democrat to the Twenty-ninth and to the four succeeding Congresses (March 4, 1845-March 3, 1855); chairman, Committee on Naval Affairs (Thirty-first and Thirty-second Congresses), Committee on the Judiciary (Thirty-third Congress); Governor of Kansas Territory 1858-1861; moved to Virginia and subsequently settled in Florida; died in Stanton, Fla., June 4, 1894; interment in South Lake Weir Cemetery, South Lake Weir, Fla. <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S000802>