

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lawson Hobson S2626

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/6/14

[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 'indecipherable' 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.]

State of Tennessee Giles County

On this 8th day of April 1833 personally appeared in open court before William A. Cook Chancellor now sitting Lawson Hobson a resident of the County of Giles & State of Tennessee aged seventy-nine years on the 31st day of December 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement or declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

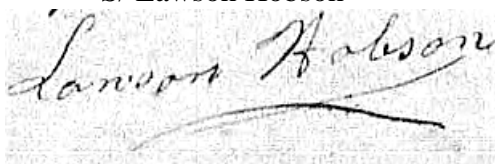
That he entered the service of the United States and served as herein stated under the following named officers, and served as herein stated, that is he entered the service of the United States in the year 1778 in a volunteer Company of Cavalry commanded by Captain Littleberry Mosby¹ & Lieutenant Wade Mosby² they were not attached to any particular Regiment now recollected by him he lived at the time he entered the service in Cumberland County Virginia and then entered the service in Powhatan County the place of Rendezvous & the place of training & mustering the Company was Petersburg in Virginia under the command of General Baron Steuben. They served principally as a Guard to Petersburg & Richmond to prevent the Army from plundering the citizens of those towns & the adjacent country. He entered the service as above stated in the year 1778 & volunteered for the balance of the war & served in the company until after the defeat of Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. He believes he served in said company about 4 years. He was then discharged but he lost the discharge. He was at the battle of Petersburg [April 25, 1781] under the command of Colonel Banister [John Banister of Dinwiddie?] if there were any general officer in the immediate command he does not recollect it and at present he believes that the United States Army at that battle was commanded by Colonel Banister, the battle was fought on the part of the United States principally by militia and the town of Petersburg was taken by the British and the United States troops made their escape by retreating. He does not recollect whether any prisoners were taken or not but if any there were very few. In the course of his service he remembers being under the command of General Steuben, General Lawson [Robert Lawson], and General Lafayette commanded them after they were trained for service occasionally and then Lawson until the battle of Petersburg. They then marched up James River through Chesterfield County, crossed at a place called Wilton and then fell under command of General Lafayette and I believe Lafayette commanded the troops the balance of the time I served so far as they were commanded by any general officer under the command of Lafayette. They marched down James River on the North side and were for some

¹ [Littleberry Mosby BLWt64-300](#)

² [Wade Mosby W3856](#)

time stationed in Barracks at a place called Morbin hills [Malvern Hills], they marched down to a place called Chickahominy and to several other places in that country and about the time Cornwallis was defeated they were marched back to Petersburg. He believes a little time before his defeat and shortly after his defeat I was together with the balance of the company discharged at Petersburg by General Lawson. The statements above are the general circumstances of my service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that my name is not on the pension roll of any Agency in any State. Sworn to and subscribed in Open court the 8th day of April 1833

S/ Lawson Hobson



Charles C

Abernathy, Chancellor & Master
of the Chancery Court at Pulaski

Questions by the Court

1st Where and in what year were you born –

I was born in Northumberland County in the State of Maryland in the year 1758 December the 31st.

2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

I have my age recorded in the family Bible of my father which is now in the possession of William Hobson, who now lives in the State of Virginia & who is a brother of mine.

3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary War, and where do you now live –

I was living in Cumberland County State of Virginia when I was called into service where I lived during & since the Revolutionary War until 1807 when I removed to the state of Tennessee, where I have lived ever since & from the year 1810 have lived in Giles County where I now live.

4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute. And if a substitute for whom?

I first substituted & went into service for the term of three months as a militia man in place of my brother Cable Hobson³. I was employed by Colonel Henry Scipworth [probably Henry Skipwith] as a recruiting officer, & also to lay in provision for Washington's Army which services I rendered but do not recollect how long I was engaged about it. I next volunteered under Captain Littleberry Mosby & continued in this service from 1778 until the end of the war, which was near about 4 years to the best of my recollection.

5th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & militia Regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your service.

I was under General Mulenburgh [Peter Muhlenberg] & Colonel Downman as to the remaining inquiries in this question I have set them out as fully as I can in my declaration.

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service; and if so by whom was it given and what



The War Department interpreted this name as Caleb Hobson.

has become of it.

I received a discharge from General Muhlenberg from the service in which I was a substitute but I do not recollect or know what has become of it. And another from General Lawson as set forth in the declaration.

7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity & their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution.

I am known to Matthew Deavenport, John Buchanan, John W Badenhamer, David Porter & many others in my present neighborhood who will all give the above testimony.

He further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services and knows of no person except Wade Mosby of Virginia by whom he can prove any of the above facts but by his own oath.

S/ Lawson Hobson

[Matthew Deavenport, a clergyman, and John Buchanan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The amended declaration of Lawson Hobson in order to obtain the benefit of an act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the Peace for Giles County & State of Tennessee Lawson Hobson aged eighty years on the 31st day of December 1833 who being duly sworn deposed & saith that he entered the service of the United States as a substitute for his brother Caleb Hobson as Militia private soldier in the early part of the year 1778 in the company of Captain Creed Haskins of Cumberland County State of Virginia in the Regiment of Colonel Downman. He was marched out of Cumberland County through Powhatan & Chesterfield counties on to Petersburg & directly from thence to McKies Mills [Mackey's Mills], where the Army to which he was attached had its headquarters. After staying there about six weeks they were then marched to Smithfield, where the Army headquarters were after they had been removed from McKies Mills. He continued in Smithfield the remainder of this tour of service. They did not meet the enemy during this service. At the end of this tour of service which lasted for three months & during all of which term applicant was constantly in service as above set forth – he received a discharge from said service from General Muhlenberg who commanded at Smithfield. But applicant does not now recollect what has become of the discharge. Through mistake & a belief that he could not compute the time, he was in service as substitute in estimating his own services the above service was not mentioned in his former declaration. He also states upon reflection, that it was early in 1778 instead of 1777 as mentioned in his former declaration that he entered the service of the United States. The above being the first service that he performed – which he has corrected by looking over it by changing the last figure of 7 into an 8. He still lived as he did during the war except when on service in Cumberland County Virginia But he went down into Powhatan County & volunteered & entered the service in that County under Captain Littleberry Mosby as mentioned & set forth in his former declaration. He volunteered & entered the said service in which by the terms of the agreement between the officers & soldiers he was to continue during the continuance of the war, from that time, which was in the month of July or August 1778 during this term he performed the services mentioned in his former declaration. He was in the service for the term of four years & served all the time as a private volunteer. All the troops that were stationed as set forth in his former declaration & to which applicant was attached was the company in which he was a member and one other company associated with Captain Mosby's, Commanded by Captain Jesse Grinal & Lieutenant

Grinal. They did not form a Regiment & of course had no Colonel. When engaged in guarding Petersburg, Richmond & the adjacent Country as set forth in his original declaration which contains the general circumstances of his service. The most of time in which this service was performed the troops to which he was attached were under training & engaged occasionally in scouring the Country, this & guarding the above-mentioned towns from the encroachments of the enemy occupied their time except when employed in other service as mentioned in his declaration. He further states as to his services mentioned in his answer to the questions propounded by the court as recruiting officer & also as to his laying in provisions for Washington's Army that he recruited 12 men & he & they together collected beeves for Washington's Army – and drove them to one Thompson's a place of deposit prescribed by Colonel Skipwith. He states that from the infirmity of his memory in consequence of his age & the great lapse of time, he cannot swear positively as to the length of this last mentioned service but he believes that it was at least two months and a half he got a discharge from Colonel Skipwith for this service but that he has lost it also. In his answers to the court in his original declaration he stated that he could establish some of his service by Wade Mosby of the state of Virginia. He has been unable to procure his evidence as yet properly authenticated although he has used every exertion in his power to do so. He has written two letters on the subject & sent them to the nearest Post office to the persons to whom they were directed one of them being directed to the said Mosby sometime in August 1833. He has received no reply & has since learned that the said Mosby was in a low state of health & he knows that he is very aged & he is apprehensive that he is dead or surely would have heard from him, – He has sent the Certificate to the State of Virginia which accompanied these papers to be authenticated which will be done & sent from there to the Department, – He expects & believes – The statement of the services mentioned above and in his former declaration all correct to the best of his knowledge & belief for which he claims a pension.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 17th day of February 1834

S/ N. G Nye, JP

S/ Lawson Hobson

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$25.55 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months and 20 days in the Virginia militia.]