

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of David Robertson S31333  
Transcribed by Will Graves

fn20NC  
1/11/10

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State of Kentucky Livingston County: SS

On this 3rd day of December 1832 personally appeared in open court, before David J. Brown, Robert H. Haynes, & John Smedley Esquire justices of the County Court for said County, now sitting, David Robertson resident of said County, aged eighty 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 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated to wit: In the year 1776, in the County of Mecklenburg (where I then live) I volunteered my services in the militia of North Carolina, under Captain John McRee [could be John McKee], and Colonel Thomas Polk. The principal object of this service was the protection of ammunition from Charlotte in Mecklenburg to McGake's [?] Fort on the head of Broad River. After faithfully discharging this duty, we were discharged, after a service of one month. Afterwards in the month of March 1777, I again volunteered under the same Colonel Polk, and in the company of Captain Reed. After the troops assembled, we marched below Wilmington to Brunswick, on Cape Fear River, for the purpose of repealing two British vessels that lay in the River: that after making and attack on them from shore by firing upon them we ascertained the attempt was hopeless as our firing was without affect. However, we remained some time guarding the County against any attempt which might be made to commit ravages etc. We served in this expedition three months and were discharged. Sometime in 1778 the Legislature of North Carolina passed a law to fill up the ranks of the regulars, or new levies, as they were called, and I again volunteered in this service, according to the Act amongst the regular troops, for the term of nine months, and joined them at Charlotte, under General Sumner [Jethro Sumner] and Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle]. I was attached to the company of Captain Goodman. From Charlotte, we marched to the Black Swamp opposite to Ebenezer in Georgia, and lay there till about the first March, and then proceeded up the Savannah to the High Bluff. The British crossed the River below us and marched for Charleston, we crossed over into John's Island. We pursued them as far as Bacon's Bridge and there encamped. The chief commander here (General Lincoln [Benjamin Lincoln]), fell back to Stono, and in a few days attacked the enemy at Stono ferry, but without success. The post at this ferry was commanded by Colonel Maitland, and the principle British force lay in the Island. It was thought by General Lincoln, that if a diversion could be made so as to keep the forces on the Island engaged, the post might be taken, and General Moultrie [William Moultrie] was dispatched for this purpose, but owing to some circumstance did not succeed, and General Lincoln was compelled to draw off his forces, and retired to his former ground. I was in this engagement -- and do remember all about it. General remained here until my term of nine

months was out, and I was honorably discharged. Again in 1780 my services were still necessary, and I again volunteered under Captain David Reid, and joined Colonel Ervin's Regiment, and General Rutherford's brigade at Mecklenburg. From this place we marched down towards the Hanging Rock and lay there some time: and indeed until I terms of service were out, which was three months, without ever doing or effect being anything worth recording. Those of us whose terms of service expired at this time were discharged & returned home. After this I performed several short expeditions against the Tories, but it is impossible to enumerate them so particularly as required, and I therefore will not mentioned them at all. I am certain and positive that I faithfully served one month, and the first expedition above mentioned, and in the second as much as three months, and in the third as much as nine months, and in the fourth as much as three months making in all sixteen months service in the Revolution. I served with my brother Richard Robertson and one John Mulwee,<sup>1</sup> who could prove the service I have stated if they are living, but I left them in North Carolina many years ago, and I suppose they are dead. I know of no person living whose testimony I can possibly procure to prove my service, and I have no documentary evidence in my possession at this time which would do it.

The said Court propounded the following questions to the said Robertson, and to which he answered as follows:

By the Court 1<sup>st</sup> Where and in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Mecklenburg, State of North Carolina in March 1752 -- the precise day of the month I do not recollect.

By the court 2<sup>nd</sup> Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer. I have none, but only my memory, from information of my parents.

By the court 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Mecklenburg County North Carolina when I was in this service and lived there several years after the War, and 1805 I moved to this County where I have lived ever since.

By the court 4<sup>th</sup> How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer. In all the service I rendered I'll was a volunteer.

By the court 5<sup>th</sup> State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer. I was with no regular officers except while under General Lincoln & Sumner, in I knew (both of them). There were some North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia militia in General Lincoln's Army (at the battle at Stono ferry) but I do not remember who commanded them.

By the court 6<sup>th</sup> Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I did receive a discharge from Colonel Lytle, but it has been lost a good many years ago.

By the court 7<sup>th</sup> 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 in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Answer. I have lived a long time in the neighborhood, but don't mix much amongst the people. But James Bryce, Christopher Hayes, William Thomson, Isaac S. Coffield, Peyton Rutledge, and

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<sup>1</sup> Possibly: [John Mulwee S7256](#)

many others know me well and would testify as to my standing and character for many years past -- ever since I came to the Country.

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 whatever.

Sworn to and subscribed, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ David Robertson

[Abel Teague, Christopher Haynes & Robert Hodge Senior gave the standard supporting affidavit.]