

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Roberson S32500

f31VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/4/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 12]

State of Alabama St. Clair County: SS

On this twentieth day of January personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable The Judge of the County Court of St. Clair Alabama now sitting John Roberson a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged seventy 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 entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated. He entered the service in the summer preceding the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], in the month of June as a volunteer, William Giles of Amelia County Virginia was his Colonel.

His (Deponent's) Company was from Amelia County Virginia and were commanded to go against the English then lying at Williamsburg or at a place called Old hundred – the British evacuated the place and accordingly the militia were discharged this Deponent was then out in service for four weeks none but militia were with them. At this time they were discharged by Colonel Giles, but no written discharge given. This Deponent was then him in his sixteenth year.

His next term of service was from the same County – as a militia man – at this time he was drafted – about the first of February preceding the battle of Guilford. He marched from Amelia at a place called Rolands Chase under the command of James Dupuy as Captain John Hughes first Lieutenant – though this Deponent thinks that these officers were not such when they started but that the Captain Dupuy was 1st Lieutenant – and Hughes Private – but the latter was promoted for his bravery at the battle of Guilford to Ensign – __ Cunningham of Powhatan was there Major and __ there Colonel. They marched from Amelia County to Dan River there to meet General Greene [Nathanael Greene] who was then retreating from South Carolina – this Deponent was sent by Edney Booker who was Captain before Dupuy to take charge of some horses that had been pressed from Amelia County by some of the press master's from Colonel Lee's core [corps]. He went under Joseph Eggleston on this service who was a Captain in Lee's Core – that from thence they went, after the Battle of Guilford, to join General Greene on his way to Ramsays Mill, and accordingly he joined him about twenty miles from Ramsays Mill – this Deponent was discharged from service at Ramsays Mill by General Greene. This Deponent served at this time in or about two months – This Deponent received from the State of Virginia or officers thereof and indent for his services – which he indent he gave to Joshua Chafin Sheriff of the County aforesaid for his taxes – The amount he does not recollect. He got a mere fifth for it – his next tour was in the same year, and his services commenced in April after the Guilford Battle & from the same County and State as aforesaid. He was again a militia man but served __ Crenshaw – at this time he served two months in full under Edney Booker as Captain –

though at first he went out under Captain Knight but changed at Bottoms Bridge on James River with another person, and then came under Captain Booker. This Exchange was made on account of the officers permission for each man to go and get his horse – which this Deponent did – & became a horse troop or – though immediately after he parted with his horse and became a footman in the service. This Deponent marched from Amelia County to Richmond – and from thence down James River to a place called Bottoms Bridge and from thence retreated across the Country to Culpeper County – Although he supposed they were going to Fredericksburg. This Deponent was discharged in this same County at a place called Raccoon Ford – McClure a Frenchman was then first Major and Skippith [probably Henry Skipwith] there Colonel they were discharged – as this Deponent believes in June – In the same tour at the latter part of it they came under the command of regular Continental officers and were by them discharged – [indecipherable word] discharges and passes relating to his service are lost except there be some enrollment of his name as a drafted militia man in the Secretary of State's Department in Virginia – or some record about his Indents of which he received 2 or 3 – And for the [words too faint to discern] of which, he does not know where to apply for Information –

His next Tour of service commenced about the first of July of same year this Deponent was then a Drawn or drafted militia man (as he does not know whether it would be called drafting) It was from the same place and County as aforesaid – His Captain was John Finney – John Waters first Lieutenant and Richard Booker Ensign – Anthony D. Crenshaw orderly Sergeant – ___ Eppes [perhaps Francis Eppes] was their Major and Skippith there Colonel – and ___ Lawson [Robert Lawson] there General. They marched from Amelia to James River and down that by Richmond or near it to old James Town – & joined head quarters the same night of the Battle at James town – they then marched to the Morbin Hills [Malvern Hills] on James River & there remained about 2 or 3 weeks – from thence they marched over the Pamunkey River to King William County. The Americans 1st retreated from Morbins Hills to King William County – but Washington coming on in August as this Deponent believes – the British themselves turned back to the seaboard – this Deponent on or about the first of September was discharged by Colonel Richardson but of that he is not certain as Skipworth [sic] was discharged just before. He was discharged at a Meeting house where the hospital was kept – upon a report of Lieutenant Waters that he had but a few days to serve – And that he was down with a disorder called the Flux of which he had been sick 3 or 4 weeks. He was in the Hospital serving this time –. This Deponent was never in a battle though he was once in a skirmish when discharged from Culpeper County near Raccoon Ford. On their march home the second day the British from the Point fork of James River attacked something like one hundred of them – killed one man & took several prisoners – among whom was Captain Knight – once an officer of this Deponent's – Immediately after this Yorktown and surrendered [October 19, 1781] & this Deponent never again served. This Deponent has no paper or documents of any kind relating to his service – and does not know any person living who can prove it. This Deponent has been from Virginia since the close of the War 47 or 8 years – Having removed first to South Carolina & from thence to Alabama in the year 1824 – [indecipherable word or words] Consequently had had little or no opportunity of seeing his old acquaintances or knowing whether any of his old companions are living to prove it – Although he believes there may be many in Virginia who could prove it [several words overwritten and illegible] this Deponent had he sold to one John Booker of Amelia for little or nothing – And if this Deponent knew where those Indents were discharged he might possibly procure some Evidence of his service.

S/ John Roberson

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll or the agency of any State or (if any) only on that of the agency of Virginia from which he has never asked or received anything. Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open Court.

s/ John Roberson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Roberson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered below the typed name.

[Archibald Sloan, Esquire & Charles Lewis, Jacob Madden and William Coleman gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Thomas Newton, a Minister of the Gospel of the Presbyterian denomination in the town of Asheville gave a separate standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 18: Contains what appears to be the standard 7 interrogatories and the applicant's answer to those questions but the quality of the digital image posted on Fold3.com is so poor that I did not undertake to try to decipher it. He appears to say he was born in King County [? King William? or King & Queen County?] Virginia in 1763 and that the record of his birth was copied from his Father's Bible.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$28.11 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months & 28 days, (5 months and 28 days in the infantry and 2 months in the cavalry), all in the Virginia militia.]