

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Richard Roberts S39052  
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Whereas the Congress of the United States of America passed A Law on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 181[?] [sic: act of 18 Mar 1818] Entitled an Act for the benefit of the Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution who may stand in need of Assistance from their Country

I Richard Roberts of Brook County and State of Virginia [sic: Brooke County, now WV], Feeling Conscious of the Justice of a claim to the provisions of said Act, not being able from age and Infirmitys to support myself by labour and whereas the above Cited act Requires that a statement of the time and manner of service shall be exhibited to the Secretary of the war department, I proceed to make the following

(viz) I Enlisted on or about the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 1776 in Culpeper County in the State of Virginia with Henry Field Lieutenant of Captin George Slaughter's Company of the Eighth Virginia Ridgment for the term of two years in which Company and Ridgment I served during the period for which I enlisted in the Virginia line, and Received an honourable discharge on or abut the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1778 from General [Charles] Scott then Commanding the Virginia line at a place called Valley Forge in the State of pennsylvania, which discharge has since been mislaid or lost  
[signed 27 Apr 1818] Richard Rob[page damaged]

State of Virginia } SS.  
County of Brooke }

Before the subscriber one of the commonwealth justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, personally appeared Richard Roberts of the said county and made oath according to law and says that the commanding Officer of the Regiment to which he belonged in the war of the Revolution was Col. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] for the term of one year - the said Col. having been raised to the rank of Brigadier General, and the regiment was afterwards commanded by Colo. [Abraham] Bowman. [signed] Richard Roberts  
Sworn and subscribed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of Sept'r. 1819

District of Virginia } on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of august 1820 personally appeared in open Court  
County of Brooke } of record by the laws of the Comm[onwealth] of Virginia for the  
August Term 1820 } said district and County, Richard Roberts, aged sixty four years,  
resident in said district and County, who being first duly sworn

according to law, on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows. that he enlisted on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 1776 and served the term of two years in Capt Slaughter's Company in Colo Muhlenburgh Regiment of Foot, the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, and was discharged at the Valey forge in the state of Pennsylvania on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> day of Febuary 1778. That he made his original declaration on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 1818 and that his pension certificate is numbered 15053 and dated the 30<sup>th</sup> Sep'r 1819 — And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed

1 horse 14 or 15 years old	30.00	—	5 hoggs 3 of them small	5.50
2 Cows	22.00	—	1 hand axe[?] 1 falling d[itt]o 1 old hoe	2.00
1 - 2 year old heipher	6.00	—	1 - 12 gallon kettle 1 Broken pot	4.00
2 young Clalves	3.00	—	Dresser furniture	4.00
10 sheep old and young	10.00	—	56 acres land @ 6\$	<u>336.00</u>
1 Plough & gears	7.00	—		\$429.50

Declarant is indebted for the aforesaid and having purchased the same on the presumption that

his pension would be continued		
At 10\$ per acre		\$314.00
Other debts		<u>60.00</u>
		\$374.00
Amount of real & personal prop'y	\$429.50	
		\$55.00
There is due the said Declarant		<u>170.00</u>
Total value of property		225.50

[signed] Richard Roberts

Declarant further states that he was formerly by occupation a wheelwright, but is now unfit to follow the same owing to age and infirmity, That he works a little on his land of which there are about 20 acres of land cleared and that should his pension be discontinued his land will be taken from him, (he having no legal title for the same) and he be reduced to beggary or be supported at the expence of the County — That his family consists of himself, his wife aged 65 years who is old and infirm and is affected with the palsey, for the last 10 years and is totally incapable of labor the said disease having deprived her of her reason - one son aged 27 years - 1 Daughter aged 33 years - one other Daughter aged 31 years - and a grand daughter aged 11 years; the said son and Daughters being of age the said declarant is uncertain of the length of time they may remain with him

[A letter from Richard Brown, Delegate to the Virginia legislature, dated Hollidays Cove, 14 Jan 1823, states in part: "The old Man possesses a small poor piece of land which by selling of & the money he by his economy could save from his allowance purchased a better piece of land near to where I live he from his sober pious habits could have paid off the price he agreed to pay by the half of his pension had that have continued but if discontinued leaves him unable to make his payments and throws him out of a home and at the advanced years of his life totally unable to gain any thing by his labour." Roberts's pension was discontinued because he was considered to own too much property, and on 27 Oct 1823 he reapplied with the following schedule of property:]

I have no real Estate. In my former schedule it was stated that I had purchased fifty six acres of land, and had paid a small part of the purchase money - but not having received any pension money since, and being otherwise unable to complete the payment, the money advanced is forfeited and lost and cannot obtain any title for the land.

My personal estate is as follows:	D. C
1 Horse 18 years old	12.00
1 Heifer	7.00
3 Shoats	1.50
12 ordinary sheep & 3 lambs	12.00
1 - 12 gallon Iron Kettle W'r[?] 22 <sup>d</sup>	1.00
1 Dutch Oven and Iron pot (both cracked)	1.00
1 Iron Tea Kettle (small)	.66
10 plates - 2 pint basons, 1 dish and 1 basin (old pewter)	<u>2.00</u>
	\$37.16

[signed] Richard Roberts

That since the exhibition of my first schedule the following changes have been made in my property.

1 cow, fatted and killed Dec'r. 1822 for the use of my family.

The Hogs mentioned in my first schedule are all made use of for family supply.

Names of persons to whom sold	Time of sale	Amount of money, or description of property received in return.
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Richard Thompson 1 Heifer and 1 Sheep George Bale 1 Cow	Spring of 1822  Same time	16 bushels of Rye  Repay a debt, due 5 or 6 years	\$4.00  <u>6.00</u> \$10.00
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And also personally appeared, on the same day, in open court, Robert Campbell of the County and State aforesaid, who after being duly sworn, deposes and says that Richard Roberts Junior, son of Richard Roberts above named, purchased from the said Campbell one hundred acres of land in the county aforesaid, fifty six acres of which deponent understood was on account of Roberts the elder, at ten dollars per acre and for which land the said Roberts at several times, paid a part of the purchase money, and for the ballance gave a note of hand, which note said deponent has assigned to another person. That no title for the said land, or any part of it, has ever been made to the said Roberts Senior or Junior, nor never will be made unless payment in full is made and they will on failure of payment, loose the land and the payments already made on it. Deponent further states, as his opinion and belief, that owing to the reduced price of land, and the scarcety of money that the said land will not sell for as much money as the ballance now due for it.

[signed] Rob't. Campbell