

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Thomas Roberts S4144

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Tennessee

Jackson County

On this 28th day of September 1833 personally appeared before me Welcome Butler one of the acting justices of the peace for Jackson County Thomas Roberts aged Ninety four years a resident citizen of said County of Jackson who being first duly sworn according to the letter of the law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated.

He states that he was drafted for a tour of six months in the County of Henry in the State of Virginia. The year he cannot with certainty state but believes it was in 1780 or 1781. This much he can say he was drafted in the spring of the year. He joined the company commanded by Captain Thomas Henderson and joined the Battallion commanded by Major [Charles] Rose Marched to a place in South Carolina called Ninety six. As he recollects the enemy was forted there, and the American Army attempted to take the fort but failed [Siege of Ninety-Six, 22 May - 19 Jun 1781]. General Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was the commanding officer. Col Lee [Lt. Col. Henry Lee] & Major [Michael] Rudolph were officers there whose names he recollects. Left Ninety six in the night Marched to a Bridge across a stream called Congaree [River]. Applicant and some men were placed at the Bridge to prevent the passage of the enemy. While at the Bridge Major Rudolph rode up with great speed and told them to run else every man would be taken. This was in the morning. The soldiers had not taken breakfast, & many left their kettles on the fire

Shortly after this he returned home, and he was discharged by Captain Thomas Henderson in Henry County Virginia.

He states that while out he was at the place where General [Horatio] Gates was defeated [at the Battle of Camden SC on 16 Aug 1780]

This applicant would beg leave to state that from his entire want of education, with his extreme old age & consequent weakness of mind he is wholly unable to give a minute detail

His discharge was thrown away by one John Hunter many years ago who when looking over his papers told him it was of no value

He states he knows of no living witness by whom he can prove his actual service James Martin ploughed for him while he was out in the service, & he thinks Martha Stone will prove in substance the same He does not know that he will be able to get said evidence but will endeavour to do so

The above was his actual service in the revolutionary war. he served out faithfully his tour of six months. He was three years in the minute service but is informed for that he can draw nothing He states that since the passage of the Act of Congress he has been wholly unable to travel about & lives about sixteen miles from the court house. He is very poor, & owes his support to the charity & aid of this county

He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state Thomas Roberts

1st I was born in Middlesex [sic: Middlesex] county Virginia and can only state age from the information of my parents.

I have no record of my age

I was living in Henry County Virginia when when called into the service. I lived there until about sixteen years past, since which time I have lived in this county

I was drafted for six months which I served

A. I cannot detail the officers & circumstances more than I have already stated

I received a discharge of Capt Thomas Henderson & lost it as before stated

A. I believe [illegible word] James McColgin, Major Thomas Butler, Adam C. Hamilton, Col. Bayly

Butler and many more it is believed would testify both as to my character for veracity & my reputation as a soldier of the revolution and their concurrence in that belief

State of Tennessee Jackson County

This day James Martin personally appeared before me John F Vass an acting justice of the peace for said County of Jackson and made oath that he has been intimately acquainted with Thomas Roberts the applicant since he Martin was a small boy. He lived in the same County (Henry) with him in Virginia now lives close neighbour. This affiant [illegible word] state that he ploughed for him while he understood he was out in a campaign in South Carolina in Captain Thomas Henderson's company. Affiant had a brother in law in the same company; always understood that he was in the revolution. He had the most satisfactory reasons to believe that he was out for a tour of six months. Affiant saw him in a few days after his return, which was the same time his brother in law returned. He is the oldest man in all this country

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 28th day of September 1833

James Martin