

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Stephens S45895

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

4/21/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Lincoln County: On this 16th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the same, now sitting, Robert Stephens a resident citizen of Lincoln County Tennessee, aged seventy-six years on the 17th of June last 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 17th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated to wit That on the 2nd day of January 1781 he joined the Chesterfield Militia of the State of Virginia at Bookers old field near Petersburg being attached to the Company commanded by David Patterson in the Regiment then commanded by Colonel Robert Goode; for a tour of three months, as the substitute of Thomas Randolph who was called Dungeon L. Thomas by way of distinction from another called Tuckahoe Thomas Randolph, Colonel Goode at that time commanded the Regiment of the Chesterfield & Powhatan militia – Shortly after this applicant joined said Regiment it was marched from Petersburg for the purpose of drawing ammunition & then marched by the River road towards Norfolk for the purpose of watching the movements of the British Army then moving down James River to Portsmouth a small town at the mouth of Elizabeth River opposite Norfolk where (at Portsmouth they took up their winter quarters[]) – our Army marched as far as Smithfield where we remained for some time and then went on to Mackey's Mills where the Army remained until the expiration of the Term of his enlistment when this applicant, as well as the whole Regiment was discharged or rather dismiss until further orders – this applicant did not receive any written discharge nor was he engaged in any Battles – the only service performed in this time was that of watching the movements of the British Army war fleet as aforesaid, at this Tour applicant served three months.

This applicant further saith that shortly after his discharge as aforesaid to wit sometime in April 1781 he joined the Army again at Manchester near Richmond under the same officers who had been ordered by Brigadier General Lawson [Robert Lawson] & Major General the Baron Steuben to call their troops together for the purpose again of watching the movements of the British Army who had broke up there winter quarters & were moving up the River towards Petersburg where the British Army under the command of General Philips [William Phillips] met & had an engagement with the American Army under General Steuben in which the Americans were beaten & retreated across the Appomattox River to Chesterfield Courthouse & from there up James River to the Point of forks on James River. This applicant was not in the aforesaid engagement this Regiment to which he belonged under the command of Colonel Goode having been stationed near the town of Osborne [Osborne] on the road leading from Petersburg to Richmond, a few miles from the former. Immediately after the battle at Petersburg [April 25, 1781] the detachment commanded by Colonel Goode to which this applicant belonged was

ordered by express from General Steuben to fall in his rear & follow his retreat which they did. The British Army two days after the Battle left Petersburg & marched from that place to Manchester near Virginia, being close on the heels of Colonel Goode's detachment, whose movements was regulated so as to watch the movements of the British Army. After the British Army had remained a few days at Manchester it returned to Petersburg and formed a Junction with Lord Cornwallace [Cornwallis]. Shortly after this Junction the British Army left Petersburg crossed James River & marched up the Country through the city of Richmond & continued some distance up the country then returned through Richmond & moved to Norfolk. About this time General Lafayette took command of the Army & directed all the future movements of Colonel Goode's detachment which left its position in Chesterfield County whence it had retreated and returned to Manchester for the purpose of watching the movements of the British Army where they remained until the expiration of three months from the time of this second enlistment when they were again discharged – this applicant having served a second tour of three months – Shortly after this second discharge the said Regiment under command of Colonel Goode & in the company commanded by Captain Patterson was again called out (when this applicant again joined the Army) for the purpose of guarding the watercraft on James River, reconnoitering the movements of the Enemy and preserving the peace of the neighborhood in which service our Regiment & this applicant for about two months making in all a service of eight months when the Regiment and this applicant was discharged which was about the time Lord Cornwallis moved from Norfolk to little York where he surrendered to the combined Army, never having had any discharge in writing this applicant hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

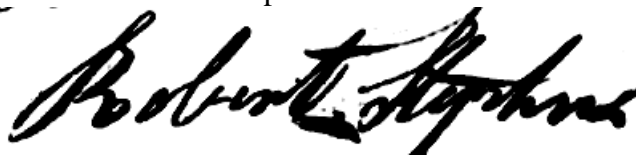
This applicant states that he was born in North Britain in the County of Murray Scotland on the 17th of June 1756 and that he has a Record of his age in his family Bible which is now in his possession. That he emigrated [to] the British Colony now state of Virginia in the year 1774 & lived in the County of Chesterfield Virginia when he was called into service. That he continued to live in the Virginia until about 36 years ago when he removed to Tennessee & lived in the neighborhood of Nashville for about 10 years, then removed to Lincoln County Tennessee where he now lives. This applicant would mention William B Benge, Isaac Holman, & Benjamin Walker a clergyman whom he is acquainted in his neighborhood & who can testify as to his veracity & their belief of his services as a soldier in the Revolution.

Sworn to & subscribed the date 1st above written.

Test:

S/ Robt Inge, Clk

S/ Robert Stephens

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Stephens", written in a cursive style.

[Benjamin Walker, a clergyman, William B Benge & Isaac Holman gave the standard supporting affidavit.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the Virginia militia.]