

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Robertson S4790

f46NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

rev'd 2/10/09 & 6/6/15 & 9/26/22

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

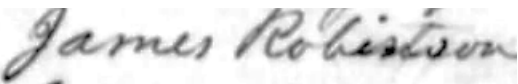
State of Tennessee

County of Hardeman

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions October term 1832

Be it known On this the 3rd day of October in the year of our lord 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the ~~judge~~ justices of the Court of Hardeman County now sitting William Robertson a resident of Hardeman County aforesaid aged about 73 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 was born on Pedee River but he does not know in what County [&] he does not recollect what year he was born in—he has no register of his age but from what he has heard his mother say of his age he must have been born in the year 1759. When the revolutionary war commenced he resided in what is now called Washington County Tennessee[.] [T]he Indians became troublesome and my father Charles Robertson who was the first Col. of ~~Robe~~ Washington County was compelled to abandon his home with his family and take shelter in Watauga fort[.] [H]e then entered the service under ~~the~~ Captain James Robertson [in the original, this name is written over so that it could be "Robinson"]¹ since Gen. Robinson of Tennessee as a volunteer to fight the Indians & Tories[.] [H]e does not recollect what time he volunteered under Capt. Robinson but it was about the first of the breaking out of war. After serving in guarding the fort for some time Col. Chester from Virginia came on with some troops and relieved us. [S]ometime afterward he ~~afterward~~ enlisted [sic, enlisted] under Captain Thomas Price ~~for~~ as a mounted dragoon to guard the frontiers of Washington County for the term of one year[.] [A]fter he had served out his twelve months under Price the Indians still continued hostile[.] [H]e was then drafted under Capt W. Parker for three months during which time he acted as Lieutenant and marched under Genl Evan Shelby [sic, Isaac Shelby] against the Cherokee Indians. [M]y father Charles Robertson was Colonel[.] [W]e went to an Indian town called Chickamauga[.] [T]he Indians fled before ~~battle~~ us[.] [W]e burnt burned their town and returned home[.] [S]hortly after he returned home he was again drafted to march against the Tories and British[.] [H]e was under ~~Captain Rob~~ Lieutenant Christopher Cunningham. My father & Col John Sevier commanded the regiment. We were patrolling the Country near Musgrove's Mill when we came in contact with some of Ferguson's dragoons[.] [T]hey urged us to retreat[.] [W]e then joined Col


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McDowell [Charles McDowell] and marched against Pat. Moore's [Patrick Moore's] fort on ~~the~~ Thicketty Creek in Spartanburg County S. Carolina[.] [T]he fort surrendered [Julys 26, 1780]² without firing a gun[;] there was about 90 Tories in the fort[.] [T]hen we returned home[.] [H]e was not home very long until McDowell sent for Col Sevier to return to fight the Tories and Maj Ferguson[.] [H]e returned under Capt Robert Sevier and was in the battle of Kings Mountain[.]³ ~~by~~ Captain Robert Sevier was wounded [&] he desired to be carried home. [H]e, this affiant, undertook to assist in getting him home but Sevier died at Sam Bright's on the river before he got home.

The next campaign he was in was under Captain James Richardson commanded by Genl. Joseph Martin for the term of three months[.] [W]e marched against the Cherokee Indians and was in the battle of Lookout Mountain. Maj. Joseph Bullard was killed in that battle and he buried him in his blanket[.] Capt Gibson was also killed this was after the war. He received no discharge in writing[.] Captain William Walker of Hardin County has known me for sixty years and can testify as to my Services[.] Major Christopher Bullard has known me for 50 years and can also testify as to my Services.

Sworn to in open court the 3rd Oct. 1832

S/ William Robertson



I, William Walker,⁴ hereby certify that I am well acquainted with William Robertson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration and have know him for upwards of sixty years. I have frequently seen him in the army of the North Carolina militia during the revolutionary war. I saw him in the battle of Kings Mountain and I believe that he served as above by him stated. Sworn & Subscribed in open Court Oct. 3rd 1832.

S/ Thos. J. Hardeman, Clerk

I, Christopher Bullard, a citizen of Hardiman County Tennessee do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with William Robertson who has subscribed & sworn to the above declaration, and have known him for fifty years. I saw him and was with him in the expedition to ~~King's~~ Lookout Mountain and was with him in that battle which was some years after the revolution but I do not recollect in what year. So from what I have heard those say who were in the revolution, I do believe that the said Robertson had served in the Army of the revolution as he has above stated by him in his declaration. I do also believe him to be more than 73 years of age.

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court 3 October 1832

S/ Christopher Bullard

And the said William Robertson 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.

S/ William Robertson

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State of Tennessee Hardeman County

² https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_thicketty_fort.html

³ October 7, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

⁴ [William Walker S32573](#)

On this third day of April A.D. 1837 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of said County of Hardeman now sitting, William Robertson now a resident of said County of Hardeman aged about 76 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Amendment to his declaration of the 3rd day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832:

That he cannot tell his age not having any record of it, but from information derived from his mother in her lifetime he was Seventy Six years of age the 22nd day of March 1837. He cannot give a better account of the place of his birth than is stated in his original Declaration numbered 15531 here present and offered as part of this amendment. He cannot say when he first entered the service, but he thinks the time he served under Capt. James Robinson was in the year 1777 or 1778. He then served in that tour 3 months and was then mustered out of service without a written discharge. The next year he volunteered or enlisted under Capt. Thomas Price as stated in said original Declaration and then served a full term of one year. The next tour he entered the service under Capt. W. Parker as a Lieut. and served 3 months: the time of performing this service he cannot now state. Shortly after the above service he entered the service again under Lieut. Cunningham and served 3 months. Immediately after he was mustered out of service when he went under Cunningham, he again entered the service under Capt. Robert Sevier in this term of 3 months the Battle of King's Mountain was fought, but this Deponent having been sent home with Capt. Sevier & some others who were wounded did not serve out the 3 months by about 3 weeks he thinks, he acted on this occasion as Capt. of the guard sent with the wounded. In the year 1786 [sic], as he believes, he served under Capt. James Richardson commanded by General Joseph Martin he was at this time about 5 weeks in service. In the year 1782, information was received that there was a large collection of Indians & Tories on Coosawhatchie River in what is now in Georgia as he thinks. Capt. Isaac Thomas raised a spy company and he volunteered under him. Said Thomas was under command of Col. Robertson & Sevier. The company went to said River and took a white man on the way, he broke custody and said Thomas killed him as he ran, we went on and burnt Big Shoemake town and a store house said to belong to the British, we then retreated home with 36 Indians and one white man prisoners. We served I think 5 weeks and 4 days. In the 3 months engagement in which he went against the Cherokee Indians called the Chickamauga Campaign he served a short time more than 3 months. He thinks he did not serve 2 years in all by one or 2 weeks but he cannot now recollect. He does not remember that he ever got a written discharge. He further states that he is not acquainted with any Clergyman in his neighborhood and he is informed and believes it to be true that there is not one residing nearer to him than about 17 miles. He never had any record of his age. Since his presenting his original Declaration he has resided in the State of Mississippi some time but now resides in the Hardeman County where he then he had. The reason why he did not renew his application sooner is because of his infirmity and the difficulty attending the obtaining of proof of service which he has in part done by the statements of William Price, Thomas Gist and Abel Pearson of White County Tennessee which is here produced these statements are imperfect and Mr. Pearson is mistaken as to declarant being in the Battle of Eutaw Springs he being then in a different service. He does not think he ever received a written discharge. He hereby again relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or a nobody except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll or agency of any state. Isaac Thomas called Capt. above, was only our leader on that occasion. There may be errors in this declaration, but from length of time he cannot make it more perfect. Christopher Ballard

Jonah Ballard James Moore William Moore & Thomas Simpson & many others of his neighbors are acquainted with him and would testify as to his character and the fact of his being reputed a revolutionary soldier and to his being a man of truth.

S/ William Robertson

Sworn to & subscribed before me in Open Court April 3, 1837

S/ Samuel McDowell, D. Clerk

for Rufus P. Neely, Clerk

[Willie L. Davis and John Crocker gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee Hardeman County: October Term of the Circuit Court for said County

On this 3rd day of October in the year of our Lord 1837, personally appeared in open court of the Circuit court of Hardeman County aforesaid William Robertson a resident of said County of Hardeman and State of Tennessee aged about 77 years and 6 months, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832. That as to the Term of service of 12 months, on the Indian frontiers under Capt. Thomas Price, stated in his declaration heretofore made, he here will make some additional statements namely As this declarant now remembers, the company commanded by Capt. Thomas Price consisted of 57, who were raised by voluntary enrollment or enlistment for the term of 12 months under the authority of a law or resolution of the Legislature of the State of North Carolina -- the object of this company was to guard the frontiers against the depredations of the Cherokee Indians. Felix Walker (since a member of Congress from North Carolina) who is now dead, joined said company and served under said price 5 or 6 weeks as declarant believes, when the said Walker was elected clerk of the court and agreed with this declarant that if he would go and join said Capt. Price's Company and served the residue you of the year that he this deponent should be entitled to pay for the time he said Walker served -- And this declarant did go and serve out said term as before stated. This declarant was in service the whole war of the time for which he engaged which lacked but a few weeks of a year. He feels pretty confident that the foregoing is a correct statement of the nature of his Service. This applicant from age and the great length of time which has elapsed cannot state the length of time in actual Service or which he served in the other tours in his former declaration, more explicitly than he has therein stated. The Service he performed under Capt. Thomas Price as before stated was before peace was made with England and he thinks in the year 1778 and during the revolutionary War.

S/ William Robertson

Sworn to and subscribed before me in open Court October 5 1837

S/ E. R. Kitchen, Clerk

[Christopher Ballard and Joseph Ballard gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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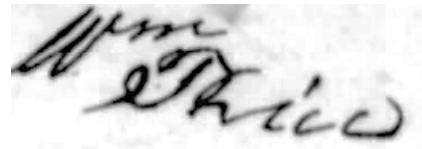
State of Tennessee White County

On this 8th day of June 1836 personally appeared in Open Court before the Judges of the Circuit Court now sitting for said County and State at the Court house in the town of Sparta, William Price⁵ a resident of the County and State aforesaid, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following statement of facts touching the service of

⁵ [William Price W1072](#)

William Robertson (now of the Chickasaw Nation in the State of Mississippi) as a soldier of the Revolutionary War, who he understands his applying for a pension, under the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed June 7th, 1832. -- Affiant states that in the year 1780 he being then a citizen of the County of Burke in the State of North Carolina, volunteered under his father Capt. Thomas Price, and marched from thence to what is now as he believes Carter County Tennessee. From Carter County he marched in pursuit of Col. Ferguson and came up with him at Kings Mountain where he was encamped. Affiant was in the Battle of Kings Mountain, and knows that said William Robertson was also in said Battle. Said Robertson at that time of which he speaks lived on Watauga River at or near the mouth of Buffalo Creek in what was then North Carolina. Affiant was well acquainted with said Robertson and believes he belonged to the company commanded by Capt. Robert Sevier who was his Robertson's Brother-in-law. The troops with whom himself and Robertson served were under the command of Col. Sevier, Robertson, Shelby and Campbell. Affiant is unable to state how long said Robertson served during said engagement. He saw him no more after the A battle spoken of until the close of the war and believes that he returned home after the Battle.

S/ Wm Price



Sworn to and subscribed in open Court June 8 1836
S/ William G. Sims, Clerk

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Thomas Gist⁶ a resident of the County of White and State aforesaid, also appeared before the Court and being duly sworn, states that he was well acquainted with William Robertson in relation to whose services as a soldier of the Revolution William Price has just deposed. Affiant and said Robertson lived within 20 miles of each other in what is now Washington County Tennessee. He affiant volunteered in said County for 3 months under Capt. James Stinson, but as to the precise. At which he volunteered he cannot now remember. During said engagement he was in the Battle of Boyds Creek,⁷ and states that said William Robertson was also in said Battle. Affiant does not recollect whether said Robertson was under Capt. Stinson or not. The principal officers with the troops with whom himself and Robertson served were Col. John Sevier, Jesse Walton and John Tipton. Affiant from what he has always understood from the neighbors of said Robertson, has no doubt but that he Robertson was in the Battle of Kings Mountain and in the Chickamauga expedition. He affiant and Robertson lived neighbors in the counties of Washington, Knox and White in Tennessee, until he Robertson moved from the latter County to the Western District of Tennessee, and frequently heard his neighbors speak of **said** Robertson's services aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Gist, X his mark

Sworn & subscribed to before me in open Court this 8th day of June 1836.
S/ William G. Sims, Clerk

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⁶ [Thomas Gist S1762](#)

⁷ Battle of Boyd's Creek (Tennessee) December 16, 1780 <http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/boydscreek.html>

Abel Pearson⁸ County being also duly sworn and examined states that he, then, living on Nolichucky River, in what was then North Carolina but now Tennessee volunteered for a tour of 3 months under Capt. James Stinson. That during said engagement he was in the Battle of Boyd's Creek. Affiant knows that William Robertson the individual spoken of in the affidavits of William Price and Thomas Gist was also in said battle. He was well acquainted with said Robertson -- lived in the same neighborhood with him in what is now East Tennessee in the first settling of that part of the Country. He William Robertson, was the son of Col. Charles Robertson, who with Cols. Sevier and Tipton and Walton had the command of the troops. He does not remember who was said William Robertson's Capt. -- Robertson served his tour, which was for 3 months. This Affiant's next engagement was for 3 months in an expedition against the Chickamauga Indians, said Robertson was along in said campaign. He does not know who was Robertson's Capt. The field Officers were Cols. Sevier, Hubbard and Robertson and Majors Tipton and Walton. The next tour of duty performed by affiant was against the British and Tories. It was a tour of three months -- said William Robertson was along and both were in the company commanded by Capt. Robert Sevier. Affiant and Robertson were during this tour in the battle at Kings Mountain. The commanding Officers were Campbell, Sevier, Tipton, Walton, Shelby, Williamson [sic, James Williams], Robertson and Cleveland. Capt. Robert Sevier was wounded in said Battle and short time thereafter died of the wound. Capt. Sevier was the Brother-in-law of said William Robertson & affiant's recollection is that he Robertson stayed with and attended on said Sevier until his death. The next campaign, this affiant was under Capt. George Dougherty. He marched to and joined the General Marion at Nelson's ferry on Santee River. This was a tour of 3 months -- said William Robertson was also along, but he cannot state who was his Capt., Cols. Sevier and Robertson -- Major Tipton and he thinks Walton had the command of the troops under General Marion. The battle at Eutaw Springs was fought about 8 days prior to his joining General Marion as above stated. -- said William Robertson served his 3 months and was mustered out of service, shortly after which peace was made. Affiant cannot state of his own knowledge that said William Robertson was in the first Chickamauga Campaign -- but frequently heard his Robertson's Officers and neighbors say that he was. He affiant has no doubt he was -- Robertson's Capt. in said campaign was John Sevier. When affiant speaks of the campaign against the Chickamauga Indians, he means a part of the Cherokee Indians.

S/ Abel Pearson



Sworn to and subscribed before me in open Court this 8th day of June A.D. 1836
S/ W. G. Sims, Clerk

[Facts in file: Veteran died in Tupelo Mississippi January 26, 1843 in the residence of Andrew Blackwood who was his son-in-law and the husband of Susanna Blackwood, daughter of William Robertson.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for one-year in the North Carolina militia.]

⁸ [Abel Pearson S3661](#)