

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Roberts S4792

f29VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/6/12

[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.]

The state of Kentucky Franklin County: to wit

This day personally appeared before me Doctor John Roberts a citizen of Kentucky & resident of the County aforesaid who being by me duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, declares as follows: That in the year 1776, he entered the service of the United States in the Sixth Virginia Regiment in the capacity of a second Surgeons mate – Doctor Rose [probably Robert Rose] was chief Surgeon – Middleton [perhaps Alexander Middleton] first mate – Early in 1777, Doctor Rose left the Regiment and joined Bland's Regiment of Horse – Middleton deserted to the enemy, and the said John Roberts was then promoted to Surgeon of the said Regiment in which capacity he continued until the year 1780 when the said Regiment was ordered to the Southward, when he resigned, to which he was compelled from necessity, the paper money having depreciated in so great a degree as not to be sufficient to clothe him – That he is now in the seventy first year of his age; that from age and infirmity & disabilities occasioned in a great degree from hardships & disease suffered during his continuance in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, he is rendered unable to pursue his profession so as to support himself & a large family; That he has nearly expended the whole of his military bounty lands received from the State of Virginia in support of himself & family. That he is destitute of pecuniary or other resources and by reason of his reduced circumstances in life he is [in] need of assistance from his Country for support: That he never has claimed or been allowed any pension heretofore under any law of the United States.

S/ John Roberts



[Attested August 14, 1818]

State of Kentucky Franklin Circuit October Term 1820

On this 25th day of October 1820 personally appeared in open Court, being a Court of Record for the said Franklin Circuit and held in the County of Franklin John Roberts aged seventy-two years resident in the said County who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare: That he served in the Revolutionary War as follows to wit that early in the year 1776 he was appointed at Williamsburg in the State of Virginia second Surgeon's mate under Doctor Rose Surgeon to the Sixth Virginia Continental Regiment; that he marched on with the said Regiment in the fall of that year from said Williamsburg and joined the main Army at Brunswick in the State of New Jersey. That early in the year 1776 [sic] he was appointed Surgeon to said Regiment, the aforesaid Doctor Rose the Surgeon having been transferred to

Colonel Bland's Regiment of Horse and the first mate having deserted to the enemy; That he continued in the said Regiment as Surgeon through all the campaigns on the northward until the Spring of the year 1780 when the said Regiment was ordered on to Charleston South Carolina; That he marched with the said Regiment to Richmond Virginia where he resigned. That he sometime in August 1819 made application for a pension under the laws of Congress of March 18th 1818 and there was granted to him by the United States a Pension Certificate No. 12,126. And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18th 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: That he is by profession a Position, but is unable to pursue his business on account of a habitual Sciatica in the left hip which frequently renders him unable to rise without help which disease was gotten when in Service by Coles taken at a place called Cold Camp on the Delaware River in the State of Pennsylvania and which has followed him ever since, but, as his age advanced he has grown worse. That he has a wife and the following children in his family to wit: Monia [? could be Maria], Susan & Frederick all of whom are over twenty-one years and Lucy and Elizabeth under twenty-one years and Henley fifteen years of age.

A Schedule of the property of Doctor John Roberts taken October 24, 1820	
1372 acres of Land in Franklin County Kentucky	\$1,000.00
800 acres of Land Virginia Military District of Ohio value \$1.50 per acre	1,215.00
750 acres of Virginia Military Land Warrants on located value 25 cents per acre	<u>187.50</u>
	\$2,402.50
[carried over to the next page of the schedule]	
Amount brought forward	\$2,402.50
Due from several persons in this State of Ohio the sale of Military lands 4 & 5 years since	1,200.67 ½
Due on Book for Physic &c amounting to	300.00
Due from Nathan Linton of Clinton County of Ohio	157.70
Two horses value	60.00
Nine head of cattle large & small value	50.00
7 Sheep \$7, 18 Hogs & pigs \$20	27.00
1 Deck & 1 bureau \$20	20.00
2 Tables a Side Board & 2 dozen & a half of chairs	45.00
One old Sattee value	<u>4.00</u>
	\$4,266.87 ½
I owe debts to the amount of	<u>1,000.00</u>
	Dollars 3,266.87 ½
	S/ John Roberts Senior

[f p. 20]

State of Kentucky Franklin County: to wit

This day personally appeared before me Captain Richard Apperson¹ a citizen of the United States and resident of the County aforesaid who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, depose and saith That in the spring of the year 1776 he was a Lieutenant in Captain Thomas Massie's Company of the Sixth Virginia Regiment in the Continental service during the revolutionary war; that he was afterwards promoted to the command of a company & retired from the service in July or August 1778 as a supernumerary; That when he joined the said Regiment, he became acquainted with Doctor John Roberts, now a resident of the County of Franklin and State of Kentucky who has made application for a pension under & by virtue 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:" that the said John Roberts was then acting as Surgeon's mate to Doctor Rose who was Surgeon of the said Regiment; That upon the resignation of Doctor Rose, the said John Roberts was appointed Surgeon of the said Regiment in which capacity he continued from sometime early in the year 1777 till this deponent retired from the service as above stated and from circumstances & information for a considerable time afterwards; That he has been a neighbor & intimate acquaintance of said John Roberts since his removal to the State & County about the year 1804; that from the advanced age and infirmities of the said John Roberts with a large family & without pecuniary or other resources, he believes him to stand in need of the assistance of his Country for support; That whilst this Deponent was in the Army the said John Roberts was highly esteemed & respected & discharged the duties of his station with great credit to himself & to the general satisfaction of the Regiment.

S/ Rich'd Apperson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich'd Apperson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the page.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing August 14, 1818 for service as a surgeon for 3 years in the Virginia Continental line.]

¹ [Richard Apperson BLWt386-300](#)

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Addendum to John Roberts S4792

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 22 Feb 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia](#).]

I Samuel Hopkins [BLWt1065-450] who was a Lieutenant Col. in the 10th Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment do hereby certify & declare, that Doctor John Roberts was first appointed Surgeons Mate in May 1776 in the 6th Virginia Regiment that early in 1777 he was appointed Surgeon to the same Regiment & served under my inspection & command until the month of April 1779 after which period being myself ordered on duty in the Southern department I can only certify, that I left Doctor Roberts on duty at that time & in 1781 on my return to Virginia found him still in office in the army & have always believed & understood his services continued to the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783. Frankfort [KY] August 12th 1818. Sam. Hopkins

The above statement given by Gen'l Samuel Hopkins from my own recollection I think is quite correct & moreover I well remember that Dr Roberts was alternately at Petersburg [sic: Petersburg] & Richmond & appeared to be officially employed in attending on indisposed officers of the Revolutionary Army in 1782 & 1783 which was to the end of that war.

J. Pryor [John Pryor W12064]
an Officer of the 1st Reg't of Artil'y Rev'y War.

I certify the above to be a true copy for the original. [undeciphered signature]

It appears from the record that a warrant for 6000 a[cre]s issued to John Roberts for services as Regimental Surgeon in the Virginia Continental line from June 1776 till March 1780 upon a certificate of Council dated 30th Jan'y 1783 Tho Miller Clk
Land Office/ 20th Nov 1818

Allowed additional land bounty for one year over 6 or the war.

Mr Sawyer wishes this to be reconsidered. He thinks Roberts entitled to 6 months more
6 months more all'd