

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Robertson S4793

NC

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Declaration of John Robertson

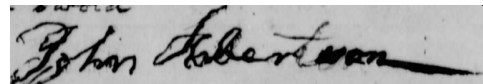
In order to to obtain the benifit of the Act of Congress passed 7th June 1832—

State of Tennessee }

Madison County } SS

On the eighth day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before John M Johnson, James A Rogers and Jacob Perkins Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the county of Madison in the State of Tennessee John Robertson a resident of said County and state aged eighty eight years, who being first duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benifit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he was born on the 4th of May 1744 in Prince George [sic: Prince George's] County Maryland, and has in his possession no registration of his birth, he believes it was Recorded in the books of Broad creek on Akacack [possibly Accokeek] Churches, in the County where he was born, according to the custom of the Church of England in which he was bapitized. In the year 1778 he moved from Maryland and settled in South Carolina, in what is now called York district, where he lived one year, and moved from there into Rowan County North Carolina, and in June 1781, he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer, under Captain David Colwell [sic: David Caldwell], and our Company was stationed in the forks of the Yadkin to keep down the Tories, who had embodied themselves under Samuel Bryan, and continued in the service until the year 1782 at the cessation of hostilities. Capt Calwell had generals orders and discretionary powers from Genl Griffith Rutherford the commandant of the Militia to suppress the insurrection of Bryans party and restore all property stolen by the Tories to its proper owners. The Tories were so thievish, stealing the property of those on the American side of the cause that it was thought advisable to keep a force always ready to counteract them and keep them in awe. In this service He had not much fighting but was in great perils The nature of the service was such, that Captain Colwell, was often obliged to divide his force into small parties, on which occasion I generally acted as the leader of one of the parties: He took many Tories prisoners, and carried them before John Johnson and a Mr. Gall, and many of them gave up their arms and took the oath of Allegiance and were paroled. He was discharged by Genl. Rutherford under his own hand, in the fall of 1782 and spoke in high terms of Commendation for his services. He had his discharge for many years, but took no particular care of it, not believing it was of any use to him, and it has been lost or destroyed. I knew several of the Continental officers, amongst whome is Col Otho Williams Captain Yarbrorugh [sic: Edward Yarborough], & Captain Trueman and Commissary Gammel. He Hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any state. In the year 1785 he moved to York district South Carolina, and from there he moved to Henderson County Tennessee in 1823 and from thence to this County in 1825, and lived here ever since. This applicant refers to Levin Benton [Leven Benton] and James Cooke [James Cook] as persons who have known him for some years and will state his character as a man of truth. While I was in service and could not leave my station I hired a man by the name of Harry Holeson to volunteer and join Genl. [Daniel] Morgan and fought well as I understood at the Cowpens [17 Jan 1781]. I gave him sixteen dollars, a horse saddle bridle & blanket, and a sword
Sworn to and subscribed date above



And at the same time appeared Chales Robertson, who being sworn upon his oath, says, That He recollects, of the said John Robertson who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing dictation being a volunteer in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary war. That he is in the sixty fourth

year and the son of said John Robertson. A day or two before he volunteered it was understood that the Tories had taken arms against the American corn[?] in Rowan County and round about, and had embodied themselves under Samuel Bryan, as soon as said John heard of it, he took his gun and left home immediately to learn its truth, and being satisfied it was so, volunteered under Captain Colwell. While he was absent from home to learn the truth of the report about the Tories being in arms, a party of the Tories came to his house in search of said John, They took from him two guns and left there—and from the summer of 1780 to the fall of 1782 the said John was in service, against the Tories, who were very mischievous and committed great devastation, stealing property and secreting it, and taking our horses to the British. I was not in the service myself being too young, but have a very distinct recollection of the services of said John who was at home but seldom, only when he would pass from one point to another, and our house being in the center of the Tory district he would stop at night, with his man. He generally commanded a separate Squad. I recollect of his hiring Herry Holson to volunteer in the service and join Genl. Morgan. He gave him a horse saddle bridle and Blanket and a sword and fifteen dollars in money, his age is 88 as stated by him

[signed] Chas. Robertson