

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joseph Ross S7390

f24VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/1/12

[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.]

[f p. 8]

Captain Nansemond County Court 13 May 1833

Virginia County of Nansemond Sc.

On this 13th day of May 1833 personally appeared in open Court before Joshua Riddick, Hardy Cross, Edward R. Hunter, Edwin B Sumner the Court of Nansemond County, now sitting, Joseph Ross a resident of the County of Nansemond and State of Virginia aged seventy-seven 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. He says that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. That he entered as a militia man on his own account on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ (about the commencement of the revolution) under Captain Abram or Abraham Coles Lieutenant \_\_\_ Ensign \_\_\_ and served as he thinks about six weeks in Nansemond, and Norfolk Counties and upon his term of service he expiring, and others coming down to release them; he well recollects this remark of Robert M. Riddick that "now boys, here [come] a parcel of married men who have come down to take your places. Suppose you remain and let them go home to their wives and children, you are young:" and some of the young men did take the places of the old ones, he the said Ross did it more than once or twice or thrice, and that he served under different officers not now recollected; and once during the war he enlisted under Captain Elvinton Knott, for six months and served out the whole time, that William and John Hoffler were sometimes his officers; that he then fell again into the militia, and served different tours under different officers not now recollected; that he thinks he served nearly five years during the revolution, and here he will state how he came to serve so long and so constantly for he then called the Army his home, his father died when he was very young, his mother married again, and his father in law [step father] treated him very bad; that he run [ran] a way when very young and went into the militia service, for he had nowhere else to go, and there he preferred being, and he did serve in all nearly five years as he now thinks; the time has been so long he cannot now recollect all the circumstances at this day, that he served on duty in Nansemond, Norfolk, Portsmouth and sometimes on the North side of James River in and about Williamsburg. He recollects to have seen General Washington at Portsmouth and Williamsburg that he has no recollection of the other regular officers, that he has no documentary evidence having lost his Discharges (if any he ever received), that he knows no one by whom he can prove this; that he was born in Accomack County Virginia as he has been told, and he was about 8 or 10 years of age when he came to this County of Nansemond, that he has since always lived in Nansemond County Virginia, that he has stated all he knows about the matter, further he cannot recollect;

He 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Joseph Ross, X his mark

[f p. 3]

Amended Declaration of Joseph Ross

State of Virginia County of Nansemond

I Joseph Ross of the aforesaid County & State, being duly sworn according to law, doth, on my oath make the following amended declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That I am now seventy-seven years of age (born in 1756 according to the record now in my house) that I am now almost totally blind, and by reason of old age & the consequent loss of memory, I cannot swear positively as to the precise length of my service during the Revolutionary War; but according to the best of my recollection I served during that war a period not less than two years, one month and 18 days, and for such service I claim a pension. – That I performed this service, as a private in the militia, under the following named officers, and, as near as I can recollect, at the periods of the war here stated. That during the year 1777, I entered the service of the United States under the command of Captain Abram Coles, and served three tours of six weeks each under that officer on Nansemond River and in Norfolk County; that in the year 1778, I again entered the service under Captain John Mathews, and served one tour of six weeks near Suffolk in Nansemond County; that again in 1778, I performed two other tours of six weeks each under Captain William Hoffler in Norfolk County, principally; that in 1779, I again entered the service under Captain Robert Riddick, and served two tours of six weeks each under that officer on Nansemond River and in the neighborhood of Suffolk; that in 1780, I again entered this service for a tour of six weeks, under Captain Elvy Knott, and served out the whole time under that officer on Nansemond River & in the County of Norfolk; that in 1781 I performed two tours of six weeks each under Captain John Cole's in the counties of Nansemond and Isle of Wight; that again in 1781, I served two other tours of six weeks each under Captain Foster, and the principal part of these two tours were performed in the neighborhood of Williamsburg and little York; and in 1782, I entered the service for the last time, under Captain Willis Riddick, and performed two tours of six weeks each under that officer on Nansemond River and in the neighborhood of Portsmouth in the County of Norfolk – I further say that during the Revolutionary War, I served many other tours of six weeks, each under different officers in the Counties of Nansemond, Norfolk & Isle of Wight Virginia, but, by reason of old age & loss of memory, I cannot now recollect their names & the particular periods of the war that I served under them – And I again repeat in this amended declaration, upon oath, that I performed so many different tours of service in the War of the Revolution, in the Counties here stated, that I then "called the Army my home" for I had none other. Colonel Book Wills, Colonel Parker and, towards the close of the war, Colonel Robert Riddick were the field officers who commanded during the different terms of my engagement. My services were altogether performed in the field, and I was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the performance of my service. I was called into service by competent authority – I was not in any general battle with the enemy but was in several skirmishes in Nansemond & in Norfolk Counties.

I have no documentary evidence & knows of no person, now living, by whom I can prove it my services. –

Sworn to and subscribed this 13th day of November 1833

S/ Joseph Ross, X his mark

[Matthias Jones & Wiley Ross gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia Troops.]