

## Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Robertson (Robinson)<sup>1</sup> S7417

f27SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/13/08 & rev'd 8/24/17

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

State of Alabama, Montgomery County

In session on the 28th of February 1833 before Benajah Bibb Esquire Judge of the County court for the said County personally came William Robertson a citizen of the same who being duly sworn doth make this declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

I was born in the year 1759 on the Pedee [River] in South Carolina & shortly after my birth my father moved to Camden district. I have no record of my age. My house was burnt about a year ago & my register was burnt with it. I entered the service of the United States early during the war of the revolution as a member of the South Carolina militia. I was drafted. My commander in the first part of the service was Colonel Kershaw [Joseph Kershaw] we were divided into three divisions & performed a tour of duty of one month at a time. The place where we were engaged was in and about Charleston & Beaufort. I think I must have served at least 12 tours in this way. I have no means of ascertaining the particular periods when I performed this service except at the time of the siege of Charleston [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780] I was lying at Purrysburg sick having been taken sick during that tour of service. Much of the duty I performed was previous to the siege of Charleston. My Captains during this time were either Alexander or Wright [probably John Wright] I having been under the command of both at different periods. I was afterwards, placed under the command of a Captain named Nixon [probably John Nixon of the Fairfield Regiment] -- portion of this time I was at Beaufort and a small portion at Purrysburg. While I lay sick at Purrysburg the British were stationed in a place called Ebenezer in Georgia within a very short distance of our troops so that we could hear their drums beating. I was sent from Purrysburg with a great number of others to Camden who were sick a short time after the battle of Stono [June 20, 1779] was fought. I was sick several months. After I rejoined the Army I was commanded by Colonel John Marshall. William Nettles was my Captain for some time Colonel Kymbal [sic, probably Frederick Kimball of the Kershaw Regiment of militia] acted as Major -- Kimball was frequently joined with Marshall after he was made Colonel. At this time I was a volunteer. The first fight in which I was employed was near the head of Black River a part of the country called Scape hoar [a/k/a Scape Whore Swamp/Creek].<sup>2</sup> Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] was our commander in chief. The

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<sup>1</sup> All of the documents in the file signed by the veteran were signed "William Robertson" but he is referred to in several documents as "William Robinson" or "Billy Robinson." Obviously, the veteran used the surname Robertson.

<sup>2</sup> <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/escaped.htm>

particulars of this fight as I remember Kimball was sent to reconnoiter one road & Sumter took the other we having arrived at a fork in the woods Kimball passed the British but they did not fire on him. The British fired upon Sumter & many of our men in the surprise ran off. But enough stood their ground to defeat them. In this engagement Nettles was wounded. This matter was occasioned by the circumstance that Sumter was endeavoring to remove his wife out of danger & the British were endeavoring to find us. We marched all night on the night of the battle of Lynch's Creek. I joined with Greene when he came into the Country. I was then placed upon the forage guard near Camden. There was a fight in that neighborhood between Greene & a British commander named Rawdon [Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781]. I was not present -- but joined the main Army the next day Colonel Washington [William Washington] fell upon a company of British light horse & took a large number of prisoners who were there at the time. We quit Greene a short time after. Greene went to the Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781]. We were employed in scouring the Tories who were behind. We remained a long time under arms. I had many skirmishes with the Tories. I never had a regular discharge. I was in the service about three years in all I have never had a Pension & release all right to any except the present -- James Courson whose claims have been allowed by the government as annexed his affidavit at the instance of the court to this is acquainted with the fact that I was a soldier of the revolution.

S/ William Robertson



Sworn & subscribed in open Court

[John Robertson, a clergyman, and William P. Connors, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 23]

The State of Alabama, Montgomery County } Supplemental Declaration

The applicant William Robinson [sic] saith on his oath that in his declaration before the court he has answered with as much particularity as possible the length of the time that he served. He repeats that to the best of his knowledge & remembrance that I served with Colonel Kershaw 12 tours of one month each I cannot remember the precise dates of those different terms of service but it was within the first 2 & 3 years of the war until I became sick at Purrysburg. I was drafted in the militia & served whenever my division was called remembering distinctly that until my sickness I had never lost one. We were called on every 3rd month & as I before stated before the siege of Charleston I performed at least 12. After I recovered my health I joined the Army as a volunteer. I never left the Army during the transaction of the events I have endeavored to describe in my declaration -- to say with particularity the time I was in the service is more than I can do -- I have stated that to the best of my remembrance I was in the service 3 years -- The affidavit of James Courson will show the esteem in which my principles were held in the revolution. He further states that he has called on Mr. Hassell [?] the Justice before whom the affidavit of Mr. Courson was taken who tells him & has certified that Mr. Courson is a stranger to him. He has produced other testimony of that fact which he submits to the Department. That Mr. Courson has a pension under this act as he is informed & the Department can gather from the certificates of his case whether he is of a nature capable of deceiving his Country or her officers.

Sworn to before me.

S/ William Robertson

S/ Benajah J. Bibb, Judge

of the Orphans & County  
Court for said County in  
Open Court October 28, 1833

[p 26]

S. Alabama, Montgomery County

Before me Benjamin D. Hassell [?] an acting justice of the peace said County personally came James Courson<sup>3</sup> who being duly sworn maketh oath and saith that he is well acquainted with William Robinson of this County. That the said Robinson was in the service of the United States under the command of Colonel Marshall, that a man named Nettles was the Captain during the war of the revolution that it was a company of militia but whether Mr Robinson was drafted or a volunteer this deponent does not know Sumter had the general command. This was when Sumter went by the Congaree by a little place called Belleville where we had a fight with the British we afterwards went up the Santee in order to remove Sumter's family out of danger. On our return at a Creek called Scape hoor [sic, Scape Whore] about 20 miles from Camden we had a fight with the British & whipped them. Billy Robinson was present. We were not members of the same company. I cannot tell how long he was in the service but he was a long time there & performed the duty of a good Whig.

S/ John Courson, X his mark

sworn & subscribed before me at Montgomery -- February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1833

S/ Benj. D. Hassell

[p 20: On November 7, 1834 and Montgomery County Alabama, the veteran applied for the transfer of his pension benefits to the Mississippi agency stating that he now resides in Noxabba County [Noxubee County] Mississippi in order to join his sons Benjamin, Thomas and William who removed there about 2 years ago as did 2 of the husbands of my daughters (not named). The veteran stated he had a desire to live near his children.]

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

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<sup>3</sup> [James Courson W9805](#)