

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Roberts S7427

f21VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/11/12

[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.]

State of North Carolina County of Caswell Sct.

On this 5 day of November 1832 personally appeared before James Martin, Judge of the Superior Court of Law of the County and State aforesaid now in Session of the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina William Roberts a resident of said County of Caswell and State of North Carolina aged seventy years on the 18th day of July last, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. – That he entered into the service of the United States in the year 1778 with Captain James Baytop and served in the 7th Virginia Regiment of the Virginia Line under the following named officers to wit –

That sometime in the month of February 1778 there was a call upon the State of Virginia for troops and one Charles Burks was drafted in the Virginia State troops and being unwilling to go he hired this Declarant to take his place which this Declarant accordingly did. Some time previous to this circumstance however this Declarant enlisted in the Regular Army under an enlisting Officer whose name this Declarant thinks was Shim Cook [Shem Cooke?] but being under age his Father interfered and got him off. Being however determined to go into the Army and his father knowing of this determination, his Father consented that he (this Declarant) should Substitute himself in the place of the same Charles Burks as before mentioned, which he accordingly did and – He this Declarant received orders to meet at Powhatan Court House in the State of Virginia, there to meet the troops which were required at this Time, and in a few days he accordingly rendezvoused at Powhatan Court House and there met with the troops, and in a few days after all the troops came in, they were marched under a Captain Mayo Carrington through the State of Virginia and part of Maryland and into the State of Pennsylvania to a place called Valley Forge where General Washington lay in Winter Quarters, there we joined the main Army under General Washington and continued with him until sometime in the month of June, when the British evacuated Philadelphia. General Washington pursued them and this Declarant was marched with the American troops under General Washington in pursuit of the Enemy to Princeton and Kingston and from there to Monmouth where we met the enemy and fought the memorable Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] . This Declarant being in the action and fought during and throughout the whole action; my officers being Brigadier General Woodford – Colonel Heath [William Heth] , Captain James Baytop and Lieutenant Tapley White ; these being my officers I was first put under them I joined General Washington's Army and I continued with them until I was discharged & I (this Declarant) cannot now recollect who was the other Lieutenant – After the Battle of Monmouth we were marched to the North under General Washington into the State of Connecticut to the White Plains; and thence to Middlebrook in New Jersey, where we took up Winter Quarters and there continued until March 1779 when I (this

Declarant) was discharged after serving twelve months and upwards – When this declarant entered into Service & into the Army he resided in the County of Halifax and State of Virginia. He entered into Service in the month of February 1778 and left the Army in the year 1779 in the month of March. The name and rank of my field and company officers I have mentioned before. The only battle in which I (this Declarant) was engaged was the Battle of Monmouth. The Several places through which this declarant marched he cannot now particularly state. But he well recollects he marched through Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and he thinks Massachusetts, though of this he cannot be certain. – He (this Declarant) received his discharge at Middlebrook in New Jersey and got a written discharge. But has long since lost it, not expecting ever to have a use for it. –

He (this Declarant) returned home and continued his residence in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia and there resided until sometime in the month of January 1780 [could be 1781] when he was drafted in the militia of the County of Halifax under Joshua Powell in the company commanded by Colonel Blunt; – He was marched to Petersburg in the State of Virginia, and from thence to a place called Cabin Point and there joined the Virginia Militia and some regular troops under General Muhlenberg, we continued some short time at this place & was marched to near Portsmouth to harass and watch the enemy who then lay at Portsmouth. We were stationed near the Great Dismal Swamp and there remained during the winter & until sometime in the spring – whilst stationed there; this Declarant volunteered himself in company with others to go and surprise the enemy's Picket guard, and accordingly under the Command of Colonel Dick, they went one night and surprised to take the whole of the Picket guard of the enemy, prisoners, except one man. From thence He was marched in Company with the troops to a place called Chuck-a-tuck [Chuckatuck] Church and there remained until we were discharged, and afterwards until the new Quota of troops came down to our relief my discharge I received by the orders of General Muhlenberg, but by whom signed, Declarant cannot now recollect. He this Declarant served this Tour of three months; and returned home, to Halifax County Sometime in the month of April 1780; his discharge he has lost or mislaid so that it cannot now be found –

This Declarant after returning home from the Army the second Term, moved with his father's family to the County of Amelia in the State of Virginia and there lived and continued with his Father's family until the month of August 1781 when there was a great and loud call for all the forces that could be gotten to go against the Army under Lord Cornwallis who was then in Virginia. This Declarant volunteered under one Captain Roland Ward [Rowland Ward], Lieutenant John Town [probably John Towers], and was marched to Williamsburg where he joined the main American Army; From this place we were marched in pursuit of Lord Cornwallis to Yorktown where the enemy were besieged, and where all of the forces were collected – and there we continued until the general engagement and the final surrender of Lord Cornwallis, which took place sometime in October 1781 [October 19, 1781]. After the Surrender, this Declarant was one of the troops and Company who guarded the prisoners as far as to Fredericksburg and to a place called Falmouth or Palmouth or some such name, at this place my term of Service being out I was here discharged after serving another the tour of three months, was discharged sometime in the month of November 1781 as well as he now recollects, and received a written discharge from his officers But what has become of it this Declarant cannot now state for he has no recollection of having seen it for several years. – Thus in all the time of service which I served during the revolutionary war I was engaged one year and six months.

The Continental regiments with whom I served during the last campaign or to or were those who were at the Capture of Cornwallis. But what were their names, I cannot now recollect.

This Declarant would also state that he has now no documentary evidence to prove his services by, he having lost his discharge is long since – and he knows of but few persons living by whom he can prove the same, for having moved to North Carolina, Caswell County where he now lives thirty odd years ago leaving behind him all or nearly all of his old Associates in arms, he has however gotten the affidavits¹ of Moses Woosley,² William Chandler and Pleasant Roberts to prove his service, which he hopes will be taken and received as evidence on his behalf.

I hereby relinquish every Claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State –

Interrogatories propounded by the Court & answers

Question 1st Where & in what year were you born?

Answer. I was born in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia on the 18th day of June 1762 –

Question 2nd – Have you any record of your age, if so where is it?

Answer. I have a memorandum of my age which was copied from the family records of my father; Recorded in his Prayer Book.

Question 3rd. Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary War, and where do you now live?

Answer. I was living in the County of Halifax in the State of Virginia when called into service & also into the County of Amelia, said State. – I have lived since the revolutionary [war] in the several Counties of Amelia, State of Virginia, Person County, Orange County & Caswell County State of North Carolina – and I now live in the County of Caswell and State of North Carolina.

Question 4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute, and if a substitute for whom?

Answer – I 1st substituted myself in place of one Charles Burks, as I have before stated – I was next drafted – and lastly I volunteered –

Question 5th. State the names of some of the regular officers who with the troops where you served, Such Continental regiments as you can recollect and the General circumstances of your service.?

Answer – I knew you General Washington, general Lafayette, General Muhlenberg, General Scott, Colonel Heath, Captain Baytop and others – I knew the 7th and 2nd and 14th Virginia Regiment. – The general Circumstances of my service I have before stated in this my Declaration.

Question 6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service. If so by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer. I received discharges for my service or Term of service which I served during the War of the Revolution but I have long since lost them, never thinking that they would ever do me any good.

Question 7th. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior, your services as a Soldier of the revolution?

Answer. Having lived in Caswell pine a great while I am personally known to most of the citizens to any or all of home I willing [indecipherable word] upon for my character for truth & good behavior. There are very few who lived here (Caswell County) who can prove my Services in the revolution for when I was in the Revolutionary War, I lived in Virginia – Zach Hasting

¹ No such affidavits were found in this file.

² [Moses Woosley S6442](#)

[Zachariah Hastings]³ was with me who lives here. –

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ Jeremiah Graves, Clerk

S/ William Roberts

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Roberts", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the text "[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and Paul A Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]".

[Richard Martin, a clergyman, and Paul A Haralson gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$60 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private in the Virginia line and militia for 18 months.]

³ FPA S6975