

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Robert Combs S8251

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia County of Fauquier Ss

On this 21st day of August in the year 1832 Personally appeared before me James Pickett one of the commonwealths Justices of the peace for the county aforesaid Roberts Combs a resident of the county and State aforesaid aged about seventy nine 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States at seven different periods, twice as a volunteer, once as a substitute, and four times drafted in the Militia of Virginia.

1st. He volunteered in a mounted Militia company raised by Capt Levin Powell in the county of Loudoun Va. to go as he understood, to guard the shores of the James River and adjoining waters to prevent the forces under Lord Dunmore from landing and damaging the country shortly after his destroying the Magazine [at Williamsburg, 21 Apr 1775], that they marched as far as Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock, where they learned that Dunmore had left the Chesapeake, they then returned home, which was a tour of 7 or 8 days (See affidavit of [illegible])

2^d That he volunteered in a company of Militia raised by Captain Simon Triplett in Loudoun County in the year 1775, which company he joined in 1776 called minute men, that they marched to Alexandria (D.C.) in the month of May or June where he continued til cold weather (See affidavit of Anthony Ethell [pension application S6825] herewith)

3^d That shortly after returning from the minute service he substituted himself for a John Lane to go to Nolands ferry on the Potomac to receive the Hession prisoners captured at Trenton [26 Dec 1776] and guard them on their way to the Albemarle barracks [sic: see endnote], that this tour was in verry cold weather and occupied 2 or 3 weeks.

4th that in the fall of 1777 he was drafted in Loudoun county and went in a company commanded by Capt. McMickens under Colo. [Josias] Clapham marched to the north and joined the continental army in the evening after the Battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777], he recollects Gen'l. Stevens [sic: Adam Stephen] only of the continental army (except the commander in chief) he does not recollect at what time he entered on this tour or came out of it, but staid until regularly discharged, and supposes it was three months tour.

5th That he was drafted again in Loudoun and served under Captain Simon Hancock and Colo. [James] Coleman and marched to Pensylvania and by Lancaster, that his memory does not serve him for any of the incidents of this tour but believes it was three months. 6th That in the spring of 1781 he was drafted in Fauquier county and marched to Richmond under Capt. Jennings and Colo. Elias Edmunds, encamped a while on Shoccoe hill [sic: Shockoe Hill], was commanded by Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], encamped a while on James River below Richmond, afterwards marched up the river, this tour he believes was three months, and used to be distinguished the runing tour, from the circumstance of the men taking fright from a false rumour while marching in the night during a thunder storm.

7th That early in the fall of 1781 he was drafted again in Fauq. county and marched under Capt. James Winn and Colo. Elias Edmunds to Williamsburg and stationed about there until the besieging of Cornwallis in Yorktown in which he was engaged until the capitulation [19 Oct 1781], that during the siege the company was transfered to the command of Capt. Lynn Sharp [sic: Linchfield Sharpe R17780] and Regiment to training of Major [Nathaniel] Welch who he understood was a continental officer, that he guarded a part of the prisoners to the barracks above Winchester where he was discharged, (see affidavit of Reubin Murray [sic: Reuben Murray R7524] herewith)

That he has no documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can certify to his service except those already cited affidavits of A. Ethell, and Reubin Murray herewith

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 any State. [signed] Robert Combs

I James S. Pickett a Justice of the peace in the county of Fauquier and commonwealth of Virginia do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Robert Combs who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that by the record of my father I was born in May 1775, that I reside on my native hill in Fauquier county which has been my continued home from my birth, that said Robert Combs resides about one and a half miles from me, where he has occupied more than fifty years, that my acquaintance with him commenced in my earliest youth, that more than thirty years ago, and frequently since, has he entertained me with many incidents of his soldier scenes; particularly with that tour called the running tour, of the rush of the rear of the army when frightened in the night, of men stumbling down in the fence ditches in the dark, and crying 'quarter,' quarters, and next morning the unfortunate evidence of lost swords, guns, hats, and knapsacks

That I believe him to be seventy nine years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, that I never have heard his veracity called into question, and consider his moral demeanor irreproachable, that to the interrogatories required to be put, he answers, that he was born in Frederick County Va. near Berry ferry on the Shenandoah, that he has no record of his age, that he was living in Loudoun county and Fauquier county when called into service as set forth in the declaration, that time has erased from his recollection (except at times) the names of the regular officers except the few mentioned in the declaration, that he has no recollection of ever receiving a discharge from the service, except it might be in three certificates of pay for his service, which long since he sent to Richmond and took treasury warrants for 4750 acres of land which were located on Licking river in Kentucky the chief part of which is lost by other claimants, as to his veracity he calls on all his neighbours, and will name Sanford Pickett, Colo. John C Herndon, Richard Nutt, and Colo. George Love

I further certify, that I have waited on Robert Combs at his own house to take the forgoing declaration because of his bodily infirmity, that his witnesses waited on him also

[Following the statement by Anthony Ethell] Also Reuben Murray who being duly sworn according to law, saith that he is 70 years old, that he served a tour in the Militia of Virginia in the year 1781 that he marched in a company commanded by Capt James Winn to Williamsburg and were stationed about there some time before the siege of Yorktown in which service he was engaged and continued til its capitulation and guarding a part of the prisoners to the barracks at Winchester where he was discharged; during said service the company was transferred to a Captain Linn Sharp; and Robert Combs who hath made the forgoing declaration was drafted in said service, was a messmate with the said Reuben during said tour and discharged at the same time and place with him – Given under my hand this 21st day of August in the year 1832 –

James Pickett

Fauquier county State of Virginia Ss

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the peace for the county aforesaid, Robert Combs who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; first as a mounted volunteer soldier under Capt. Levin Powell he served eight days – Second tour as a volunteer soldier under Capt Simon Triplett, five months – Third tour as a substitute for John Lang fifteen days – Fourth tour under Cap McMickens and Colo. Clapham as a drafted soldier three months – Fifth

tour he served under Capt. Simon Hancock and Colo. Coleman three months as a drafted soldier –
Sixth tour he served as a drafted soldier under Capt Jennings and Colo. Elias Edmunds three months –
Seventh tour, he served as a drafted soldier under Capts. Winn and Sharp, before, at, and after the
capture of Cornwallis, three months; The said Robert Combs doth further say, that by the infirmities of
age, he is confined to his home; that he is not aware he can with convenience procure the testimony of a
Clergyman; but if permitted, would insist that he has present the evidence of three respectable citizens as
to their belief respecting his age and the general belief in his neighbourhood relative to his revolutionary
service

[signed 30 April 1833] Robert Combs

NOTE: Albemarle Barracks near Charlottesville were not constructed until the end of 1778, for the
housing of Hessian and British troops captured at Saratoga on 17 Oct 1777.