

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Pleasants S8964

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/27/12

[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.]

State of Virginia County of Goochland: SS

On this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the justices of the peace, the court of Goochland County, now sitting, Robert Pleasants, a resident of the County of Goochland and State of Virginia aged ninety 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<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

I was born in the County of Goochland as I was informed by my parents the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1742. – I have no record of my age, the Bible in which my age was registered is worn out or destroyed. – I was born where I now reside & have never resided in any other County, & with the exception of one or two years of my youthful years, constantly where I now live.

I was drafted in the militia and served many tours, I have no doubt between fifteen and twenty during the whole revolutionary war: whenever there was an alarm from the enemy, I was called out generally for short periods. My memory is very defective as to dates and the length of time I served in each tour; nor can I recollect many of the short tours, where I went or with what officers. I never failed to obey every call. Such as I have a distinct recollection of, I will state, but can't say that I recollect certainly the regular order of them, & I may state some of them as occurring before the others, when the subsequent tours had in fact priority. – While the British prisoners called the Saratoga prisoners were stationed at the Albemarle Barracks in the County of Albemarle, I was twice detailed for tours of duty to guard the prisoners & served the tours which I now think were three weeks each tour: the first was if I am not mistaken in the winter about the close of the year 1779 or commencement of 1780. I recollect distinctly it was excessive cold weather. I was under Captain William H Miller the first tour & the 2<sup>nd</sup> under Captain Duke. I recollect at the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tour the peach trees were in bloom & think it was in the month of April. Colonel Taylor was the commanding officer at that place while I was there: Colonel Fontaine and Major Roberts were also there.

I was on one tour of duty to Cabin Point on James River below Richmond under Captain Thomas Hatcher from Goochland & Edward Radford, Lieutenant. I recollect that Colonel William Dandridge commanded some troops at that place. Colonel Charles Fleming commanded our regiments: we were discharged at that place, without any written discharge. My recollection is so imperfect I cannot state the time I was detailed for this last tour of duty all I recollect is that I had been there so long, I became sick of remaining there, and hired a substitute by the name of David Saunders & gave him a colt one year old and my blanket to take my place. – At another time I was drafted and marched to Richmond at the time Cornwallis came to Richmond; I was

ordered out by Colonel John Woodson and I think Captain Thomas Hatcher was my Captain. At Richmond and we were under the command of the Marquis Lafayette. How long we remained I can't recollect; the enemy retreated before we reached Richmond. – At another time I was ordered out and marched to Farrars [?] Island below Richmond: I was there under the command of Captain William Holman: Colonel Nathaniel Morris had the command of the troops at Farrars Island; while there we took a small vessel from the enemy that got aground in the River. I recollect being at Holt's Ford [Holt's Forge?] & marched towards Williamsburg & were met by an express, turned back and marched to Charles City Court house. – I will not undertake to say how long I was in service during the revolution: but have no hesitation in saying in actual service between 7 & 8 months & I think much longer. During the war an order was made that if any person would take up a deserter, he should have credit for a tour of duty. I did take up a deserter & delivered him to Colonel Morris of Goochland County, who gave me a certificate accordingly to credit me for a tour of duty. – A law existed that every 10 men that would furnish a man to serve 6 months should have credit for a tour of 6 months. I with 9 others did hire a man by the name of Wingfield who accordingly went into the Army & I have never heard of him since: we gave him about \$1000, I paid \$100 for my part. – I have no documentary evidence, and don't know of but one person whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to my services; that person is my neighbor Amos L Moore who was with me in service a part of the time. Being required to state the names of persons to whom I am known in my neighborhood, and who can testify to my character &c I will say that I am known by every person in the neighborhood and it would be too tedious to enumerate them all, I will only mention a few that have long been acquainted with me: Charles Rogers, Robert Redford, Samuel N Cragwell, Francis W Royster, Doctor Thomas Curd, James Pleasants former Governor of Virginia, Tarlton W Pleasants, David Royster, William Miller, clerk of the Superior & County Court of Goochland, Colonel Benjamin Anderson, Charles S Hatcher, & Captain Robert W Pleasants. – I do 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.

Sworn to & subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robt. Pleasants

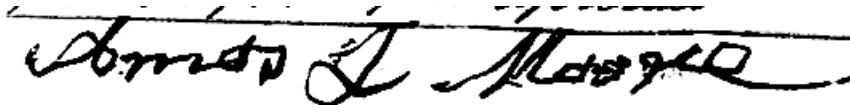


Thomas Curd gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

I Amos L Moore<sup>1</sup> residing in the County of Goochland do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Robert Pleasants who has subscribed and sworn to the annexed declaration; that he was a soldier of the revolution & was in service with me, as I well recollect, at Holt's Ford and at four miles creek, and I have no doubt he served at other places as stated in his declaration: that we have lived near each other ever since the revolution & have often conversed about our services in the Army of the revolution; and that I have no doubt he is ninety years of age as stated by him in his declaration.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Amos L Moore



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<sup>1</sup> FPA W5145

State of Virginia Goochland County: SS

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, Robert Pleasants 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 grade: For 7 months I served as a private in the infantry.

S/ Robert Pleasants

Sworn and subscribed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 1833 before me a Justice of the peace  
S/ G. Woodson Pay JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$23.33 per annum commencing March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1831, for service as a private for 7 months in the Virginia militia.]