

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James McRoberts¹ W2225 Mary McRoberts

f53PA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/26/13

[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 'indcipherable' 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 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 51] For the purpose of obtaining the benefit of an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary Army approved on the 15th May 1828 –

I James McRoberts of Harrisonville in the County of Monroe in the State of Illinois, do hereby declare that I enlisted in the Continental line of the Army of the Revolution for and during the War and continued in its service until its termination at which period I was a private in Captain Eleazar Williamson's Company, in Colonel David Williamson's Regiment of the Virginia line. I did not receive the Certificate of eighty dollars to which I was Entitled, as I then lived in a part of the Country so remote from the seat of Government I never heard of the resolve of Congress passed the 15th May 1778 until the late law was published. And I further declare that I was not on the 15th May 1828 on the pension list of the United States. I further state that I have lost the discharge Given me by Colonel David Williamson – and in lieu thereof, Transmit here with an affidavit of Henry Levins (the only person now living in my knowledge who served with me in the Revolutionary War.

S/ James McRoberts



[p 53]

Before me Daniel Converse a Justice of the Peace in the County of Monroe in the State of Illinois personally appeared this day Henry Levins who made oath that James McRoberts was in the Revolutionary Army and he believes from the age of sixteen years until its termination Stationed on the frontier Settlements near Pittsburgh in the State of Pennsylvania and that this affiant has been in one or two Campaigns with said James McRoberts who was personally known to him.

S/ Daniel Converse

[p 5]

State of Illinois of Monroe County: On this third day of June A.D. 1833 personally appeared before Edward T Morgan, and Felix Clark Judges of the County Commissioners Court of said County and State now sitting James McRoberts a resident of said County of Monroe aged seventy years – who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following

¹ BLWt26888-160-55

declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he was enrolled in Captain Derick Hogelin Company of militia in the month of June 1779 and in August our Captain was ordered to furnish a certain number of men for a tour of duty and I was drawn among others to guard Andrew Ramsey's Fort situated on Buffalow [Buffalo] Creek, for one month as a Private in Captain Hoglin's Company, and was then relieved by another detachment. The second Tour of duty I served under Captain Joseph Ogle at a Fort Built at a Place called West Liberty in the State of Virginia near the Ohio River for one month. In the fall of the year he thinks about the middle of September A.D. 1781 – he volunteered in a Company of volunteers commanded by Colonel David Williamson and ordered by Colonel Gibson [probably John Gibson], then residing in Pittsburgh and marched to some Indian Towns where he took six prisoners of the Delaware Tribe and returned on the last of October or first of November in the month of February 1781 he volunteered in Captain Williamson's Company and marched to the Indian Town situated on the Tuscarora branch of the Miami River, killed 70 or 80 Indians of the Delaware & Mingo tribes destroyed three of their villages and returned the first of April – during all these campaigns I furnished my own Horse Gun and Ammunition. On Easter Sunday 1782 the Indians came into the settlement and killed two men and one old lady & wounded one other person & on Monday following we were ordered to pursue them which we did across the Ohio three or four days and abandoned the pursuit – we were out ten days.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency of any State –

Questions by the Court

1st Where in in Fort year were you born? –

Answer I was born in the year 1763.

2. – Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer – I have seen it in my Father's Family Bible.

3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live? – Answer In the State of Pennsylvania, Washington County – on the waters of the Ohio River, until the year 1786, when I removed to the Territory of Illinois – where I have resided in in this County the most of the time where I now reside –

For – How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute & if a substitute for whom? – Answer our Company was called on by requisition of the government for their quota of men & I volunteered rather than stand a draft.

5 – State the names of some of the Regular Officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect & the general circumstances of your services?

Answer. Colonel Gibson who lived at Pitts from whom all orders were issued I was acquainted with Colonel David Williamson, Major Thomas Bayes – From the time I was enrolled in the militia and subject to military duty – I was held in readiness – with horse, Gun, Ammunition & provisions to March at a minute's warning and always went in pursuit of Indians on horseback except the time I was stationed at the forts & so continued until the close of the war.

6th. Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it – Answer. I never received a discharge from the service.

7. State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief & a soldier of the revolution –

Answer. Ninian Edwards, Elias K Kane, Governor Reynolds – Reverend Peter Rogers, John Ryan, Henry Levins.

S/ James McRoberts



On the same day personally appeared in open Court Henry Levins and after being duly sworn depose and saith that he has been Intimately acquainted with James McRoberts who has subscribed and sworn to the foregoing declaration and served with him one campaign under the command of Colonel Williamson, and from his knowledge of him & others of his acquaintances who he has heard relate his services – he has no doubt but his whole declaration is true.

S/ Henry Levins²



[Peter Rogers, a clergyman of the Baptist denomination and town of Waterloo, and John Ryan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 9]

State of Illinois in Monroe County: SS

This day personally came before me a Justice of the peace for said County James McRoberts personally known to me to be the same person who made the foregoing declaration – and after being duly sworn according to law made the following addition to the foregoing Declaration. And states 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 as within stated, in Captain Hoglin's Company as a private – one month, in Captain Ogle's Company one month, in Captain Williamson's Company one month and fifteen days on one tour – and one month on another tour as within stated and on another expedition, ten days. And only one other tour in the summer of 1781 – After a party of Indians who had come to the settlement & burnt the house and murdered the Inhabitants of ten days not included in the first declaration making in all not less than five months and five days – during which time he was not employed in any civil pursuit – and that the Court of which he was attached was called into service by the authority of Colonel Gibson the Commanding Officer at Pittsburgh.

S/ James McRoberts

[p 36]

State of Illinois in Monroe County: SS: This day personally came before me a Justice of the peace for said County – James McRoberts – who being first duly sworn says that in making his declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832 (which is now on file in the War Department) – That he served one tour of duty under the command of Lieutenant Coonrod Stroop – who he thinks was of the Regular Troops sent to the frontiers to take charge of the different Stations and Militia man in that neighborhood – and was marched from Coxes Fort at the mouth of Buffalow to West Liberty & Wheeling – and was found necessary which Tour of 30 days was not mentioned in the original declaration – besides several other times 2 or 3 days at a time when the neighborhood would be alarmed by Indians.

² FPA S32375 [transcribed and posted in this database 9/26/13]

S/ James McRoberts

Attested April 3, 1834]

[p 18: On March 21, 1850 in Monroe County Illinois, Mary McRoberts, resident of Waterloo in said County of Monroe, aged 73 years, 11 months made application for a widow's pension under the 1848 act stating that she is the widow of James McRoberts, a pensioner of the United States for his service in the revolution; that she married him to the best of her recollection on or about May 25, 1792; that her husband died February 10, 1844. She signed her application with her mark.]

[p 15: On March 21 1850 in Monroe County Illinois, Mary McRoberts filed a separate affidavit attesting to the family record being a leaf of the family Bible of the late James McRoberts; said record shows the births of her children; said record was made from one which had been mutilated; the transcript was made by her son Samuel McRoberts deceased late a US senator and her oldest son. The family register reads as follows:

James McRoberts was born May the 22 in the year of our Lord 1763

Mary McRoberts was born March 22 in the year of our Lord 1776

Catharine McRoberts was born April 14th in the year of our Lord 1794

Charlotte McRoberts was born May the 9th in the year of our Lord 1796

Samuel McRoberts was born February 8th in the year of our Lord 1799

Thomas McRoberts was born February 24th in the year of our Lord 1801

Sarah McRoberts was born March 16th in the year of our Lord 1803

Elizabeth McRoberts was born April 3rd 1805

James McRoberts Junior was born on the 19th of July in the year of our Lord 1807

Anna McRoberts was born April the 4th in the year of our Lord 1811

Mary McRoberts was born March 11th in the year of our Lord 1814

Josiah McRoberts was born June 12th in the year of our Lord 1816]

[p 25: Copy of a marriage bond dated May 24, 1792 issued to James McRoberts and George Schwimmer in Tennessee Territory conditioned upon the marriage of James McRoberts to Mary Harris. Certified by the clerk of the Montgomery County Tennessee court]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Pennsylvania/Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]