

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rosser¹ W29945 Elizabeth f75VA
Transcribed by Will Graves 8/4/12

[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.]

[f p. 19]

State of Virginia Campbell County:

On the 14th day of August 1832 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Campbell County now sitting William Rosser resident in the County of Campbell and State aforesaid aged 70 years in October next, 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 the 7th day of June 1832 –

That in the year 1780 he volunteered in the militia for a six months tour, with the understanding that he would go to Illinois under Captain Robert Adams Lieutenant Charles Lynch & Ensign Nathan Arthur the Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Lynch, But was ordered to Petersburg Virginia and remained near that place until he was discharged in the month of the center after having served about four months. That it in the first of the year 1781 he volunteered under Captain James Dixon Lieutenant Hugh Muckleroy [Hugh McElroy?] & Ensign John Hunter, rendezvoused at Coles Ferry on Stanton River from there he marched through Halifax and beyond Halifax old town, and agreeable to orders of General Green [Nathanael Greene], there joined their Regiment, then commanded by General Williams [probably a reference to Colonel Otho Williams], Colonel Howard [probably a reference to John Eager Howard] &c from thence we marched to North Carolina and was in any engagement with the British at Haw River, from thence he marched to Guilford Court House, under , was in the Battle fought in at that place [March 15, 1781] soon after which he was discharged having served about two months. That shortly after his return from Guilford, he was called on and served a short tour at New London. He has no documentary evidence, that Henry Brown,² Daboucks Williamson³, Charles Walker,⁴ He now resides in the County of Campbell [several indecipherable words interlined] are the witnesses by whom he can prove his services, 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 the agency of any State.

Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ William Rosser

¹ Catharine G. Lee (daughter) BLWt26963-160-55

² [Henry Brown W9365](#)

³ [Deborix \(Deboricks\) Williamson W6521](#)

⁴ [Charles Walker S7802](#)



Campbell County to wit

This is to Certify that William Rosser served a tour of duty in the year 1781 under the Command of Captain J. Dickson, Lieutenant Hugh Muckloroy Ensign John Hunter that he was at the battles of Haw River & Guilford North Carolina as a private soldier.

S/ Deboricks Williamson, X his mark

[Henry Brown, a clergyman, and Robert Strange gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 61]

The amended declaration of William Rosser

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Campbell State of Virginia William Rosser 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 during the revolutionary war; but according to the best of his recollection, he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades, to wit, for three months as a private in the militia of Bedford now Campbell County in the year 1780 under Captain Robert Adams, Lieutenant Charles Lynch at Petersburg was on the old town Creek; this tour was stated in his declaration to have been about four months: but he now recollects that it was but three months. Another tour of two months in 1781 and also as a private in the militia of said County, under Captain James Dixon; marched to North Carolina: was at the battle of Haw River in the month of March; this tour was for two months. In the same year 1781: he served only 2 or 3 days to guard the magazine at New London. He now recollects another tour that he did not remember when he made his declaration: to wit, as one of the militia of the County aforesaid: he was in the year 1779 employed in collecting beeves & flour for the Army under General McIntosh then stationed at Fort Pitt, on the Ohio River, now Pittsburgh: this service was under the immediate orders of the Commissary, Henry Terrell and was of six weeks duration: in the month of September & October of that year – He thus served three months at Petersburg; two months in Carolina; and one half months in collecting beeves for General McIntosh's Army – & in all six and a half months.

And for this service I claim a pension.

S/ William Rosser

[attested August 12th, 1833]

[f p. 58]

The Amended declaration of William Rosser Senior

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace of the County of Campbell the aforesaid William Rosser 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. He served a tour of three months under Captain Robert Adams of Bedford County as a private in the militia of the same, marched from that County to the Town of Petersburg where he served out his tour of three months and was

discharged in the year 1780 – Another tour of two months as a private in the Militia of the same ~~Company~~ at Guilford in North Carolina under Captain James Dixon in 1781. That he now recollects another tour of six weeks against the Tories in Botetourt and Montgomery Counties under Colonel Charles Lynch he thinks in 1780 – he has served in all 6 months and a half and for such service he claims a pension.

S/ William Rosser

[attested September 6, 1834]

[f p. 36]

Virginia Campbell County

This is to certify that William Rosser served a tour in the militia service in the year 1780 with us under the command of Captain Robert Adams, Lieutenant Charles Lynch Junior & Ensign Nathan Arthur, the Regiment commanded [by] Colonel Charles Lynch, He enlisted a volunteer for six months to go to the Illinois in the West but was ordered down to Petersburg in our own State, to which place we marched and laid near that place till sometime in the month of December and was there discharged after having served about four months, as a private soldier:

S/ Henry Brown

S/ Deboricks Williamson, X his mark

Henry Brown
Deboricks Williamson
his Mark

[f p. 15: On July 20, 1844 in Campbell County Virginia Elizabeth Rosser, 78, filed an application as the widow of William Rosser, a revolutionary war veteran who had applied for a pension during his lifetime but had not received it. Henry B Ely was the agent of her husband in seeking his pension. She married William Rosser February 21, 1786; they were married by the Reverend James Kinney; that her husband died February 24, 1835; that her maiden name was Wood. That she files this application to claim the pension due her husband from March 4th, 1831 to the time of his death February 24, 1835.

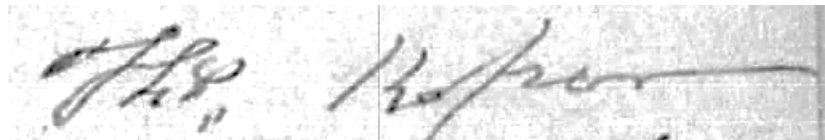
Elizabeth Rosser
AD 18]

[f p. 47: Mrs. Jane Finch, 79, gave testimony that she perfectly recollects that William Rosser married Elizabeth Wood; that Rosser served in the company of Captain W. Jones from Campbell County and that Jesse Wood, Edmund Wood were along in the same company with William Rosser and marched to the battle of Guilford; that Captain Jones was killed as was Captains Helm and Moore. She also states that William Rosser served in the company of Captain Dixon in putting down the Tories and that they hung Bill Trent, as she understood. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 48: On April 16, 1845 in Campbell County Virginia, Mrs. Nancy Wood, 79, gave testimony that she was well acquainted with William Rosser during the revolutionary war; that he married Elizabeth Wood; that she recollects that William Rosser served several tours in the revolutionary war and was at the battle of Guilford; that Captain William Jones was killed at the battle of Guilford and was brought home to Campbell to be buried; that Rosser was also in an engagement at a place called Reedy fork sometime before the battle of Guilford. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[f p. 52: On January 14, 1845 in Campbell County Virginia, Thomas Rosser, 79, gave testimony that he knows that William Rosser married Elizabeth Wood in 1786 and that William Rosser performed a tour of service in the Revolutionary war in the winter and spring of 1781 under Captain James Dixon of 3 months during which he fought in the battle of Guilford and a few days before the battle the battle of against the British on Ready fork [sic] in North Carolina; that William Carson and John Bryant of the same company were in these engagements under Dixon; that the winter of 1781 was a very warm 1 and that he distinctly remembers when the company left home and when they returned. That said William Rosser died February 24th 1835. The relationship, if any, of Thomas Rosser to the veteran is not stated.

S/ Thos Rosser

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thos Rosser', written on a document. The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[f p. 11: On April 12th, 1855 in Appomattox County Virginia, the widow, then giving her age as 88, filed for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of William Rosser this document was signed with her mark.]

[f. p. 6: On March 3, 1897 the United States Congress passed a private act granting a pension of \$12 per month to Catharine G. Lee, daughter of the veteran and his widow. There is no documentation in this file explaining why this act was passed.]

[The veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per month commencing March 4th, 1831, for service for 6 months in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]