

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

Pension application of Jacob Rooksberry (Rooksbury) W3043 Eleanor fn 55SC
Transcribed by Will Graves 12/4/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

[fn p. 41]

Commonwealth of Kentucky 4th Judicial District Henry County

This day Jacob Rooksberry a resident of Jefferson County and Commonwealth aforesaid personally appeared before me one of the judges of the general court and allotted to the 4th Judicial district, and established to me, the paper hereto annexed purporting to be said to Rooksberry his declaration made before the County Court of Jefferson County and State offered for the purpose of obtaining a pension and desired me to take further proof of his services in the revolutionary war. The said Rooksberry made oath before me in due form of law to the truth of the facts set forth in the foregoing statement heretofore made in Jefferson County Court -- and at the same time John Owens and Thomas Owens resident citizens of Henry County and both credible disinterested and respectable witnesses appeared before me and after being duly sworn according to law they make the following statement to wit, "that they were respectively well acquainted with Jacob Rooksberry in the County of Fairfax and Commonwealth of Virginia, from the infancy of the said Rooksberry until the year 1776, when the said Rooksberry enlisted in the regular Service of the United States for 3 years under Francis Tenerell first Lieutenant in Captain William Lane's Company, which Company was destined for the southern Service -- and the said Rooksberry was absent from the neighborhood for about 5 years, when he returned and alleged that he had been in the Service as stated in his declaration when he returned he was deeply marked with the smallpox and they further state that they have no doubt but that he did serve as stated in his declaration they have been acquainted with said Rooksberry between 55 and 60 years and he has been an orderly good Citizen during the whole period of their acquaintance.

I do hereby certify that I am satisfied that the said Rooksberry did serve for more than 9 months, that he is poor and therefore needs the assistance from his Country and I certify to the Secretary of War the preceding taken before me as well as the agreeable declaration taken before the County Court of Jefferson.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of November 1819

S/ Samuel McKee
Circuit Judge

Commonwealth of Kentucky Jefferson County (to wit)

Jacob Rooksberry an old Revolutionary soldier about the age of sixty years makes the following statement on oath viz.

That he is poor and in need of aid from his Country, that he was enlisted in the

Continental service of the United States in his 18th year of age by Lieutenant Francis Tennel of Fairfax County in the State of Virginia on the 30th day of September in the year 1776 or 1777 for the term of 3 years in the 2nd Virginia Regiment, that the said F. Tennel marched the company to Prince Edward Court House Virginia where Captain Elisha Miller took command and marched it to Savannah in the State of Georgia, where we joined the Regiment then commanded by first Colonel White, and General Samuel Elbert he thinks residence of that place, that on joining the Main Army at that place he thinks and believes it was called the 2nd Georgia Regiment although he was enlisted in Virginia that he well recollects that it was either the 2nd Virginia or 2nd Georgia Regiment that he joined at Savannah and served his term in. That he was marched from Savannah into the Floridas and took possession of a British Fort on the St. Mary's River, from thence he was marched back to Altamaha River where a Fort was retail belonging to the US which had been taken and turned by the British, that from thence he was marched to Sunbury in Georgia, where he remained and was commanded at that place by Major Joseph Layne until Savannah was taken by the British and shortly after Sunbury and with it himself and all the Army at that place. That he was taken by the British on board of the Prison Ship laying on the bar at the mouth of the Savannah River where he continued until the French fleet and American Army came to retake Savannah, when the British shipping word drove up the River into the harbor of Savannah where they landed the prisoners from whence he with 2 others deserted a few days before the attack was made on the Town by the French and American forces that on getting out of the Town they fell into the French Army and were the next morning sent by the French General to the American Army, where the American General (he thinks and believes Lincoln) directed them to go to a ferry about 8 miles above and there remained until the Town was retaken when they should return and receive their pay and clothing. That they went to the ferry and shortly after the engagement came on between the American and French on the one side and the British on the other when the former were defeated with considerable loss. That during his confinement with the Enemy his 3 years of service had expired, and on the defeat of the Army at Savannah he went into the City of Charles Town South Carolina to see a Brother belonging to the regular Army then at that place that within an hour after getting into Town, the British commenced a siege on the place, when he joined the militia of South Carolina and continued until the surrender of the Town, when he with the militia were paroled by the British. That he then went into the Country in the State of North Carolina -- and with the Militia of that State served a tour of duty and was in the Battle of at Guilford Court House, after which he was taken with the smallpox which was very severe as to raise his face all over in ridges & detained him and that Country for about 12 months that his absence from home was until the month of January 1782.

That he never has since leaving the Army seen any one of his officers so as to enable him to obtain vouchers on which to found his claim of pay for his services except Ensign Joseph Bailey that he never has received any pay for his said services of any kind whatever and that he the said Jacob Rooksberry doth hereby relinquish all and every other Pension allowed him by the United States.

S/ Jacob Rooksberry

[fn p. 26]

District of Columbia to wit

In case of the application of Jacob Rooksbury for a pension January 17th 1820

This day personally came before me Reuben Rooksbury an inhabitant of the State of

Virginia in the County of Fairfax, and made oath that during the last summer he received from his brother Jacob Rooksbury in Kentucky the accompanying letter dated 21st of June 1819 on the subject of his claim to be placed on the pension list, -- He further states that he has carefully inquired for the different persons referred to in said letter and has ascertained that they are all dead -- that he lived in Fairfax & Prince William in Virginia & he cannot be mistaken in his information, that every one of them are dead -- He further states that he perfectly recollects that his said brother Jacob enlisted in the fall of 1776 or in the fall of 1777 but he believes it must have been in 1776 with Lieutenant Francis Ternell and that he marched with the Company for the South -- that he never saw him again until a short time before the capture of Charlestown, but in the meantime that letters were received from him by the family, from which it appears that he was in the Army -- that on the 18th of February 1779 this affiant enlisted in the 3rd Virginia Regiment & was marched to the southward & saw his brother as above stated in Charleston -- that his brothers time of service, of 3 years had been expired, -- that although he did not personally see him perform his service, he is as well satisfied that he did, as he can be of anything which he did not see -- that he remembers that his brother joined the South Carolina militia in Charleston & was taken with them -- that he lately received the accompanying letter dated 28th of November 1819 written for his brother & marked B.
Sworn before me, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia

S/ W. Branch

[fn p. 47]

Middletown Kentucky June 21st 1819

Dear Brother,

I have the happiness to state that I have received your much esteemed letter bearing date the 6th of May last, and am with my family & all our friends greatly pleased at being informed of you and yours being still in the land amongst the living and enjoying the Blessings of Health.

And that I also have the happiness to inform you that myself family and friends are in health thanks to our Heavenly Farther for it, & for all favors bestowed upon me and them.

You informed me by a former letter that you had made application under the law of Congress granting pensions to officers & soldiers of the revolution who were needy & that you were successful in getting yours. I made application last year to the Secretary of War and a lately received the papers returned noting that they had been received at the war office on the 2nd of July 1818 with a further note that I must unequivocally designate the line I belonged to and that it should be substantiated by the Deposition of 2 witnesses (certified by the Judge to be credible) proving 9 months service and continuation on Continental establishment.

I was enlisted about 1776 or 1777 in Fairfax County by Francis Tensul for 3 years for the 2nd Virginia or 2nd Georgia line and served upwards of 3 years but cannot state positively whether it was the Virginia or Georgia line as I was enlisted in Virginia but served in Georgia. I expect that Captain William Lane, who we were to be commanded by -- Joseph Bailey Ensign, living near Colonel Martin, William Turner Sergeant living in the neighborhood of Newgate, William Smith private living in the neighborhood of Newgate, Major Joseph Elaine by whom I was commanded at the time I was taken Prisoner and solemnly shoot in Englishman at Sunbury when I was on guard. He resides in Loudoun County between Lusburg [sic?] & Newgate, -- If those persons as any of them are still living I wish you my Brother to get their The deposition as such of them as can be found taken before & certified before a Judge of the Court in conformity with the points and noted by the Secretary of War as above stated. If you cannot find the persons

mentioned perhaps you & some others that I do not recollect can make the required proof.

Should you be enabled to make the proof get the Judge to be particular as to the line & Regiment & that I served 9 months and continuation that I may not be again disappointed in returning the papers to the Department of War.

It will be a great thing for me in my old and disabled situation to get the pension that I am by law & my services justly entitled to, for I never have as yet received any pay for them and hope & trust by Brother will give himself the requisite trouble to get (if practible [sic]) the proof required and enclosed it to this office from whence I shall immediately send it with the papers before alluded to, to the War office.

Pray let me hear from you as soon as the nature of the case will admit of, and believe me with real & great affection your friend & Brother

S/ Jacob Rooksberry

[fn p. 35]

Middletown November 28 1819

Dear Sir:

This is addressed to you at the request of your Brother Jacob on the subject of endeavoring to obtain a Pension for his service as a soldier in the revolutionary war and to acknowledge the receipt of the your favor under date of the 15th of July last.

He request the favor of your collecting the best testimony of his Service that you can and go with witnesses to the city & deliver the enclosed letter to the Honorable Richard E. Anderson, Member of Congress from this district who has taken his Papers with him and promised to give his aid in getting the business accomplished, he is a man of great humanity and cleverness, and should anything be wanting further at the time that you can cause to be done he will then inform you what it is & how you are to have it done.

Your Brother & family presents their love to you and yours with the information of their being in reasonable health except one of his sons that is just recovering from a long & severe spell of [indecipherable word, looks like "eifers"] fever -- he wishes the favor of your writing immediately on receipt of this (Immediately on your seating Mr. Anderson) and informed him of the success you have in finding the persons he mentioned in a formal letter and of your obtaining the required testimony to establish his service in the Army so as to entitle him to a pension, he is of the opinion that if no other evidence of service can be found that your own recitation of it, all to be sufficient. He says that immediately after his time had expired he came to you and Charles Town South Carolina & was taken prisoner with you at that place by the British which he is sure you must well recollect with other circumstances sufficient to prove his service.

S/ I am Served respectfully

S/ W. White

[fn p. 9: on July 1, 1839 in Jefferson County Kentucky, Eleanor Rooksberry, 78, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Jacob Rooksberry; that she married him in the year 1786; that her husband died May 15, 1823 a pensioner under the 1818 act.]

[fn p. 11]

State of Kentucky Jefferson County

The affidavit of Mrs. Eleanor Rooksberry made the 4th day of October 1839 to be read as evidence in her application to obtain a pension under the act of July 7th 1838 -- This affiant states that a record of her marriage was made in the family Bible of her father that her father died in the State of Virginia and the Bible containing the record was taken to the State of Missouri by her brother Thomas, that her brother then died and the Bible by that means was lost and that she now has no record either of her marriage or of the births of her children. This affiant states that she does not know precisely the age of her oldest child but that his age is 52 or 53 years -- the words "by her brother Thomas" interlined before signed.

S/ Eleanor Rooksberry, X her mark

[fn. 18: Mary Wheeler of Floyd County Indiana testified on July 12, 1839, that she is well acquainted with Eleanor Rooksberry the widow of Jacob Rooksberry, a soldier of the revolution, that they were lawfully married in Loudoun County Virginia by a Baptist minister named more; that they lived together as man and wife until his death; that she cannot state the precise date of their marriage but knows they were married prior to her marriage in 1790.]

[fn p. 20: Samuel Conn testified on June 13, 1839 in Jefferson County Kentucky that he was present at the marriage of Joseph Rooksberry to his wife Eleanor; that said marriage took place some 4 or 5 years after the close of the revolution; that he was present when Jacob Rooksberry joined the Army and knew him until the date of his death on Made 15, 1823.]