

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Preston W4056

Nancy

f35VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/19/12

[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.]

Virginia, SS

On this 27th day of October 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the General Court for the Third district, personally appeared Robert Preston aged 69 years, resident in Fairfax County in the said district, who being by me first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, that the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war:" That he, the said Robert Preston enlisted in Fairfax County in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by Captain George Johnson of the 2 Virginia Regiment in the year 1776; that he continued to serve in the said Corps, or in the service of the United States until the end of the War, when he was discharged from Prison in Antigua where he had been detained a Prisoner of War, having been captured in 1782, and that he was in the battles of Monmouth [June 28, 1778] – Siege of Charleston [May 1780] & Siege of York [September-October 1781] – and that he is in reduced circumstances, and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services.

Sworn to and declared before me, the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Wm H. G. Dade

[f p. 17]

Fairfax County to wit

This day personally appeared before me Jno. C. Hunter one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Joseph Smith¹ & John Sisson [?] and made oath that Robert Preston of the County & Commonwealth aforesaid served as a Soldier in the United States Army in the Revolutionary War upwards of two years to their knowledge, and for ought they know during the whole War, but this they do not know of their own knowledge – but have understood so – moreover Joseph Smith swore that the said Preston was taken from the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander Spotswood and out of the Company commanded by Captain Peyton Harrison as one of the life guard of General George Washington Commander in chief of the American Army in the spring of 1777, and that after the expiration of a year & upwards he the said Robert Preston returned to the same Regiment & company. To this they subscribed their names. Given under my hand this 18th day of January 1819

S/ Jno. C. Hunter

S/ Robt. Lisson, X his mark

¹ [Joseph Smith W19375](#)

S/ Joseph Smith

Virginia to wit: County Court of Fairfax

On this 22nd day of June 1820 personally appeared in open Court (being a Court of record for the said County of Fairfax) Robert Preston aged 72 years resident in the said County who being first sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows: "He was enrolled at Belle Haven (now called Alexandria) the 9th day of September 1775 in the company commanded by Captain George Johnston of the 2nd Virginia Regiment under the command of Colonel Woodford, Virginia line and was in the Battle of the Great Bridge (so-called) [December 9, 1775] near Norfolk then enlisted in the same company and Regiment and under the same Commander and again was discharged at Williamsburg in October 1776 when he again enlisted for three years in the company commanded by Captain [text runs off the page and this officer's name is illegible] same Regiment under the command of Colonel Alexander Spotswood & marched to the northward and before his time was out was drafted in General George Washington's life guard during which time he was in the Battles of Monmouth and Brandywine [September 11, 1777] and the siege of York against Lord Cornwallis and the siege of Charleston and in March 1781 was paroled home all which will more fully appear by his declaration of record in the Department of War numbered 5504 and I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed on the 18th day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. I also declare that I was not bred to any trade but since I quitted the Army have generally followed the Occupation of a farmer & which from my advanced age and bodily indispositions am scarcely able to pursue, that I am entirely blind in one eye and can scarcely see out of the other, that I have several wounds on my body of occasioned by the bite of spiders that I am not able to support myself neither can any of my family contribute to my support only 5 persons in my family that my wife is 59 years of age in bad health and very lame having one daughter the one who is 30 years of age – I have received a Certificate of Pension bearing date the __ day of __ 18__.

S/Robert Preston, X his mark

a Schedule of the Property, Goods and effects of the above named Robert Preston by him subscribed and delivered in open Court

1 Horse	\$25
one old plow and gear	2
4 old fish barrels 1/each	.67
2 old axes 1/6 each	.50
3 old hoes 1/6 each	.75
1 iron wedge	.50
1 adz and 3 old chisels	.75
1 small sow and two pigs	4
6 old split bottom chairs 1/each	1
1 pott and Hooks	<u>1</u>

\$36.17

S/ Robert Preston, X his mark

[f p. 11: On Me for, 1852 in Baltimore city Maryland, Catharine Preston, 61, filed an application seeking the arrears of pension due her mother Nancy Preston, widow of Robert Preston, a revolutionary war pensioner; she states that her father died May 2, 1827 leaving said Nancy his widow; that the family record is lost but that she has heard her mother say that she was married by the Reverend Lee Massey a Protestant Episcopal minister at Powheek; that her parents had 4 children, viz.: Delilah, John, Nancy and Catharine; that the oldest Delilah if living would be at least 66 years old but she died in Virginia 22 years ago; that John and Nancy died many years leaving the above named Catharine Preston their only surviving child; that her mother died in Funkstown Washington County Maryland July 4, 1845 at age 84; that at her death she was still the widow of Robert Preston. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 27, 1818, for service as a private in the Virginia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836.]

[From [bounty land records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

State of Virginia & County of Fairfax

I Robert Preston of said County and state aged 74 years a Citizen of the United States do, upon oath testify and declare, that in the month of September 1775 I entered in the Army of the State of Virginia under Captain George Johnson for one year, and in April 1776 I enlisted under the said Captain for two years, and served until August 1776; I then enlisted under Captain Thomas Hibbs for three years to serve in the Army of the United States against the Common enemy of Mike Country. I continued in the said last service until sometime in the year 1777 at which time I enlisted under Captain John Peyton Harrison for during the war, and joined the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel Alexander Spotswood. I was at the Battle of Monmouth, at which time and place I served as a soldier in the life Guard of General George Washington. I continued in said life guard until the fall 1778 at which time I returned to the said 2nd Virginia Regiment under the command of Colonel Phisbicker [Christian Febiger] in 1779 I was marched to Charleston South Carolina – under General Woodford when the town was taken I was taken a prisoner and remained there in that situation until August 1781 I was then sent to Jamestown on James River and was exchanged. I then was placed under the command of General Wayne I was at the siege of York and in 1782 was taken a prisoner & carried to the Island of Antigua where I remained until February 1783. I was then exchanged and carried to baston [?]² on the island of St. Kitts, I was then shipped and landed at Baltimore in 1783 I was taken sick which prevented me from getting my discharge. I further declare that I have never received a warrant for the Bounty land promised to me, on the part of the United States, or any part of my pay, for my services since February 1779 except one dollar which I received in

Charleston South Carolina. Nor have I ever assigned or transferred my said Claim or any part thereof or either any pay or land in any manner whatsoever –

Therefore know all men by these presents that I Robert Preston of the County and state aforesaid do hereby constitute and appoint John H Halley my true and lawful attorney for me and in my name to demand and receive from the register of the land office of Virginia or of any other person as is duly ... [Boilerplate power of attorney language omitted]... Witness my hand & seal this 28th day of October 1823.

S/ Robert Preston, X his mark

I Robert Scisson³ aged 64 years a citizen of the United States and County of Fairfax do upon oath declare that I have been long acquainted with Robert Preston who has subscribed the above declaration in my presence and well know that he is the identical person he therein represents himself to be; and further I know that he did perform the military services therein stated or at least a great portion of it as I was in the same mess with him in part of said service.

S/ Robert Scisson, X his mark

³ [Robert Scisson S42001](#)