

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Roberts¹ W4063

Frances Roberts f64NC

Transcribed and annotated by Will Graves

1/10/10: rev'd 3/1/24

[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 'indecipherable' or 'undeciphered' 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. Researchers should not rely solely on the transcripts but should review the originals for themselves. These transcripts are intended as an aid to research, not to be used in lieu thereof.]

[p 4]

State of North Carolina } SS

On this 15th day of November 1843 personally appeared before the worshipful Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Surry County State aforesaid, Francis Roberts [sic, Frances Roberts] a resident of Surry County aged Seventy Seven years, who first being duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7th 1838 entitled "an act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows" That she is the widow of James Roberts, who was a private in the Army of the Revolution. That he was in the Battle of King's Mountain² under the command of Col. Cleveland [Benjamin Cleveland]. This battle was fought in the year 1777 -- that she has heard her deceased husband say that after the battle he was one of the guard who guarded the Prisoners taken on that occasion, that in addition to the name of Col. Cleveland, she has heard him speak of one Capt. Gittings or Gedings [sic, James Giddings] as one of his Officers. She also understood him to be in the company of Capt. Martin [Salathiel Martin]. She believes the above tour of duty was performed by him as a volunteer & that he was absent on duty three months. He was again in the service and stationed at Osborne's Old Mill in Surry County in the winter 1778-9 he was at this time in the company of Capt. Gittings which was attached to the Regiment of Col. Sheppard [Abraham Sheppard]. This tour was a draft for three months and that she is very positive he served his time out, as she knew him well and was a near neighbor, he was again in the battle of the Shallow Ford³ fought between the Tories & Whigs in October 1780 he was then in Capt. Richard Allin's [sic, Richard Allen's] company. This service was while under a draft for six months out of which time she thinks some three months had expired at the time of the battle. She also believes & has heard him say that he was in the battle of Guilford Court House⁴ in the spring of 1781. She believes him to have been in this service four times two three months tours & two six months tours each time he performed his full tour. She recollects having seen his discharge for the service at King's Mountain but which is now lost or destroyed. She is enabled to be very confident as to the nature & extent of his service from the fact of their being at that time very intimate & near neighbors looking forward to the

¹ BLWt59091-160-55

² October 7, 1780 https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

³ October 14 or 15, 1780. https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_shallow_ford.html

⁴ March 15, 1781 https://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

connection that afterwards subsisted between them. She has no documentary evidence whereby to substantiate her claim & respectfully refers to the testimony of James Boyd⁵ & Elihu Ayers⁶ herewith transmitted. She also declares that she was married to James Roberts on the 22nd day of July 1784 they were married in Surry County by the Rev. James Reed who is since dead. The bans were published three times as was normal in those times, no record was ever kept of their marriage as she is aware of. Her husband died the 8th of June 1834 aged 76 years. We had while living together as man and wife sixteen children of which 9 were sons & 7 daughters the oldest of whom is dead & was born 22nd of June 1785. She has no documentary evidence by which to prove her marriage but expects to prove the same by the testimony of Marthy Falkner who was present at the wedding. That she was not married to him the said James Roberts prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 viz. at the time above specified that she has not been since married & is still a widow.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written.

Test

S/ Frances Roberts, X her mark

S/ F K Armstrong, Clerk

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State of North Carolina Surry County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 15th of November 1843

The declaration of Frances Roberts Supplemental to the foregoing she declares that her deceased husband James Roberts lived in Surry County at the time he performed the foregoing service, that she also lived in said County and still continued to live there up to the time of his death and she still lives there. That Colonel Cleveland and Captain Allen were from Wilkes County adjoining Surry that Colonel Sheppard & Captain Martin were from Surry County Captain Gitlings was also of Surry County

Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first above written.

Test: S/ F. K. Armstrong, Clerk

S/ Frances Roberts, X her mark

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State of North Carolina Surry County} Be it known that on this 13th day of November 1843 before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid personally appeared Elihu Ayers a credible witness & pensioner of the United States aged Eighty two years, and made oath in due form of law that while in the service of the United States at the battle of Kings Mountain which took place as he believes October 1777⁷ he was acquainted with James Roberts who afterwards married Frances now Frances Roberts an applicant for a pension, that the said James Roberts served in that Battle in the company of Capt. Salathiel Martin who was attached to the command of Col. Benjamin Cleveland, he also saw him again at the battle with the Tories at Shallow Ford on the Yadkin, which was in October 1780 he was then in Capt. Richard Allen's company -- he again saw him at the Battle of Guilford which was in March 1781 he does not recollect his Captain -- but he was a Whig soldier & fought in that battle he also saw him at different periods during the intervening times still in the service as a militia Soldier, but not being attached to the same Company cannot say positively -- his understanding was that James

⁵ [James Boyd S12269](#)

⁶ [Elihu Ayers R335](#)

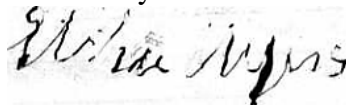
⁷ Sic, October 7, 1780.

Roberts was always ready & frequently out on draft & as volunteer -- he further States on his oath that he has long been acquainted with James Roberts & Frances his wife, & knew them to live together as man and wife for near 50 years, they were of respectable standing in Society -- raised a large & respectable family of children, & he has never heard it doubted but that they were legally & lawfully married --

Sworn to & subscribed before me

S/ Elisha Banner, JP

S/ Elihu Ayers



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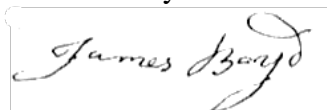
North Carolina Surry County }

Be it known that on the 2nd day of October 1843 personally appeared before me Elijah Banner one of the acting Justices of the peace for said County, James Boyd a credible person and a pensioner, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration -- (to wit) that while in the service, he was acquainted with James Roberts, the deceased husband of the applicant Frances Roberts for a pension and they remained together about three months stationed at Ausburns old mill in said County in the latter part of the year 1778 & the first part of the year 1779 under the command of Col. Sheppard in Capt. James Gittens [James Giddings]⁸ Company and that he believes that the said James Roberts was drafted for three months tour while they remained together & he further declares that he was acquainted with James Roberts & Frances his wife before they were married, until his death, he knew them to live together as man and wife about fifty years & they raised a large family of children --

Sworn to & subscribed

S/ Elisha Banner, JP

S/ James Boyd



[p 14: On the May 12, 1856 in Surry County North Carolina, Jesse Roberts, a resident of said County and State, filed as the Guardian of Frances Roberts, widow of James Roberts, for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James Roberts. Presumably, Jesse was a son of the veteran and his wife but that relationship is not stated in this document.



[p 22]

State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that James Roberts a private soldier in Lieutenant Colonel Messor Company of the 10th Regiment, entered the service on the 20th day of July 1778 for the term of 9 months

⁸ In his own application, Boyd refers to this officer as "James Gidens" or, at least, that is how the scribe who wrote out Boyd's application elected to spell that officer's name.

and that nothing more is said of him on said Rolls.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of September 1844

S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

[p 35:

Robt R. C
Compt Office

I William F Collins Compt of Public Accounts do hereby
Certify, that the name of James Roberts appears
of Record in this office as having had the following
Certificates issued in his favor for Military Service
Viz: One for Forty Pounds (£40) see Book F No 2 page 3;
One other for Six Pounds, four Shillings (£6.4)
see Book No 7 page 37; One other for One Pound
Two Shillings (£1.2) see Book No 7 page 7; Another
for Four Pounds Eight Shillings (£4.8) see Book
No 3 page 4; Another for Five Pounds, One Shilling
(£5.1) see Book No 2 page 3; Another for One
Pound Thirteen Shillings and four pence —
(£1.13.4) see Book No 16 page 116; and Another
for Nine Pounds (£9) see same Book page 121;
and another for Thirty Two Pounds One Shilling
and Eleven pence (£32.10.11) see Book C No 18
page 31; and in addition to the above he received
the sum of Sixty Eight Dollars and Seventy
Eight Cents for Military Service, paid him by
"the Commissioners at Warrenton in 1786" found
in Book of Settlements C page 31; given under
my hand and seal this 2^d day of April 1845

Wm Collins Compt

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State of North Carolina Surry County }

Be it known that on the 27th day of November 1843 before the Subscriber a Justice of the
peace in & for the County aforesaid personally appeared Martha Forkner a Credible person aged
Sixty three years, and made oath in due form of Law, that she was acquainted with James
Roberts Deceased & Francis [sic] his wife that she was present when they were married, which

took place, as She believes, upwards of fifty years ago they were of respectable standing in society raised a large & respectable family of children & that Francis the widow the applicant for a pension has never married since the death of James Roberts. Sworn to & subscribed before me Elisha Banner, JP

Martha Forkner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Forkner". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Facts in file: The veteran married July 22, 1784 in Surry County, Frances Laurence; one Jonathan Roberts, who was born February 15, 1778, gave testimony in support of the application of Frances Roberts for a widow's pension but he does not indicate what relationship, if any he had with the widow or her husband.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service as a private in the North Carolina militia. She also received the arrears of pension that would have been due him had he applied for his pension under the June 7, 1832 act.]