

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Richard Roberts W4573 Alice Roberts VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 1 Nov 2014.

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 17 day of June 1841, before me Lewis C. Arthur a Justice of the peace, in and for said County, personally appeared Mrs. Alice Roberts Aged 78 years; a respectable resident of said County; who being first 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 4th 1836: That she is the widow of Richard Roberts dec'd of said county, who was a private in the Revolutionary War, and served three several and distinct tours of duty: Viz. The first tour that her husband the said Richard Roberts performed was out against the Indians on the frontiers – on the Holston River – and was stationed the greater part of the time at the lead mines [near Fort Chiswell] in Wythe County Va. The second tour he served, was at the Battle of Guilford, under Capt. Jacob Moon in March 1781 [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781]. Capt Pullen [Thomas Pullen, pension application S15847] was in the same company with him the aforesaid Richard Roberts. Capt Moon was killed at said battle of Guilford. Her husband was also at the taking of Lord Cornwallis in Oct'r of the same year that the battle of Guilford was [Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781] – and that her husband served nine months in the three tours – 3 months at each tour: and that at the taking of Corn Wallis her husband saw the British Gen'l. hand the sword to Washington [see endnote] – and when the British soldiers laid down their Arms the Band of Music commenced playing. And further, that while her husband was gone to York, Miss Betsy Adams – now Mrs. Betsy Hughes – came and stayed with the declarant occasionally: and that on all of his tours, she the said Alice Roberts (whose maiden name was Hughes) went with her husband Rich'd Roberts part of the way, with her child in her arms. And she further declares, that she was married to the said Richard Roberts in Hanover County Va by the Rev'd Mr. Dunlap in the year 1779, and in the month of [blank], 3 miles from Hanover Town. That her husband the aforesaid Richard Roberts died on the 7th day of September 1831, and that she has remained a widow ever since that period, as will more fully appear by reference to the proof hereto annexed: That her husband could not write – but that the ages of their children was written down in the back of a surveying book by Mr. Thos Williams the schoolmaster of the neighbourhood – now taken out to be sent to the pension office [transcribed below] – and further that her husbands discharge at the Battle of Guilford has been lost or mislaid. Alice herXmark Roberts

Witness/ [signed] Thomas Roberts/ [signed] Ro H Gray

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 17 day of June 1841 before me Lewis C. Arthur a Justice of the peace, in and for said County personally appeared Mr. Thos. Roberts, a respectable resident of said county, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – that he is 59 years old and that he is the 2nd son of Rich'd. Roberts and Alice Roberts – whose maiden name was Hughes – ; that the above Family register containing the names and ages of the children of Rich'd and Alice Roberts, to witt, Wm Roberts, born June 17th 1780, Thos. Roberts May 21st 1782, and also Jno, David, George, and Rich'd Roberts is the only Family registry that ever was made of the ages of these children, and was recorded in the back of a Book, (Love on Surveying) by Thos. Williams a School-Master in the neighbourhood when deponant was only 5 or 6 years old – and from whence it was taken on the present occasion to be sent to the pension department. And further, he has heard his Father Rich'd Roberts, – who married Alice Hughes of Hanover – say that he was at the lead mines in Wythe county Va three months against the Indians; that he served three months at the Battle of Guilford town under Capt Jacob Moon who was killed at said battle; and that he served three months in the lower part of the State and was at the capture of Lord Corn-Wallis at yorktown. That his father saw the British Gen'l. hand his sword to Gen'l. Washington, and when the British soldiers laid down their Arms the Band of Music commenced playing. That his father died on the

7th day of Sep'r. 1831, and that his mother Alice Roberts has remained a widow ever since: that he dep. has frequently read his fathers discharge at the Battle of Guilford – which was for 3 months service under Capt. Moon – and signed by Benjamin Rice – the word “honorable” and “Battle of Guilford” was in the discharge, which has been lost or mislaid. [signed] Thomas Roberts

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 21st day of July 1841, before me Samuel P. Mitchell a Justice of the peace, in and for said County, personally appeared Mr. Wm. A. Adams, a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth on his oath say

That he is 62 years old – that he was very intimate with Rich'd. Roberts dec'd. of said County who was a Revo'y Soldier – and married Alice Hughes of Hanover County Va. – and have frequently, for hours at a time – heard him tell of his Revo'y Services – that he heard Roberts say, that while he was at the lead mines in Wythe Co. Va. (he being then on a tour of duty) that there was a noise heard from the station like the yelping of a Turkey – one of the soldiers went out to shoot it – a gun was heard – and it was supposed he had killed the Turkey – but not returning as soon as expected – they went to see the cause – found him dead, instead of the Turkey – the noise being made by the Indians who killed him – to decoy him out &c. He Also heard the said Roberts speak of his tour at Seige of York – and told many anecdotes, that took place there – one was that one of the Soldiers saw a cannon ball or bomb coming, and struck it with his spade, and it broke every bone in his arm &c

That he heard him say, also that he was at the battle of Guilford under Capt Moon, in the same comp'y. with Henry Adams [W5595], Thos. Pullen &c – that he was married to Alice Hughes of Hanover, from what he heard them say – during the Revo'y. war – and that his oldest son Wm. if now living, would be about the age of deponant – that his present widow Alice Roberts, has remained unmarried ever since the death of her husband the aforesaid Rich'd Roberts – which was in or about the year 1831 – to the present time – and is the Identical person who is now claiming a pension as the widow of said Roberts – and dep. further says, that the said Roberts was a man of property from the year 1818, to 1831, the time of his death – and could not have rec'd. a pension, under the law of 1818. William A Adams

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 28 day of September 1841 before me Alexander Irvine a Justice of the peace, in and for said County personally appeared Mr. Wm A Adams a respectable resident of said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath say – That he 33 years old – and that he has frequently heard his Father Henry Adams say (whose widow Rebecca is claiming a pension) that Richard Roberts (whose widow Alice is also claiming a pension) was in the service at the battle of Guilford, with him, both being in the same company under Capt. Moon, who was killed in the battle – and that his father told the circumstance frequently in deponants presence, that Rich'd. Roberts brought an Axe home on his shoulder from Guilford – that they went, and returned together and that his deponants Father was allowed for three months service on said occasion in obtaining his pension. William Adams

State of Virginia, Bedford County S.S.

On this 6th day of October 1841, before me William Mead a Justice of the peace in and for said County, personally appeared Mr Thos. Austin a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say. That he is 75 years old – that in addition to his former evidence in this case – says, that Rich'd Roberts, Henry Adams, Thos. Pullen and Wm. Candler [William Candler S9159] and Henry Brown [S8098] – were all in the service at the battle of Guilford in March 1781 under Capt. Moon, who was killed in the battle – and Henry Brown wounded in the thigh. That he recollects distinctly, when they left home, and when they returned – that they must have started for Guilford about the middle or towards the last of Febuary, 1781, and returned home about the last of May or 1st of June – he thinks it was working corn time – and that they seved three months on said occasion. Depont. also recollects, that in August, or September of the same year, the said Rich'd Roberts went again into service

in the lower part of the State – and was at the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown in Oct'r 1781 – and returned with the Bedford troops late in the Fall – thinks it was Nov'r – for deponant was about 15 years old at the time – and going to School in New London – and that he recollects perfectly when the troops returned from the capture of Cornwallis: Roberts was a married man, when he went to Guilford and York – deponant cannot so well recollect the month, that said Roberts left home to go out to the lead mines – but is perfectly satisfied in his mind of his going – and that he served fully three months or more – it appears to him that it was nearer six months that he served on said occasion – for he was gone a long time – This tour he thinks, was before Roberts was married Thomas hisXmark Austin

State of Virginia Bedford County S.S.

On this 6 day of October 1841 before me Lewis C Arthur a Justice of the peace, in and for said County, personally appeared Joseph White [W11809] a respectable resident of said County, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath say – That he is 90 years old – That in addition to his former evidence in this case – Says that he recollects distinctly when Richard Roberts, (who married Alice Hughes of Hanover) and his brother John White went into sevice during the Revolutionary War out on the frontiers against the Indians – and was stationed at the lead Mines in the County of Wythe – deponant further says that Rich'd Roberts aforesaid and his Brother John White left home in the Spring of the year of 1777 or 1778 about planting or corn time – and that they returned together during the Summer – that said Richard Roberts and his brother John served three months on said occasion at the lead mines commencing in April or May – and ending in the summer – the tours of duty was all for three months in the early part of the war – but was afterwards extended to six months [see endnote]. Roberts and his brother went together and returned together. This tour was performed before Roberts was married.

Joseph hisXmark White

NOTES:

Cornwallis, being “indisposed,” delegated the task of surrendering to his second-in-command, Gen. Charles O’Hara. When O’Hara offered the sword to Washington, the latter directed that it be given to his own second-in-command, Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.

Militia tours were nominally for three months throughout the Revolutionary War, but they were often extended as needed.

On 17 June 1841 Betsy Hughes, 75, stated that Richard Roberts went to Hanover several times to see Alice Hughes before he married her, and that she was at her grandfather’s house when Richard Roberts and his bride passed in a cart on the way home. On 28 Sep 1841 Betsy Hughes added that “she lived (with her Father Sam’l Adams) about 2 or 300 yards from Richard Roberts” when he went on his tours to Guilford Courthouse and Yorktown, that “Mrs. Alice Roberts his wife, heard that he was dead – and it caused her great greif,” and “that while the said Richard Roberts was gone to the capture of Cornwallis – that his wife Alice (his present widow) went into the corn field, and helped to pull the fodder with her own hands – which always takes place in Sept: and that while she worked in the field her child was asleep under the shade of the tree.” She also stated that Henry Adams was her brother. Several other supporting statements in the file are not transcribed here, because they do not add materially to the record.

William Roberts the son of Richard Roberts was born In the year of 17 Day of June 1780

Thos. Roberts was born in the year of 1782 on the 21 Day may 1782

John Roberts the son of Richard Roberts was born in the year of 10[?] Day march 1784

David Roberts was born in January 15th 1788

Gorge Roberts was born 29th Day of October 1789

Richard Roberts was born the 29 of may 1792