

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Roe (Row) W5726 Susannah Roe NJ
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

Virginia SSct

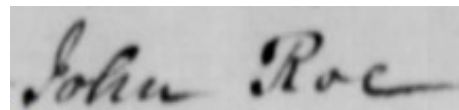
On this 18th day of May 1818 before me Dabney Carr, one of the [two undeciphered words] of the State aforesaid personally appeared John Row aged fifty seven Years resident in Harrison County in the State aforesaid who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration 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 John Roe enlisted in Morris County in the State of New Jersey in the Company commanded by Captain Richard Cox of the 3^d Jersey Regiment commanded by Col Francis Barber, he served in the western Campaign under Gen'l. [John] Sullivan that he was detached from his Reg't in 1781 and marched to Virginia where he served under the Marquis De La Fayette [Lafayette], that he continued in the service of the United States untill the capture of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], when he was discharged near Yorktown in the State of Virginia that he was in the battles of Springfield in New Jersey [probably 23 Jun 1780] and at Old James Town in Virginia [Battle of Green Springs Plantation, 6 Jul 1781] 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

Virginia towit

At a court held for the County of Harrison on the 22^d day of June A.D. 1820 & 44th year of the Commonwealth (being a court of record established by an act of the General assembly of this commonwealth) Personally appeared before the court aforesaid John Roe aged 61 years resident of Harrison County Virginia who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on His oath declare that he served in the revolutionary war, as follows Enlisted in 1779 in the 3^d Jersey Regiment Col [Elias] Dayton Capt. Richard Coxes company Jersey line Maxwells [Gen. William Maxwell's] Brigade. Original Declaration made 18th May 1818 Pension Certificate is No. 1794. And he the said John also took the following oath viz 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 disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions 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. viz I own 76 acres of land about 20 acres in cultivation 1 Horse 2 Cows 6 sheep, 4 Hogs, farming tools & Household furniture is worth \$20. Debts due me \$5. I owe about \$100. John Roe and the said John also declared that he is by occupation a laboror but thro' infirmaty unable to labor – has in family 2 viz Myself & wife aged 55 years they are both unfit for labor

NOTES:

On 20 Nov 1820 John Roe amended his last declaration as follows: "In my declaration at June Court 1820 I stated in my schedule I owned 76 acres of Land. The delay in getting my pension & the rumour in the country that I was stricken from the pension roll were causes that induced my creditors to press me hard for what money I owed to keep myself from Prison, I have been compelled to sell my little farm for what I could get." He signed as shown:

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

On 18 Jan 1837 Susannah Roe (as she signed), age 72, applied for a pension stating that she was married to John Roe on 27 March 1779 in Westfield, Essex County NJ, in the home of the officiating minister, a Presbyterian named Woodruff . She stated that her husband died on 29 Sep 1829. She also stated that in 1784 they moved to New York City, where her husband “followed cartting,” moved to Fayette County PA in 1790, and then in 1796 moved to Harrison County. On 23 Dec 1837 she listed their children as follows: “Clarissa Roe Born June 18th 1782 Lewis Roe Born August the 23^d 1784 Elizebeth Roe Was Born April the 7th 1788 Edward Roe was Born the 18th of May 1791 John Roe was Born Febuary the 6th 1794 James Roe was Born Febuary the 1st 1797.”

The file contains the following letter relating to her agent, Jacob Coplin. Coplin had been indicted in connection with fraudulent pension applications, as discussed in my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.

Clarksburg Va./ 2nd September 1837

Sir [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions],/ I am informed that Susanna Roe, widow of John Roe, has been placed on the Pension Roll, that a certain Jacob Coplin acted as her agent, and is now endeavoring to procure the power of Atty to draw the money, and informs her that there is but a trifle coming to her, The old Lady is old and frail, but is of the opinion that her agent wishes to take some advantage of her. Coplin is a majistrate, and wishes to take the power of Atty himself, and I am told refuses to Let any one see the papers, in the case, If Mrs Roe is placed on the Pension Roll, will you be good enough to inform me when, and at what rate, in order that if any advantage is about to be taken of her, I may be able to prevent, it

Respectfully/ Your Obt Sert/ W P Goff

Susannah Roe’s application was rejected by the Pension Office because proof of her marriage was deemed insufficient. As a result of efforts by Congressman Joseph Johnson, Congress granted her a pension on 3 March 1839. (Johnson and Jacob Coplin often worked together as pension agents.) On 1 June 1839 Susannah Roe was issued a certificate for a pension of \$60 per year, with an initial payment of \$510. The certificate was sent to Congressman Joseph Johnson.

The file contains a letter by James Roe of Bridgeport in Harrison County concerning his mother’s pension certificate. On 21 March 1855 Lewis Roe (as he signed), of Washington County OH, granted power of attorney to obtain bounty land for the service of his father, John Roe.