

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Thomas Roberts W5738

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

On this day personally appeared Thomas Roberts a resident in the County of Cabell and State of Virginia aged seventy two years, who being first duly sworn, according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of congress, passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the united States as a private soldier from the County of Mecklenburgh [sic: Mecklenburg] Virginia as a substitute for Jacob Watson and marched from said County with the Magazine to Taylers Ferry on Roanoake [sic: Taylor Ferry on Roanoke River] from thence up to Boyds Ferry on Dan River there we remained untill the term of service expired which was three months. And this declarant further states that at the expiration of the term of service aforesaid he then entered the service of the united states as a substitute for Thomas Roberts to Guard the Magazine at the same place and served a three months tour as a private soldiers at the end of which term of service he was drafted and served a three months tour of duty for himself as a private soldier in guarding the magazine as aforesaid. The following officers had charge of the magazine [blank space]

This declarant further states in 1781 he was drafted as a Malitia man and marched from the County of Mecklenburg and State of Virginia aforesaid as a private soldier under the command of Col. Robert Munford and Capt. William Lucas to the battle of Guilford [Guilford Courthouse NC, 15 Mar 1781] and from the battle of Guilford we collected at some persons Iron works [Speedwell Iron Works on Troublesome Creek in present Rockingham County NC] and from thence we pursued the Brittish to Ramseys Mill on Deep river in the State of North Carolina from there we march back to hillsborough and was discharged Gen'l Green [sic: Nathanael Greene] was our Commander in chief and this term of service was for three months and this declarant further states that in the latter part of of the same year he again entered the service of the united states as a Substitute for Thomas Roberts and marche as a private from the County of Mecklenburgh & State aforesaid under the Command of Col. Lewis Burrell [sic: Lewis Burwell] and Capt Elijah Graves to the siege of York and remained there untill Cornwallice Surrendered [sic: Cornwallis, 19 Oct 1781], at which time they were marched back about two or three days journey and then dismissed which said term of service was for three months He hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or anuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State

[signed] Thomas Roberts

Sworn to and Subscribed before In open Court John Samuels

Interogatories put by the court to the declarant

1 Where and in what year was you born

Answer I was born the 22nd of december 1762 in the county of Mecklengburgh Virginia

2 Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have a record of my age given by my Father

3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war, and where do you now live?

Answer When called into service I lived in the County Mecklenburg Virginia Since then I lived two years in North Carolina the ballance of the time I lived in County Charlotte Virginia And at the time live in Cabell County Virg

4 How were you called into service; were you drafted, did you volenteer, or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom Answer the 1st 2 tours of duty I served as a substitute 1st for Jacob Watson 2 Thomas Roberts 3 I was drafted for myself

5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served, such Continental regiments as you can recollect, and the general circumstances of your service Anser The declarant for answer to this question also refers the court to his foregoing declaration.

6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it? Answer I never received any writen discharge

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your Present Neighbourhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution Thomas McAllister Allen Rice [possibly Allen Rece, pension application W5697] and James Brown

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners in present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

Thomas Roberts - alleges to have served 15 mo in the Virginia Militia under Capt Lucas & Col Mumford.

I the undersigned Thomas Roberts in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War make the following as a Re-declaration of my revolutionary services to wit. I am a native of Mecklinburg Co. Va. and was born 22nd. December 1762. I removed from that county to Cabell 4 years ago next christmas. when under sixteen years of age and before I was enroled in the Militia of my county (but I cant say in what year nor how old I was) I substituted in the place of Jacob Watson and served under Capt Vowell[?]at the Magazine on the Rhoanoke river in said county of Mecklingburg. a Major [James] Anderson commanded at the Magazine. I cant tell how many companies or men there was at that station nor can I tell for what length of time I substituted, nor how long I was in service - drafts at that time were generally for three months, and I presume that I served that length of time. I am shure I served out the time for which I substituted, but I repeat, that I cant tell how long I was in services.

Some short time after the preceeding time - (perhaps a month or two) and whilst I was still under sixteen years of age, I served a nother tour at the same place as a substitute in place of my Father Thomas Roberts. I can tell in what year this service was done, nor how long I was in service, but I was the same time in service as in the preceeding tour and under the same officers.

in a few months after the last preceeding time and after I had attained to the age of sixteen years and been placed on the muster role. I was drafted and served a nother tour at same place under same officers - and same duration of time. Capt Vorul[?] & Major Anderson commanded at the Magazine all the time I was in service and although the guard was kept up there by the Militia drafts for short tours. Capt vorul[?] & Major Anderson commanded all the time as before stated. In repsonce to the three preceeding tours I repeat that I cant tell nor could I at the time of makeing my Declaration how long I served each time. Yet I think the militia at that period of the war were generally drafted for 3 mo. and hence I infer that I served for that length of time each tour -

In march succeeding the last preceeding tour (I cant tell in what year) I was drafted again & marched from same county under Capt. William Lucas a Regt. marched from same county at same time under Col. Mumford. We went to Gilford Court House on our way joined Genl. Greens army on Haw river at the High Rock ford. whilst in this service I was in the Battle at Gilford Court House. Genl. Green was commander in chief. Genl. [Robert] Lawson commanded the Militia - in this engagement the British army kept their ground - after it was over we pursued the British army to Deep river and then returned to Hillsborough and I was there discharged. I cant say how long I was in this tour but presume 3 mo. for the reason before given.

my next services was at the Battle of Yorktown and capture of Cornwallis & his army. my father had been drafted for that service. I took his place, a Regt under the command of Col. Lewis Burwell. Went from Mecklingburg county. I was attached to Capt. Fulks company. we went on to york town & was in that engagement. after it was over we were discharged & returned home. this was a three months draft. cant say how long I was in service but think it probable I was discharged a few days before my time was out. - I cant say now nor could I at the time of makeing my original Declaration how long in the whole I was in service. I know I served five tours, and I thought at the time of makeing my original Declaration and still think they were 3 mo. tours, but of this I will not peak possitively. I proved my services by my brother Isaac [pension application S19453] & John Hutson [probably John Hudson, R5336] they served with me. The Hon'l William McComas wrote my Declaration. the substance of the statement here given is the same as given to him except as he states. these were furnished at the time by my Brother Isaac Mr. McComas charged me nothing. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my

name. august 23, 1835

Witness James M. McComas

Thomas hisXmark Roberts

Isaac Roberts brother of Thomas and a Pensioner (See his own redeclaration)

Says that his Brother served one more tour in the whole than himself. that he served a tour at Gilford, one at York and two or three at the Magazine in Mecklingburg Co - that he served as substitute for his father. And on his own place.

A Copy W. G. Singleton

Note. - I found this old Gentleman very refractory. - he Indulged in much personal abuse of the "Powers that be" as well as myself - it was with much difficulty that he was composed and induced to make a declaration. his character stands fair. and although he is exceedingly indeffinate as to the length of his service. I think it probable that he is entitled to the amount awarded him.

W. G. Singleton august 27, 1835

NOTES:

Thomas Roberts is listed as a pensioner in the 1840 federal census of Cabell County.

On 11 Aug 1848 Nancy Roberts, 81, applied for a pension stating that she married Thomas Roberts on 23 Dec 1788, and he died 13 Mar 1848. Oney Roberts, sister of Nancy Roberts, deposed that she had been present at the wedding. In the file is a copy of a minister's return by Rev. John Williams stating that on 24 Dec 1788 he married Thomas Roberts and Nancy May in Charlotte County. Another document states that Nancy Roberts died 20 July 1852.