

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Lewis Robards W581

Hannah

f76VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/4/12

[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.]

[f p. 13]

State of Kentucky Bullitt County Sct.

On this 14th day of January 1839 personally appeared before the County Court of Bullitt County Kentucky Hannah Robards a resident of said County & State, aged sixty-five years on the 10th of March next, 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 7th, 1838, entitled "An act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows:" That she is the widow of Captain Lewis Robards deceased late of Bullitt County Kentucky, who was a Captain, Lieutenant and private in the Virginia militia service during the war of the revolution. That the said Lewis Robards deceased acted and served as a private volunteer in the company of Captain Nathaniel Massie in the Virginia militia service from the month of May 1778 until the month of December of said year. He again volunteered, and with the commission of Lieutenant served in the Virginia militia from the first day of January 1780 until the month of December of said year. During this tour of service he was stationed at different places in the lower part of Virginia under the command of Captain Frederick Woodson, who belonged to the regular service. In January 1781, about the first of said month, said Lewis Robards again turned out as a volunteer, and with the commission of Captain and acting as such remained in service until the month of October thereafter, a few days before the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781] and his Army at Little York, when he was discharged and permitted to return home to Goochland County where he resided. During this term of duty the said Lewis Robards was at the burning of the City of Richmond, and had a skirmish with a portion of Arnold's [Benedict Arnold's] men below Richmond in Virginia near James River. She states that as to the facts detailed in this declaration as to the military services of her deceased husband in the War of the revolution, she relies upon the statement of her said husband, and others better acquainted with said services than myself and she here respectfully makes reference to the deposition of Jesse Robards and others accompanying this claim for a more detailed account of her said husband's services in the War of the revolution. She has no knowledge what has become of the discharges and commissions of her said deceased husband, but presumes they have long since been lost or destroyed as useless papers –

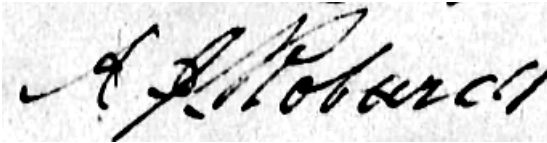
She further declares that she was married to the said Lewis Robards deceased on the 29th day of December in the year 1792. That her husband the said Lewis Robards deceased died on the 15th day of April 1814; That she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st day of January 1794 viz. at the time above stated. Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year 1st above written before the worshipful County Court of Bullitt County Kentucky. S/ Hannah Robards, X her mark

[f p. 9]

The deposition of Alfred J Robards of Bullitt County Kentucky aged thirty-seven years, who being first duly sworn according to law upon oath states that he is the fifth child of Captain Lewis Robards deceased and Hannah Robards of said County of Bullitt, his surviving widow – That he was thirty-seven years old on the 9th of September last as he shown by his father's family record. He states that there is now in his possession a large Bible containing his father's family record – that said Bible and record have remained in the possession of his mother and himself since the death of his father, which took place on the 15th of April 1814. One page of said record is headed "Marriages" the first entry under which is as follows viz. "Lewis Robards married Hannah Winn December the twenty ninth Anno Domini seventeen and ninety-two." He states that the above is a true copy from said family record with the exception of the date, which is expressed on said record in fair illegible figures as follows viz. "December 29th A.D. 1782." He further states that there is an entry in said family record under the head of "Deaths" which his mother caused to be made shortly after the death of his father, of which the following is a true and literal copy the is: "Lewis Robards departed this life April 15th, A.D. 1814." – He has not the least doubt that both of said entries are in strict accordance with the facts as they really took place. He states further that his mother, the said Hannah Robards, has remained single and unmarried since the death of his father as above stated, and is now about to become an applicant for a pension under the act of Congress passed July 7th, 1838 on account of his father's revolutionary services.

Sworn to and subscribed this 25th day of December 1838

S/ A. J. Robards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Robards", written in a cursive style on a light-colored background.

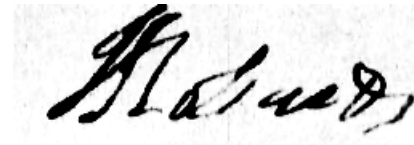
[f p. 66]

The deposition of Jesse Robards¹ of Garrard County taken at his own house on the 27th of November 1838 who being duly sworn upon oath states that he is now in the seventy seventh year of his age. He states that Hannah Robards, now of Bullitt County, Kentucky, is the widow of Lewis Robards deceased who resided during the war of the Revolution in the County of Goochland and State of Virginia. That said Lewis Robards deceased in the month of May 1778 volunteered as a private soldier of the Virginia militia under the command of Captain Nathaniel Massie with Solomon Williams as Lieutenant, and marched from Goochland County down to Richmond and from that to Williamsburg, & then to Yorktown upon the seaboard, where the said Lewis was stationed with his said company until about the month of December following when he was discharged and came home. This expedition to the seaboard was to protect that portion of the country against the depredations of the British under the command of Mathews and others. Again about the first of January 1780, the British fleet being upon the coast of Virginia, the said Lewis Robards volunteered and marched down to York, where he was under the command of Captain Frederick Woodson & Major Thomas Armistead both of whom belonged to the regular service. Here he remained, moving however from place to place upon the seaboard of Virginia with the Army under the command of General Nelson, until the month of December thereafter, when he was discharged and returned home. During this tour from January to December the

¹ [Jesse Robards W8563](#) Deponent is the brother of the veteran.

same Lewis Robards deceased was acting as Lieutenant, a commission as such. In the month of January in the year 1781 at the time Arnold burnt Richmond City General Nelson again called upon the militia of Virginia, and said Lewis Robards volunteered and went with the commission of Captain and acted as such. He left Goochland and marched down to Richmond where he found it on fire, but Arnold had fled to his vessels in the James River a few miles below Richmond. Said Robards then left Richmond with his company and marched down James River, and in the month of January he and his company had a skirmish in the night with a portion of Arnold's men, who had come out from their vessels a few days after this Simcoe went to Charles City Courthouse, and killed one man and wounded four; upon hearing this, said Robards with his company marched to said Court-house, but Simcoe had fled. After this, said Robards marched down to Hampton, & was stationed near there for some time, and continued moving from place to place in the lower part of Virginia until the siege of York, at which Robards and his company were for 8 or 10 days, but was discharged with his company in the month of October, a few days before the capture of Cornwallis. This, deponent understood, was in consequence of General Washington having more troops than he wanted, with the great scarcity of provisions. Sworn and subscribed to the day and year 1st above written.

S/ J. Robards



[f p. 72]

State of Kentucky Mercer County: May 28 1840

This day Jesse Robards Personally appeared before me one of the Justices of the Peace for said County & state at the house of Claiborne Bradshaw aged seventy-nine & some more the said Jesse Robards makes the following statement so far as his recollection is at Present – I shall make full statement of the time he was in service so far as I believe as to the actual days & months I cannot say. I state as near the time as I believe, below. My father William Robards had eight sons three by his first wife & five by his second John, William & James by his first wife Lewis, George, Jesse, Joseph, & Robert Robards. John, William,² Lewis, George,³ Jesse were all soldiers in the American Revolution, which commenced about the 1775 or 1776. These five were volunteers in the State of Virginia and served as such to near the close of the war. Lewis & William Robards entered in the year 1778 & started in service about the first of May and returned as near as I recollect in November in the same year. Lewis Robards was in service I think in 1779 and had the command as Ensign. This I do not state positive as his being Ensign it is my impression but in 1780 I am well convinced that he then was Lieutenant under Edward Duke Captain, N. Harris first Lieutenant his circumstance is fresh in recollection because the Company was ordered to make ready for action & Harris gave up his command to my Brother. I think he was second Lieutenant I well no [know] Harris gave up the command & he took it I think in 1779. My brother must have served at least six months in 1780 we served what I think longer. I served in the two first Towers [tours] with him I think in the year 1780 the British fleet appeared near Norfolk I am not positive if the Commander was not Lord Roddin [Rawdon?] on his way to South Carolina. After he left that place it is well known that the British pestered [?]

² [William Robards W8562](#)

³ [George Robards \(Roberts\) S31339](#)

the lower parts of Virginia very much & burnt & destroyed considerable quantity of property Tobacco & other property I think the British officers were Phillips [William Phillips] & Mathis that did greater part of the Damage were not able to prevent them we had to fight & run no man who was not Present has no kind of knowledge over firearms [?] & situation but those who were on the ground we had no man of consequence. The fourth and last service of my Brother Lewis was at the Burning of Richmond by that Traitor Arnold [Benedict Arnold] I think he burnt Richmond about the first of January 1781. I well recollect that by Brother Lewis Robards & myself both were in Richmond the second day after [he] set it on fire great many of the houses were burning [indecipherable word] and Arnold left that place in the morning & got in about the [indecipherable word] about four miles below Richmond with his fleet and marched opposite the fleet & was commanded by General Nelson. I think I well know that his command was either in 1780 or 1781 time being so long & being never called on to make any statement until some few years past. In the year 1781 my Brother commanded as a Captain in the volunteer Company, he commanded as Captain from about the Burning of Richmond until I think we were discharged in September had been at York some time – we were stationed some small time 1780 at York & we both returned from below Richmond up to the County of Goochland in [I] think in May after Tarton [Banastre Tarleton?] & Cornwallis who were at the point of Fork my Brother then returned with a small company of volunteers I think in about one or two days were then [several indecipherable words] by the men & Joseph Payne Lieutenant, that was all our Company officers. We proceeded after Tarleton but not overhauled him until he reached Cornwallis at the point of Fork we were the men that [indecipherable word, looks like "Raughted" could it be intended as 'routed'] Cornwallis at the point of Fork we were [text too faint to discern] but they made their escape and the [the digital image of the next portion of this document is so severely compromised that I was not able to decipher it except for miscellaneous words here and there]

I was with Lewis Robards three of those Towers	
1 st Lewis Robards was a Soldier in 1778 for which I thought	
is [?] about 6 months	6 mo.
2 nd 1779 about the same time Ensign I suppose	6 mo.
3 rd 1780 as Lieutenant [indecipherable word]	8 mo.
4 th The first of Jany 1781 Commanded as Capt. in	
the Volunteer to about Sept. 1781	<u>8 mo.</u>
	28 mo.

about one month before the Surrender of Wallace [Cornwallis] which was about the middle of October 1781.

J. Robards

Sworn to before the undersigned a justice of the peace for said County and state the day and date
1st above written
S/ J. B. Roach, JP MC

[Note: If anyone has a better transcription of the above affidavit, please let us post it in this database.]

[f p. 75]

The deposition of Claiborne Bradshaw⁴ taken at the same time and place. This deponent being of full age and 1st sworn testified and said that he was well acquainted with Lewis Robards from an early period of his life until a short time before his death say 50 years or more – he was also

⁴ [Claibourn \(Claburn\) Bradshaw W8394](#)

well acquainted with his father's family was in the habit of going to the [indecipherable word] of said Robards' father when a boy he knows Jesse Robards whose deposition is given above and who is now present with him to be the brother of the said Lewis Robards. They were raised in the County of Goochland & State of Virginia.

Q. How old are you Mr. Bradshaw? –

An. I am 83 years of age and served with Lewis Robards in the Army in the years 79 – 80 – and 81 –

Q. Did you know Lewis Robards as a private in the Army

A. I did

Q. Did you also know him as an Ensign and as a Lieutenant in the service. –

A. I did. – But I cannot state the times that that he served in those several capacities.

Q. Did you understand the services of said Robards to be as a volunteer.

An. I did. –

Q. Do you consider Jesse Robards to be a man of veracity in his statements

An. I would place implicit reliance upon his statements.

S/ Caiboun Bradshaw



Sworn to before the undersigned a justice of the peace for Mercer County Kentucky
S/ J B Roach, JP

[f p. 4: Power of attorney dated August 16, 1852 executed by Alfred J Robards of Bullitt County Kentucky, administrator of the estate of Hannah Robards, pensioner at the rate of \$120 per annum of the United States for the services of her husband in the revolutionary war as Ensign Lieutenant and Captain.

In an accompanying affidavit he states that his father died in Bullitt County April 15, 1814 leaving Hannah Robards his widow who remained unmarried until April 16, 1848 when she died in Bullitt County Kentucky at the age of 74 years leaving Mortimer D Robards, George L Robards, James W Robards, Alfred J Robards and Benjamin F Robards her children and her only surviving heirs.]

[f p. 19]

At a Court held for Goochland County on Beaverdam the third Monday of May, being the Xviith [17th] day of the month A.D. MDCCLXXIX [1779] [

Philip Webber produces a Lieutenant's Commission, Dabney Wade an Ensign's, Elliot Lacy an Ensign's, Josias Payne (younger) a 2nd Lieutenant's, Francis Pledge an Ensign's, Nathaniel Harris a Lieutenant's, Lewis Robards an Ensign's, which being read the said Officers agreeable to and Ordinance of the Convention of our Commonwealth of Virginia, take the oath prescribed and therefore authorized to act in the execution of their Office.

At a Court held for Goochland County on Beaverdam the third Monday of July, being the XViith [17th] day of the month A.D. MDCCLXXX [1780],

James Bennett as Lieutenant, Sherard Parrish, Edward Radford, & Lewis Robards, as second Lieutenants, & Major Hancock as Ensign, produce their Commissions which being read the said Officers agreeable to and Ordinance of the Convention of our Commonwealth of Virginia, take the Oath prescribed & thereupon authorized to act in their respective office.

[The above being certified as true copies from the records of Goochland County by William Miller, the clerk of said County, his certification being dated April 4, 1840.]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum commencing March 4th, 1836, for her husband service as a private, Ensign, Lieutenant and Captain in the Virginia militia for 12 months.