

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Jesse Robards W8563 Frances Ann Robards VA
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 24 Aug 2015.

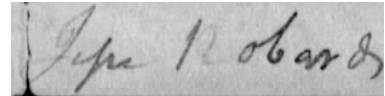
State of Kentucky } Personally appeared in open Court in the County of Garrard and State Kentucky
Garrard County } now setting Jesse Robards a Resident of s'd County aged Seventy years four
months & one day being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the

follow Decleration in Order to Obtain the Benefit of the act of Congress pass'd the 7th day of June 1832
1st I was born in the County of Goochland & State of Virginia, and moved from that state to this state of
Kentucky in fall of 1783 and have been a resident of the said state ever since and now live in the County
of Garrard at this time. 1st I was under age when I Entered as a Volunteer in the year of 1778 in the
service of the United States and marched from the County of Goochland through Louisa County to the
County of Albermailr [sic] to gard the British prisoners in s'd County [captured at Saratoga 17 Oct 1777
and kept at Albemarle Barracks from Jan 1779 through Feb 1781] and marched I think to s'd County in
the fall say about the month of October & returned the same route to the County of Goochland I think I
served about three or four months and the precise time I dont remember, but it was not less than three
months

2nd in month of December 1779 I Volunteerd a second time 4 months return in company with Joseph
Lewis the only person now living that I no of and his Certificate is now presend We Entered the service
as well as I now recollect about the first of December & was there untill about the first of April one of
hardest winters I ever Expearanced and hardest time for provisions. I Returnd the same rought home my
officers were Capt Edward Duke Maj'r. [John] Roberts Colo [Francis] Taylor. I think Elisha Leak was
my first Capt. and the field Officers were the same

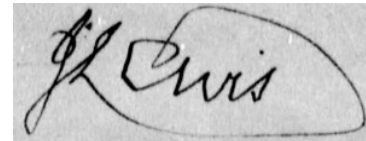
3rd I became a Volenteer in the year 1781 for four months I think in the mounth of January after Benedict
Arnold the Trator & General Phillips at the time they Burnt Richmond of Virginia [see endnote] While
the Town was on fire I was then under Colo Charles Fleming and continued but little time. We march'd.
on down the River cald James River after Arnold, and then to Williamsburg Joind our army under
General [Thomas] Nelson, then Volenteerd under Regular Officers, as Infantry man being of a company
of one Hundred & forty men march'd to York, from thence to the Halfway house [between Hampton and
Yorktown], from there to the forks of the Road three miles of Hamton Town at a place of Mrs Armsteds
we then were always on the [undeciphered word] from one place to another our officers was Maj. Tho
Armsted [sic: Thomas Armistead] Capt Fredrick Warren Lieutenant Robert Dandridge we were marchd
to Williamsburg in the mounth of May and were Honourably Discharged but it was not comon for militia
to get written Discharges if so I never rec'd any to my knowledge for any service whatever rendered. 4th
about my return from the expedition against Arnold, which was about the arrival of Cornwallis at
Petersburg in Virginia I think in May 1781 [20 May] and who proceed'd on to the Point of fork [at the
junction of James and Rivanna rivers], my return Home I found that Tarlton [sic: Lt. Col. Banastre
Tarleton] had passed my fathers & ten of his men had plunderd my father. five of my Brothers were in
the Services of the United States [see endnote], three of us made a call in the neighbourhood and under
the command of Ensign Joseph Payne [pension application W18693] a regular Officer or had been a
Regular officer Determined to have satisfaction & proced'd after Tarlton, and made a Blind on the road
weighting the arrival of several of the Officers who visited a certain House some distance from the main
army, while there some person gave Information and the Hole British army Immediatly broke for York &
it was stated that we were Lay Fayette [sic: Marquis de Lafayette's] front gard. [See endnote] we then
proced on & Joind the main Army at Richmond. I then Volenteerd under Colo Nathaniel Morris
[Nathaniel G. Morris S36178] for six months who Commanded us in the Battle below Richmond. after
that I Enterd myself as one of the Infantry and Scout'd about under Different officers under Lieutenant
Adams to fight the British who I think was an Officer belonging to General Lay Fayette I never was with
the main army much. I mostly in the infantry and under Capt [Samuel] Richardson and at the close of the

war at Yourk I Join the main Army. then my field officer was General [Robert] Lawson Lay Fayette Commander, George Washington Chief Commander Colo Mathes [sic: Mathews] was Col of the Infantry I have given my Views on this subject as correct as I now think, am not possitive to the edjact time but suppose I served about Eighteen mounths, at the Barrack about 7 or 8 mounts, after Arnold about 4 months & after Cornwallis, in May or June I Entered and continued untill near the surrender of York [19 Oct 1781] say the 1st October I left that place Yourk and was Discharged in the same manner as before my officer stated that General Washington stated that some of the men might be Discharged, that the number he had was sufficient. He Hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pension or an annuity, Except the present, and he declares that his mane is not on the pension roll of iny agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid August 20th 1832



State of Kentucky } This day Joseph Lewis came into Court in the County of Nelson and made oath
County of Nelson } that was in the Revolutionary Service of the United States & that he was well acquainted with Jessee Roberts [sic] of Garratt County & the state afs'd. ad that he said Jessee Roberts is the same man that serrved at Albermarl Barrocks as Sargent gaurding the British, and that he served with me in 1779 & 1780 four months & that he served in the year 1781 after Cornwallace [illegible word] and that he is about the age of seventy years & four months old and that the said Jessee Roberts is a man of Reputable Character. That he does not recollect the exact time of said Roberts Service as we ware not always together. roberts served under the following officers at Albemarl Barracks Edward Duke Capt. – Maj'r. Roberts & Colo. Taylor. At the taking of Corlwallace Field officers – Gen'l. Layfayette Nath'l. Morris Colo.

Witness my hand & seal this 12th day of August 1832



State of Kentucky } This day Martain Carter [S30911] came before me George S Waugh a Justice of
Mercer County } the peace in and for said state & County of Mercer and made oath that he Martain Carter is unable to attend the County Court of Garrard of the same state as a witness for Jesse Robards a Revolutionary Soldier 1787 he served at Albermarle Barrack garding the British Soldiers, he the s'd Robards acted as Sergant undr Capt Joseph Leak our Captain. our Field Officer was Colo Taylor, Maj'r Robards [sic: John Roberts], his service was Either three or four monthes but does not at present recollect the adzact time he also served with me as a Volenteer at both places at Abermale Barrocks, and in the year 1781 after cornwalis I was in the battle with him below Rich'd of Virginia, Colo Nath Morris was our Commanding officer. I served four mounths and I guard saw him & he act in the same Capacity as Sergent but when he was Discharged I am unable to say for he was Generally in the Infantrie. I have been acquainted with him ever since I was a boy of ten years old we were both Born in the County of Goochland and State of Virginia in the same neighbour hood and that he the s'd. Robard I suppose to be upwards of seventy years of age. this I judge from my age and acquaintances with him and he is a man of good Carater and a Soldier given under my hand this 9th day of October 1832

Martain hisXmark Carter

[On 22 Jan 1833 Jesse Robards was issued a certificate for a pension of \$56.66 per year for 17 months of service as a Private. On 12 April 1834 he applied for a larger pension, stating that he had served as a Sergeant, as described in more detail in the following document.]

State of Kentucky Mercer County July 3rd 1841

Jesse Robards upwards of Seventy nine years of age states that he is Deprived of part of Pension pay as a Sergeant in old Revolutionary War by the present Govenor [Robert P. Letcher] lossing the Deposition of

George Robards [S31339] who died with the collery [sic: cholera] he also state he Has made application to Mr Edward the Pension agent [sic: James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions], he informed the s'd Robards that such a Deposition had not be rec'd their Two of our Members of Congress has undertaken for him and have not made any satisfactory account the s'd Govener states he has Examined for the Deposition and states he well recollects of the Deposition f not in the Pension agents office it is Either loss or mislaid so that he Cannot find it & he state he served Two Towers at Albermail Barracks Garding the Hessians the first Tower was with his Brother George Robards about four months Earley in Jan'y 1779 and in latter part served with Joseph Lewis also as Sergeant late in the winter which Deposition the Pension agent state is in his office The 2nd Tower he seved with his Brother Georg 1780 down about Yourk & Hamton I think about four months, and served nearly all that year I was with Maj'r Tho Armsted & Capt Fedrick woodson and was in the month of Jan'y 1781 in Rich'd Virginia when Arnold Burnt that Town & was nearly the Hole time untill the Surrend ended which I was under General Layfaette I think the Surrend of Cornwallace was about the middle of October 1781 I was the Hole time Volenteer with my four other Brothers which was all Volenteers John William, Lewis & George who is all Dead sometime so that only George Drew a Pension [sic] and myself he states the present Govener Robert P Letcher twll him he is willing to make satisfactory oath that the Deposition is lost or mislaid I am will acquainted with the s'd Robards & no he is a man of good Character also our Member of Congress John Tompson is will acquainted with him. given under my hand 3rd day of July 1841
 Jesse Head JP

State of Kentucky } SS
 Mercer County }

The affidavit of Martin Carter of said County & State now in the eighty first year of age, the affiant being duly sworn make the following Statement, That he now is, and has been well acquainted with Jesse Robards, and his four brother, John, William, George and Lewis Robards for upwards of Sixty years, all of us were born in about three miles of each other in the County of Goochland State of Virginia. I well recollect being in the old Revolutionary war against great Brittain, in Several years and tours of duty particularly with Jesse and George Robards, both of whom as well as myself were volunteers, in the year 1781, and in the month of January at the time Arnold burned the City of Richmond Virginia and continued together untill Jesse Robards and myself and George Robards under Col Nathaniel Morris of the Virginia State line, and were in action in July 1781, against a party of the British. I recollect that Jesse Robards was Sergeant all of which time, and in the action I well recollect of Col Poore being badly wounded and the Col ordered Robards, and myself to take him off of the ground. our army was divided the next day, and I have no recollection of any longer service of Jesse and George Robards, but understand that they joined Gen'l. Lafayette, and continued until near the close of the war, which I think was on the 16th of October 1781 I have no recollection of any law [limiting duration of tours] for volunteers, they served untill they were discharged. George Robards had a better knowlege of the term of his brother Jesse's service that I had. from the well known character of Jesse Robards, I have no doubt but that all his statements are true Given under my hand and seal this 25th day of October 1842
 Martin hisXmark Carter

NOTES:

Benedict Arnold burned much of Richmond 5-7 Jan 1781. Gen. William Phillips did not arrived in Virginia until 20 Mar 1781.

In a statement supporting the pension application of Lewis Robards (pension application W581), Jesse Robards listed four brothers besides himself who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War: John Robards, William Robards, Jr (W8562), Lewis Robards, and George Robards (S31339).

It is unlikely that the whole British army or even Tarleton's Legion would have fled to Yorktown merely on the report that Lafayette's advanced guard lay ahead. Joseph Payne did not mention the near encounter with Tarleton in his own pension application.

Jesse Robards stated in a deposition in support of the application of the widow of his brother William that he left with William on the march to Camden SC under Gen. Horatio Gates in Jul 1781, but was turned back for some reason. He may simply have been keeping his brother company.

On 6 Mar 1848 in Mercer County KY Frances Ann Robards, 81, applied for a pension stating that she married Jesse Robards in Louisa County VA on 21 July 1788, and he died 22 Dec 1845. On 16 May 1855 she applied for bounty land, giving her age as 87 and stating that her name before marriage was Frances A. Perkins and that her husband died 23 Dec 1845. With her pension application is a copy of a family record that is difficult to read, but transcribed below. Her application was supported by a cousin, Robert W. Lewis, 68, of Mercer County, who stated that her father, Joseph Perkins, lived near the line separating Goochland and Louisa counties, and that shortly after her marriage she and Jesse Robards moved to Crab Orchard in present Lincoln County KY. On 18 July 1850 Andrew McGohen, 63, stated that the first child of Jesse and Frances Ann Robards, named Thomas Robards, was about three years younger than himself and had been his playmate and school mate. On 9 April 1851 A. Lewis Robards, 64, of Woodford County KY, certified the marriage of his uncle and aunt, Jesse and Frances A. Robards.

Frances A. Robards was born 21st day of June 1767

Thomas Robards was born August 15th 1789

Robert Robard was born Aug't 21st 1791

Nancey Robards was born May 4th 1793

Eliz'h Robards was born June 6th 1795

Joseph Robards was born Aug't 31 1797

Kitty Robards was born Jany 16th 1799

Ellender Robards was October 9th 1801 [possibly 1800]

Frances A Robards Born November 15th 1802

John Jefferso Robards January 28th 180[5 or 6?]

Jesse Robard was born 1804,9[?]

Polly wa Born Sept 15th 180[?] 1815

John Robard was born October 25th 18 1810[?]