

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters
Pension application of James Roberts W4063 Frances fn64NC Transcribed
by Will Graves 1/10/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of North Carolina On this 15th day of November 1843 personally appeared before the worshipful Court of

Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Surry County State aforesaid, Francis Roberts [sic, Frances Roberts] a resident of Surry County aged seventy-seven years, who first being 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 James Roberts, who was a private in the Army of the Revolution. That he was in the Battle of King's Mountain under the command of Colonel Cleveland. This battle was fought in the year 1777 -- that she has heard her deceased husband say that after the battle he was one of the guard who guarded the Prisoners taken on that occasion, that in addition to the name of Colonel Cleveland, she has heard him speak of one Captain Gillings or Gedings as one of his Officers. She also understood him to be in the company of Captain Martin. She believes the above tour of duty was performed by him as a volunteer & that he was absent on duty three months. He was again in the service and stationed at Osborne's Old Mill in Surry County in the winter 1778 -- 9 he was at this time in the company of Captain Gillings which was attached to the Regiment of Colonel Sheppard. This tour was a draft for 3 months and that she is very positive he served his time out, as she knew him well and was a near neighbor, he was again in the battle of the Shallow Ford fought between the Tories & Whigs in October 1780 he was then in Captain Richard Allin's [sic, Richard Allen's] company. This service was while under a draft for 6 months out of which time she thinks some 3 months had expired at the time of the battle. She also believes & has heard him say that he was in the battle of Guilford Court House in the spring of 1781. She believes him to have been in this service four times two three months tours & two six months tours each time he performed his full tour. She recollects having seen his discharge for the service at King's Mountain but which is now lost or destroyed. She is enabled to be very confident as to the nature & extent of his service from the fact of their being at that time very intimate & near neighbors looking forward to the connection that afterwards subsisted between them. She has no documentary evidence whereby

to substantiate her claim & respectfully refers to the testimony of James Boyd¹ & Elihu Ayers² here with transmitted. She also declares that she was married to James Roberts on the 22nd day of July 1784 they were married in Surry County by the Reverend James Reed who is since dead. The bans were published 3 times as was normal in those times, no record was ever kept of their marriage as she is aware of. Her husband died the 8th of June 1834 aged 76 years.

1 James Boyd S12269 2 Elihu Ayers R335

We had while living together as man and wife sixteen children of which 9 were sons & 7 daughters the oldest of whom is dead & was born 22nd of June 1785. She has no documentary evidence by which to prove her marriage but expects to prove the same by the testimony of Marthy Falkner who was present at the wedding. That she was not married to him the said James Roberts prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first day of January 1794 viz. at the time above specified that she has not been since married & is still a widow.

Sworn to and subscribed on the day and year above written. S/ F K Armstrong, Clerk S/ Frances Roberts, X her mark

Test

State of North Carolina Surry County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 15th of November 1843 The declaration of Frances Roberts Supplemental to the foregoing she declares that her deceased husband James Roberts lived in Surry County at the time he performed the foregoing service, that she also lived in said County and still continued to live there up to the time of his death and she still lives there. That Colonel Cleveland and Captain Allen were from Wilkes County adjoining Surry that Colonel Sheppard & Captain Martin were from Surry County Captain Gitlings was also of Surry County Sworn to and subscribed in open court the day and year first above written. Test: S/ F. K. Armstrong, Clerk S/ Frances Roberts, X her mark

State of North Carolina Surry County: Be it known that on this 13th day of November 1843 before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace in & for the County aforesaid personally appeared Elihu Ayers a credible witness & pensioner of the United States aged 82 years, and made oath in due form of law that while in the service of the United States at the battle of Kings Mountain which took place as he believes October 17773 he was acquainted with James Roberts who afterwards married Frances now Frances Roberts an applicant for a pension, that the said James Roberts served in that Battle in the company of Captain Salathiel Martin who was attached to the command of Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, he also saw him again at the battle with the Tories at Shallow Ford⁴ on the Yadkin, which was in October 1780 he was then in Captain Richard Allen's company -- he again saw him at the Battle of Guilford which was in March 1781 he does not recollect his Captain -- but he was a Whig soldier & fought in that battle he also saw him at different periods during the intervening times still in the service as a militia Soldier, but not being attached to the same Company cannot say positively -- his understanding was that James Roberts was always ready & frequently out on draft &

as volunteer -- he further States on his oath that he has long been acquainted with James Roberts & Frances his wife, & knew them to live together as man and wife for near 50 years, they were of respectable standing in Society -- raised a large & respectable family of children, & he has never heard it doubted but that they were legally & lawfully married -- Sworn to & subscribed before me S/ Elisha Banner, JP S/ Elihu Ayers North Carolina Surry County

3 Sic, October 7, 1780. 4 October 14 or 15, 1780. <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/801014a.htm>

Be it known that on the 2nd day of October 1843 personally appeared before me Elijah Banner one of the acting The justices of the peace for said County, James Boyd a credible person and a pensioner, who first being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration -- (to wit) that while in the service, he was acquainted with James Roberts, the deceased husband of the applicant Frances Roberts for a pension and they remained together about 3 months stationed at Ausburns old mill in said County in the latter part of the year 1778 & the first part of the year 1779 under the command of Colonel Sheppard in Captain James Gittens⁵ Company and that he believes that the said James Roberts was drafted for 3 months tour while they remained together & he further declares that he was acquainted with James Roberts & Frances his wife before they were married, until his death, he knew them to live together as man and wife about 50 years & they raised a large family of children --

Sworn to & subscribed S/ Elisha Banner, JP S/ James Boyd

[fn p. 14: On the May 12, 1856 in Surry County North Carolina, Jesse Roberts, a resident of said County and State, filed as the Guardian of Frances Roberts, widow of James Roberts, for her bounty land entitlement as the widow of James Roberts.]

[facts in file: the veteran married July 22, 1784 in Surry County, Frances Laurence; one Jonathan Roberts, who was born February 15, 1778, gave testimony in support of the application of Frances Roberts for a widow's pension but he does not indicate what relationship, if any he had with the widow or her husband.]

[fn p. 22] State of North Carolina Office of Secretary of State

I William Hill, Secretary of State, in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State, in the Revolutionary War, that James Roberts a private soldier in Lieutenant Colonel Messor Company of the 10th Regiment, entered the service on the 20th day of July 1778 for the term of 9 months and that nothing more is said of him on said Rolls.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of September 1844 S/ Wm Hill, Secretary of State

5 In his own application, Boyd refers to this officer as "James Gidens" or, at least, that is how the scribe who wrote out Boyd's application elected to spell that officer's name.