

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Joseph Bobo R981

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia Prince William County Towit

Agt a Court held for said County on Monday being the 6th day of April 1846 personally appeared in open court before the Court of said County now sitting Joseph Bobo a resident of said County aged about eighty six 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 act of Congress passed June the seventh 1832

That he entered the service of the united states under the following named officers and served as herein after stated being altogether in the militia of the state of Virginia, That his first tour was one of six months which he can prove by two witnesses to with Daniel Cole [pension application S8236] of Culpepper [sic: Culpeper] County Virginia now but formerly of the aforesaid County of Prince William and Daniel O'Rear [Daniel O'Rear, S7376] of the said County of Prince William Virginia both of whom are now alive and were in service with him during the aforesaid tour of six months and under the same officers and from the same county, that the particulars of said tour which was raised to go south are as follows, that in the month of September in the year 1780 Captain John Britt of Prince William County Va raised a Company and marched to North Carolina – that of said company he remembers one William Farrer [sic: William Farrow] was Lieutenant – that Solomon Ewell was orderly sergeant of said Company and he thinks one Cud Peyton [Cut Peyton; Cuthbert Peyton] was Ensign – that one Philip Conner held some office in said Company but that he cannot positively say what it was – thinks however that he had something to do with dealing out provisions. That in respect to these officers he cannot be mistaken because he knew the aforesaid Captain Britt before this tour and remembers to have been at his home house on several occasions before the same that at that time said Britt resided in Prince William County at a place now called Millford and owned by William Weir Esq. at which place there has been within some years past a mill built on Bull Run. That he was acquainted with Lieutenant Farrer also before this Tour and remembers that at the time he was Inspector of Tobacco in Dumfries which was at that early day raised in great quantities in his native county of Prince William but that said Farrer was a resident in the vicinity of Dumfries and not of the Town itself. That he also knew Solomon Ewell before said tour and that he did not live far from his residence at the time of said tour under him. That Mr. Cud Peyton an officer of said Company he did not know untill said tour, but that during the same he became well acquainted with him. That as before said the draft was made the last of September in the year 1780 as well as he can recollect and that the first of October his Company took up their line of march at Dumfries for the South that his company marched to Fredericksburg and he thinks quartered there a few days and then marched on by where Richmond now stands and was then a small place. That at or in the neighbourhood of Richmond his company was stationed about a week and then marched by Chesterfield C. H. at which place they did not make any stop that he now remembers of – and that at Petersburg beyond Chesterfield C. H. his company was quartered for some time he cannot be positive as to the exact time and from Petersburg his company marched direct on to Roanoke [Roanoke River] in Virginia and at that place his company was stationed for several weeks awaiting orders as he heard whether to go on to the South or to return back to Williamsburg. That before reaching said place his company was joined by another militia company from Fair Fax County under the Command of Captain William Mason and that he found one of his old acquaintances Frank Sankford a private under Mason, he being from Fairfax County which adjoins Prince William. That said Masons Company kept with his own during the entire tour and according to his memory was not seperated a single day. That from Roanoke his company marched to Hillsborough in N.C and that place was called head quarters at that time and from this went on to a place called Cheraw Hills in South Carolina [Jan 1781] and from Cheraw Hills to 96 [see endnote]

and to various other places which he cannot refer to for he never knew. That of said company he knew all the men from his part of the country and remembers that according to the rule six soldiers constituted a mess and that himself the said Joseph Bobo Benjamin Reeves William Reeves his brother [pension application S17645] Clayton Southerland John Hays and Henry Crosen were the mess during said tour of six months. In addition to this he remembers Daniel Cole Daniel O'Rear both of whom are now alive several of the Mr. Andersons William Legg [pension application X456] John Steel John Stewart and Triplitt Moss privates from his part of the County. That no battle ensued during their stay in the South and although his company was at times associated with a great many other troops he cannot say they were regulars – they might have been for aught he knew the militia That his tour having expired four of his fellow soldiers together with himself applied for a discharge which was given them in one and placed in the hands of John Henderson who came with him home. That of said discharge he knows nothing and supposes Henderson himself took no care of it. That his time expired near Hillsborough in North Carolina and he came home. Others of his company joined a volunteer company to carry prisoners to Charlottesville in Virginia. That he has no documentary evidence in support of his claim and that he reached home from said tour in 1781 in the month of April, that nothing of a remarkable Character occurred during said tour worth while to be mentioned here. That his company was poorly provided with tents, and that during the winter their shelters were made of Pine brush – the suffering from cold however was not very severe That for said tour of six months in the militia he claims a Pension, and hopes the same will be allowed him being very poor and dependent upon his country for a support. That he always considered himself entitled to pay for said service and requested his neighbour William Weir Esqr. some years ago to attend to it for him and promised so to do but that he has heard nothing from him in refer[page torn] to it since and supposes he gave it o[page torn] that the said Weir is a farmer by profes[page torn] and might have been at a loss for information as to the mode of proceeding in such cases – by his reasons however what it may he has not been informed of is himself, that he has always resided in Prince William County Virginia where he was born and raised and that the above facts so far as relates to Mr. Weirs understanding can be verified by his own affidavit being yet alive and a respectable citizen of the said County of Prince William.

That Mr. Daniel O'Rear by whom he expects to prove the services herein before mentions is now a very old man and is brother to Major Enoch O'Rear of the last war also of Prince William and now in his 84 year, both of whom are men of the highest respectability and standing in society. That Mr. Daniel Cole now of Culpepper was raised in Prince William and was brother to Richard Cole who was also a private in Captain Britts Company herein before specified in the tour to the South. That he has no record of his age but always understood from his father who died when he was quite young that his birth year was in 1760 in addition to which his old neighbour Mr Richard Cole and himself were boys together and they counted their ages about the same. That said neighbour has been dead about two years and was 84 at his decease. That said tour to the South was known to be a six months tour before the drafts were drawn and that his Company under Britt numbered about one hundred men, and believes that Masons was about the same in number. That he has never made any declaration before on account of said services and he supposed he was not entitled from the fact of Mr. Weir never succeeding in getting him something, he knew nothing of the law himself and has not seen any one until recently whom he could get to prepare his papers for him. That whatever amount may be coming to him he will most cheerfully receive for his neighbours know him to be poor but honest and in need of some of the necessaries of life. That a great many other circumstances occurred during his tour to the south which he considers it useless here to mention. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to an annuity or Pension except the present and declares his name is not on the pension rolls of any agency in the United States of America.

Joseph hisXmark Bobo

The following questions and answers were this 6th day of April 1846 taken in open Court in the matter of Joseph Bobo' application for a pension under act of 1832

Question 1st where and in what year were you born Answer I was born in Prince William County in the year 1760 as I always understood.

Ques. 2nd Have you any record of your age. Answer. I have no record of my age that I know of my father died when I was quite young and I have never heard of any record of age.

Ques 3rd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live. Answer I was living in the County of Prince William where or in which I was born and raised, when called into service and returned to the said county after the six months tour to the South and have ever since lived in the same.

Ques. 4th How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom. Answer I was drafted and served a six months tour to the South and was never a substitute for any one

Ques. 5th State some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental and Militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service. Answer during this tour of six months to the South our Company met frequently with some of the regular troops but did not remain any length of time with them and I do not now recollect the names of their officers as it has been a great while ago. I remember that General Greens [sic: nathanael Greene's] army was with his Companies at several places and as to the militia regiments I remember the Company of Captain Mason from Fairfax County Virginia and said Company from Fairfax was with his Company during this term to the south, and as to the general circumstances of his services he begs lieve to refer the department to his declaration hereto attached for all the particulars and impotent circumstances in relation to his services in the Revolution.

Ques. 6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by was it given and what has become of it. Answer I recollect that at the expiration of the tour in the South that four of my fellow soldiers together with myself received a discharge from the service and John Henderson took charge of said discharge as we were all included in the same and Henderson came on home with me but I do not now know what became of said discharge.

Ques. 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 in the Revolution Answer I have always lived in my native County Prince William and my neighbours all know me and can testify of me as to my character for veracity I refer to Major Enoch O'Rear Colonel John Horn John H Mayfield Benjamin Johnson Joseph Johnson William Brawner Redman Brawner William Weir Sandford Thurmon and Vincent Citty

Joseph hisXmark Bobo

Virginia Culpeper County towit:

I Daniel Cole of said County certify under oath to the truth of the following facts respecting the Revolutionary services of Joseph Bobo of Prince William County Virginia. The said Bobo and myself were raised in a neighborhood in Prince Wm. near Hay field the residence of old Parson Scott the ancestor of Judge Scott of Virginia and I knew the said Bobo served with me a six months tour to the South under Captain John Britt of Prince William County. Said Bobo and myself were boys together and were drafted in said company together with many others from our neighborhood – our Company marched from Dumfries in Prince William on by Fredericksburg and from that place to Richmond and at that place arms were drawn for the soldiers under Britt – from Richmond his company marched on to Petersburg in Virginia then a small village – and from that place to a place called Roanoke somewhere in lower Virginia – from Roanoke his company went on to Hillsborough and Guilford C. H in N.C. and thence down into South Carolina to a place known as the Cheraw Hills on the Pedee [sic: Pee Dee] River in said state of S. Carolina. But whilst in South Carolina his company was at various places the names of which he never learnt and cannot say. But he saw Bobo daily during that tour and they were disbanded or discharged at

the same time and place in North Carolina, the six months having expired for which his company had been called [see endnote] I joined a volunteer company to guard the prisoners to the Albemarle barracks and the said Bobo together with a few others who were anxious to go home did not go with the prisoners but went on home to Prince William County. After we delivered the prisoners at the barracks I went to my fathers in Prince William and saw Bobo there in the neighborhood. I understood from him his mess were two[?] weeks in getting home on their return. Shortly afterward I married and settled in Culpeper where I have always since resided and have ever since. The said Bobo [two illegible words] supposed to have died[?]. The tour began in the fall of 1780 and ended in the Spring of 1781. I knew Mr. Bobo very well – we were as aforesaid raised in same neighborhood. And I am positive of his services under Britt to the South.

[signed 5 Mar 1846] Daniel Cole

NOTES:

A letter from the Pension Office dated 14 Nov 1846 explains that Bobo's claim was denied because, "No men were ordered from Prince William, where [Daniel O'Rear] resided, to go to the South, and none of them served more than four and one half months. The claim of Joseph Bobo cannot be allowed, as he did not serve six months, the time which the law requires." This statement was evidently in error, since Thomas Brown (S6769), Henry Barrett (S8057), and George Wilder (S17204) also independently stated that this tour was for six months. Daniel Cole stated that he was at Cheraw Hills for three months, and the total length of the tour was six months, "being detained by the officers for the want of troops." Daniel O'Rear S7376 first stated that the tour lasted five months, but later stated it lasted six months.

Gen. Nathanael Greene with part of his army arrived at Cheraw Hills on 20 Dec 1780, and on 28 Jan 1781 he took most of them to join Gen. Daniel Morgan, who was fleeing Cornwallis through North Carolina with prisoners captured at the Battle of Cowpens. Bobo appears to have been left at Cheraw Hills. Most of South Carolina was under British control during this period, so it is doubtful that Bobo was at Ninety Six.