

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Cozby S24966

f53SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/11: rev'd 1/7/20

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[Note: the documents in this file chronicle the veteran's extended efforts to obtain a pension from the State of South Carolina and later from the US as a result of a disabling wound he suffered at the first Battle of Ninety Six. I have not transcribed all the documents in the file as many are duplicative of others that are transcribed, but anyone interested in the complexities of obtaining disability pensions should read this file thoroughly.]

[p 29]

State of South Carolina Pendleton District

I do hereby certify that Robert Cozby was wounded, at Ninety Six in the State aforesaid in the year 1775 being then under the command of Major Williamson [Andrew Williamson], fighting for this country in her struggle for Independence, and so disabled in the knee that he is rendered incapable of labor and for a livelihood.

Certified this 29th day of September 1803

S/ Andrew Pickens

Late Major General of the Militia

State of South Carolina }
Pendleton District } I do hereby certify
that Robert Cozby was
wounded, at Ninety Six in the State
aforesaid in the Year One Thousand
seven hundred and seventy five, be-
ing then under the command of
Major Williamson, fighting for this
country in her struggle for Independ-
dence, and so disabled in the knee
that he is rendered incapable of la-
boring for a livelihood.

Certified this 29th day of
September one thousand eight
hundred and three

Andrew Pickens
Late Major General
of the Militia

[p 31]

Robert Cozby being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, that in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Five, whilst engaged in the actual service of the United States in the District of Ninety Six, & State of S. Carolina received a wound near the joint of the left knee, in consequence of which, he has ever since been, & still remains, incapable of obtaining his livelihood.

S/ Robt. Cozby

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robt. Cozby", written in black ink on a white background.

Test

S/ Fran^s. May

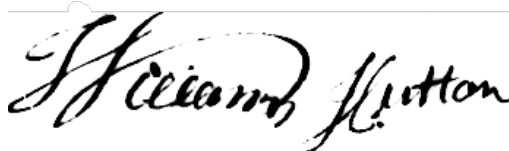
Knoxville December 16th, 1803

[p 32]

In the case of Robert Cozby an applicant to be placed on the pension list –

William Hutton of the County of Blount in the District of East Tennessee of full age and sound mind being solemnly sworn in due form deposeth and saith – That in the year of our Lord 1775 this Deponent was in the battle fought at Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina. That he was on the American side of the question and in the Battle aforesaid was under the command of Major Williamson. That this Deponent then was and still is acquainted with Robert Cozby the applicant aforesaid that he remembers that the said Robert Cozby was engaged in the American side of the question in her struggle for Independence and that he was in the said engagement at the place aforesaid and also under the command of said Williamson – in this Deponent knows that said Cozby was wounded in the left knee in said engagement and that he has been from that time and yet is disabled by said wound in such a manner that he walks with great difficulty – and further this deponent sayeth not.

S/ William Hutton

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Hutton", written in black ink on a white background.

Sworn to and Subscribed
this 24th December 1803
before me S/ Hugh L White

[p 32]

James Cozby of the County of Knox in the District of East Tennessee of full age and sound mind and being solemnly sworn in due form of Law deposeth and saith – that he is the brother of, and well acquainted with Robert Cozby the Applicant, that the said Robert and this Deponent were both in the battle fought at Ninety Six in the State of South Carolina in the year 1775 – that they were both engaged in the cause of America during the Revolutionary war and in her struggle for Independence. That in the battle aforesaid they were both under the command of Major Williamson. That during the said Battle the said Robert received a wound in his left knee in consequence of which he was three years without being able to walk one step. That in consequence of said wound the said Robert has been [one or more words obliterated and rendered totally illegible] receiving the same and yet is a cripple, and disabled in such a manner that his walks with great difficulty. This Deponent further saith that he well knows the said

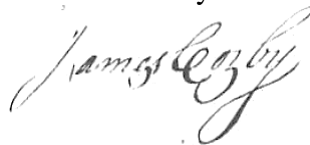
Robert did not desert the service of the United States at any time during the revolutionary war but continued firmly attached to the American Cause till the end of the war, although after receiving said wound he was disabled from doing much active service for the United States. – This Deponent further saith that since the time of receiving said wound the said Robert has principally subsisted on property furnished by his relations and which is now almost entirely exhausted, And that the said Robert has not been in a situation from any employment he could possibly follow to procure much property for himself. And further the Deponent saith not

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 2nd day

January 1804

S/ H. L. White

S/ James Cozby



[p 34]

Robert Cozby an applicant to be placed on the Pension list being solemnly sworn in due form of Law states the following as the cause why he did not obtain a pension under the acts of Congress which passed previous to the year 1803. –

That some time previous to the year 1785 (but what particular year he cannot remember) he applied to the State of South Carolina for an allowance or pension and received eight pounds Sterling as the sum he was entitled to for one year and was then told he would have at the same time receive for several years then in arrears: but that there was no more money at that time in the Treasury to be applied to such purposes – That he made a second application to the same state in the year eighteen hundred and [one or more words totally obliterated and rendered illegible] and could receive nothing – That in the year 1789 he made a third application to the same State and was then told all matters of that kind were removed to the war Office and that application must be made there – that sometime in the year 1787, as well as he remembers, he had some depositions and other papers put into the hands of David Henby Esquire who was then Agent for the Department of war and resided in Knoxville. That the said Agent told this Deponent that he believed there were sufficient evidence of his right to a pension and that he would forward them to the proper Office. The said Agent afterwards informed the applicant that he had forwarded the said papers and applicant's claim to a pension and had received for answer that the claim was barred by length of time. Applicant further states that he has been in low circumstances as to property living in a remote part of the country and had few opportunities of information, and that he had no knowledge when the limitation would expire, and in truth very little information of the acts of Congress on the subject of pensions.

Sworn to and Subscribed this 9th day of January 1804

Before me

H. L. White

S/ Robt Cozby

[p 49]

By virtue of the annexed Commission from the Honorable John McNairy, I have examined Mr. Robert Cozby; I beg leave to report, that said Cozby has received a wound near the joint of the left knee which joint is rendered in consequence thereof, entirely useless, together with the limb measurably. Hence it appears that he is incapable of obtaining his livelihood in the usual mode, for example, by plowing &c &c.

Fran^s May [Francis May]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Francis May". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "May".

Sworn to before me this 9th day of January 1804
S/ H. L. White

[p 3]

I do hereby certify that I have this day examined a wound in the left me of Robert Cozby which I conceived to be of such a nature as to render him unfit for any kind of business, or so much so as to obtain a livelihood by the usual means. From my examination I find his Knee perfectly stiff and his thigh & length of the same side considerably emaciated. It has the appearance of having been in this situation for a number of years. Given under my hand this 16th day of November 1818.

S/ Alexander Erskine

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexander Erskine". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Erskine".

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and date above
S/ David Moore, JQ

[p 3: bottom of the page]

By virtue of the annexed Commission to me directed I have this 16th day of November 1818 at Huntsmith [?], proceeded to take the examination of Robert Cozby who being duly sworn deposes & says

That on or about the 20th day of November 1775, while engaged in the actual Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War, at the Battle of Ninety Six in South Carolina, he was wounded in the left knee by a rifle Ball. He was then serving as a Lieutenant in the company of volunteer Militia commanded by Captain Thomas Langdon, and in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Andrew Williamson. He was not commissioned as Lieutenant but acted as such at the request of the Captain & men of the company. He was disabled by this wound, so that the left knee ever since the wound healed has been stiff & the left leg has considerably withered. He has never received any other wound in this knee, and the present appearance and stiffness of it proceeds entirely from said wound. The day after receiving said wound he was taken to the house of Doctor Martin about twelve miles from the Town of Ninety Six, and put & remained under his care for about six months, when he was removed to the house of John Cozby his father in Calhoun's settlement, Ninety Six District. There he remained eight or nine months, and was then removed to the Stone Fort on the Savannah River & put under the care of Doctor Bigby at the Military Hospital. Here about two years after he received his wound he became able to walk on crutches for the first time after receiving his wound. From the Stone Fort he returned home to his father's, and it was nearly four years after receiving the wound before he became able to walk without crutches. After the first surrender of Charleston to the British [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], the Tories obtain the ascendancy in this part of the Country and the arms were generally given up to them, this affiant being unwilling to give up his

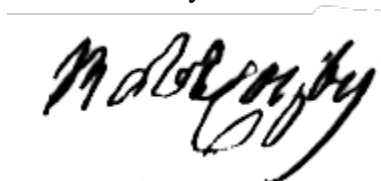
arms, removed to the State of Virginia. Here he was married in the year 1782. The spring following he removed back to his father's in South Carolina. The next year he removed to the State of Georgia where he resided nine years, when he removed to Blount County Tennessee & continued to reside in East Tennessee until the year 1816, when he removed with one of his sons to the Alabama Territory where he now resides in Madison County. That he did not obtain a written discharge from the Service and believes that in the confusion in which the Country then was, none were given to any of his company or Regiment. He did not desert the service as he believes all the officers & man who served with him can prove, and ever since receiving his wound he has been incapable of doing military duty.

After recovering from his wound so as to be able to sit he learned the Taylors [tailor's] trade which he has followed for a livelihood ever since.

His application to the State of South Carolina for a pension, the fate of his application and his former application to the United States are shown in the proceedings had before the Honorable Hugh L. White of Tennessee, which are herewith sent to the War Department.

He cannot say whether he is now on the pension list of South Carolina, but he has received no pension from that state or elsewhere since the month of March 1785 and at his last application for this purpose at Columbia in South Carolina He was told (as he believes by the proper officer & at the office there) that he could receive nothing more from the State of South Carolina. That his remote situation from the seat of Government, the discouragements his former applications had met with, and his want of money to pay the expenses of traveling to collect the necessary documents & evidence, have prevented his renewing his application, since 1804 till now – and that he now hopes to obtain the Justice which has been so long delayed.


S/ Robt. Cozby



Sworn to & subscribed before me at Huntsville the 16th day of November 1818

S/ David Moore, J. Quorum

[p 46: On January 23, 1819 in Huntsville Alabama, John Cozby, 34, gave a supporting affidavit to the claim of his father for a pension; that when he was 4 years old he resided with his father in Elbert County, Georgia; in June 1809 he [John] removed to Madison County Alabama then Mississippi Territory; that his father removed from Elbert County Georgia to Knox County Tennessee and thence to Blount County; thence back to Knox; thence to Bledsoe County Tennessee where he continued to live until 1816 when he removed to the South side of Tennessee River near the Flint River.



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[p 8]

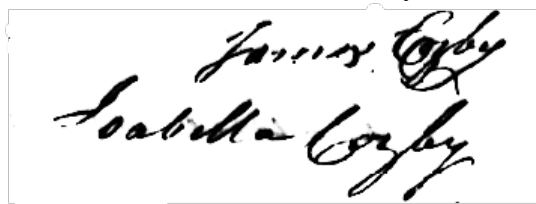
State of Tennessee

This 19th day of June in the year 1820 came before me John Cozby one of the Judges of the Quorum Court of Rhea County in State aforesaid at my office in said County Doctor James

Cosby [sic] and his wife Isabella Cosby Rhea County and State aforesaid, said James Cozby aged about sixty-nine years, being first duly sworn deposes & says, that early in the revolutionary war Robert Cosby [sic] his brother entered as a volunteer in the militia of South Carolina into the Service of the United States, the expedition was commanded by Andrew Williamson, who this deponent believes was a Brigadier General, and as well as this deponent recollects, said Robert served in a company commanded by Captain Robert Anderson, and while he served in this company and some time in the winter of 1777 & 8, as well as this deponent recollects, this deponent & said Robert both under the command of said Williamson, were in a battle with a party of Royalists at Ninety Six in South Carolina; in this battle said Robert was shot by a bullet through the right knee, and in consequence of the wound thus received left the service, and, as this deponent believes, was never regularly discharge, but this deponent knows that said Robert continued in the service from the time he entered it until he received said wound. It was 2 or 3 years before the wound was healed, and the muscles of the knee have ever since until the last time this deponent saw said Robert, which was in the year 1815 or 1816 as well as this deponent recollects, & this leg was crooked & stiff at the knee joint, and been so contracted that the said Robert was thereby rendered incapable of active employment. After the wound was healed he learned the tailoring business by which he in some measure supports himself. Since he was wounded he has resided in the States of South Carolina, Georgia & Tennessee from which in the year __ he moved to Alabama where, as this deponent is informed & believes, he now resides. He has never had much property and would often have been in want had it not been for the aid of this deponent & his other friends. This deponent was well acquainted with his habits until his removal to Alabama and he has always been temperate, and further this deponent sayeth not.

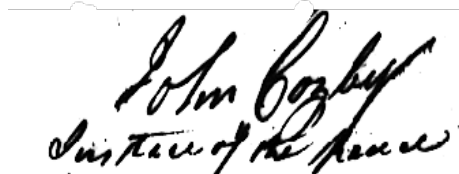
Isabella Cosby being first duly sworn and the foregoing statement of James Cosby being read to her, deposes and says that she believes the same to be correct, that she was the wife of the said James at the time of the before mentioned battle at Ninety Six, and that they then resided about 25 miles from the battleground. She has been acquainted with said Robert Cosby and in habits of intimacy with him for some years since said battle and she knows him to have been disabled in the manner above stated which disability she always understood & believed proceeded from a wound received in the manner above described and further this deponent sayeth not.

S/ James Cozby
S/ Isabella Cozby

A rectangular box containing two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature reads "James Cozby" and the bottom signature reads "Isabella Cozby".

Sworn to & [undeciphered word] before me at the day and plays 1st above mentioned, and that I am well acquainted with the said Doctor James Cosby & Mrs. Isabella Cosby his wife and that in my opinion they are persons of credibility

S/ John Cozby
Justice of the Peace

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "John Cozby" with "Justice of the Peace" written below it.

[p 27]

State of Tennessee Franklin County: This day personally appeared before me William Hutton and being of sound mind after being duly sworn depose & saith that in November in the year 1775 – as he has reason to believe – he was with Robert Cozby in a battle at Ninety Six and that said Cozby was a private in Captain Thomas Langdon's Company under General Williamson and received a wound by a ball through his knee whilst fighting in the defense of his Country. Taken & subscribed before me this 19th of January in the year of our Lord 1821

S/ James McCord, Justice of Quorum

S/ William Hutton, X his mark

[p 43]

State of Alabama Lawrence County

This day personally appeared before me William Sharpe an acting Justice of the County Court of Lawrence County James N Martin¹ who depose and saith that Robert Cozby was a private in Captain Thomas Langdon's Company under the command of General Andrew Williamson of the State of South Carolina during the Revolutionary war in said State in a battle fought at a place called Ninety Six now called Cambridge between the troops of the United States in the troops of the Service of his Britannic Majesty George the third and that said Robert Cozby was then and there wounded whilst engaged in battle in the service of the United States in the left knee in consequence of which wound his knee was so fractured that he was in consequence thereof and still continues unable to make a support for himself by his personal labor, and that said Cozby is a poor man and has not the means to procure a comfortable living without the friendly assistance of his Government.

S/ James N Martin



Sworn to and subscribed before me in due form of law and I believe the said deponent is entitled to full credit.

February 14th 1821

S/ William Sharpe

[p 19]

I find the name of Robert Cozby appears in the Books of this Office as an Annuitant of this State in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, that it is usual to place Annuitants on the pension roll of this State, by Resolution of the Legislature, & not to express the reasons why they are so placed their on –

That he received the sum of twenty-one dollars and forty-two cents per annum from that time until the first of March eighteen hundred & five. Since that time he has received no pension from this office, the reason why does not appear but I presume it was owing to his removal from the State.

The State of South Carolina

Treasury Office Columbia 8th May 1821

I certify the foregoing contains a correct statement from the Books in this office
Given under my hand and Seal of office the date above

S/ John Cunningham, Treasurer Upper Division

¹ [James Nathaniel Martin R6948](#)

Certified by Beaufut Watts
Secretary of State

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing February 14, 1821, for service as a private in the South Carolina Continental line.]

South Carolina Audited Accounts² relating to Robert Cozby AA7
Audited Account Microfilm file No. 1560A
Transcribed by Will Graves 1/7/20

[Note: It appears from the documents in this file that an indent No. 618 Book C was issued to Robert Cozby in the sum of £39.12.9. The documents referred to the veteran as having been wounded but the quality of the images posted online is so poor that the actual details of his service cannot be read. On the reverse of the Indent appears the following endorsement:

I Assign all my Right to the within Indent to Mr. Em^l. Abram [Emmanuel Abram] or his assigns for Value received. Witness my hand this 4th of March 1785

S/ Robt. Cozby

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robt. Cozby". The signature is written in a cursive style with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. It is positioned below the typed name "S/ Robt. Cozby".

² The South Carolina Audited Accounts (AA) are now available online at <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>. To find the AA for a specific person, click on the [Just take me to the search page](#) link, then enter the person's surname first in the "Full name" box followed by a comma and the person's Christian name.