

ROBERT REYNOLDS

(by Lindal Reynolds)

The question now is how short or how long should it be? Too short and I could not convey the true Problems or solutions for the Problems I had to overcome.

Too long and the reader would lose interests for a lot of the solutions has to deal with history.

I will try to keep it short at the same time I will try to convey to the reader some problems they may encounter such as I did. My intentions are to encourage the reader not to give up even when there seems to be no hope.

Before I start I would like to give credit to Janet Mysinger the assistant Manager of my Reynolds Y-DNA Project. She is a charming delightful and Graceful Lady. She has been of great help in my endeavor. Also I like to thank Steven Danderson of the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS, Who has helped me more than anyone else with my research. That being said let me start.

My line came from Virginia to Georgia, to Alabama then on into Florida. I started my research on my Reynolds side back in the late 60s and early 70s. From that research I had my line pinned down to Martin B. Reynolds of Columbia Co, Georgia. Who died in 1859 leaving a will naming my G-G-Grandfather. We all knew Robert was Martin's father. We also knew Robert was a Rev. War Vet.; Robert had received land grants in Georgia that in itself should have proved something I thought.

I was told about a book called Christopher Reynolds and his decedents by S. F. Tillman. I am sure everyone knows about that book by now. At that time I was new, that was the first time I had heard about it. I searched and found Martin B. Reynolds and Robert Reynolds listed just as they should be. I did not question the rest of my line going back to Christopher of Virginia 1622. Entrees of Martin and Robert were correct why should not the rest be? I also found that Tillman was from the same area as Robert. I also found Tillman would have been Martin's third cousin. If he was that closely related he should know my line really well or that was what I thought at the time.

All was going okay I was conformable with my line. I started working on the other sides of the family. Then I decided to take the Y-DNA test. I also joined the Reynolds Family Y-DNA project. That is when things started to change. Gary and Janet informed me I had to have documented proof of each member of my line starting with me and going as far back as I could find a paper trail. I was not all that organized but I was able to supply all the information I need up to Martin B. Reynolds. That is when I started finding that all Records were destroyed for Columbia Co. Georgia and for the old Edgefield District 96 of South Carolina in the war of 1812. To top it all off Caroline County Virginia records were all destroyed or burned twice, once in 1812 and again in 1865. I had no records available I could locate in order to conduct my research. It seemed like a dead end trail with no other possible way around.

I only had one Document I could fall back on. That was Mary Reynolds Rev. War Petition filed in 1855. That Petition is famous. So many times it has been referenced the problem is you can't read it. There is almost no information you are able to retrieve from it. I sent a request to national archives for Robert's war records. When it came back it showed Robert was with the 4th Virginia Regt. Of foot under Capt. John Brent Commanded by Col. Thomas Elliott. On the

Muster Rolls Robert was listed as a Deserter in April, May and June of 1777. I was shocked that did not sound like my family. Martin's had 3 sons who all fought for the south. W. B. was in WWII, Daddy was in Korea with the 101st Air Born Rangers, Uncle Bob was with the Big Red One in Vietnam (67, 68 and 69) -- my son is in the Marines, he spent two tours in Afghanistan. My son has two combat metals both with valor. Robert being a deserter does not fit within my family's history something had to be wrong. I called the National Archives in D.C. They told me the records I received were all that remained of Robert's records. The rest were destroyed, in the war of 1812. Even the White house was burned. They also told me he must have rejoined or have been forgiven in order to have received Rev. War Land Grants. There just were no records to support that theory however.

I had a little talk with one of my Y-DNA matches. He suggested I try the LDS maybe they could help. That was a good move. Steven with the LDS was able to supply me with better copies of Mary's petition. We were able to retrieve more information from that document. From the enhanced photo copies we were able to read on page three a record showing Robert was discharged in 1782. On page four Mary states Robert enlisted sometime in 1776, and enlisted for the term of the war, Robert enlisted in Caroline County Virginia, She was 86 years old, Robert was mustered out in Franktown Virginia, Robert and Mary were married in the old Edgedfield district 96 of South Carolina, on 20th Dec. 1788, by Benj. Harney a minister of the Gospel, Her maiden name was Mary Jones, and Robert Died on 20th of Dec. 1815 in Columbia Co. Georgia. There were a few other details not stated at this time. On page five we learned Mary was unable to supply documents of their marriage or of Robert's discharge. All documents had been destroyed or lost. Mary at the time was 86 her memory was failing her. Mary was unable to supply Robert's Capt. Name or the Command Robert served under. There is more information not stated at this time. I will move on.

About that same time Janet Mysinger my assistant manager with the Reynolds Project sent me a final payment receipt for Robert Reynolds, showing when Robert was mustered out on June 4th 1783. The document was marked on the right top corner in Bold VA. That was another piece of information I needed. That bit of information pointed me in the right direction for my search. It started a snow ball effect of information as I edged forward.

Armed with Janet's new found information and with the information we were able to retrieve from Mary's document Steven with the LDS was able to help me find the break through I was looking for. As we begin to find more information we also used history to piece everything together. We tried to create a time line by placing ourselves in Robert's Shoes. At the same time we went forward as well as backtracked many times making sure we were correct in our account of what took place.

Steven is like a walking encyclopedia when it comes to military history. Below are some of the battles Robert would have been involved in while he was with the 4th Virginia Regt. Note they did not go well.

Note: I am not sure when Robert enlisted with the 4th Virginia Regt. I can say Robert went without pay for at least 3 months and 20 days. Something I will address a little further on.

The 4th Virginia Regt. Was attached to Charles Scott command led by Patton with the Continental Army. Robert would have participated while still with the 4th Virginia in the Battle of Fort Lee on November 20, 1776 which was a successful invasion of New Jersey by British and Hessian forces.

Also the Battle of Iron Works Hill, also known as the Battle of Mount Holly, was a series of minor skirmishes that took place on December 22 and 23, 1776, the British cleaned our slate.

When it was all said and done. In the late part of 1776 the war was not going well for the 4th Virginias. Many of the Virginias were abandoning their ranks for lack of food, general supplies, money and the hope of ever winning the war.

The next Battle was at Trenton which Robert would have taken part.(NOTE: Robert never left the war he just changed Commands) the battle took place on the morning of December 26, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War, after General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River north of Trenton, New Jersey. The hazardous crossing in adverse weather made it possible for Washington to lead the main body of the Continental Army against Hessian soldiers garrisoned at Trenton. After a brief battle, nearly the entire Hessian force was captured, with negligible losses to the Americans. The battle significantly boosted the Continental Army's flagging morale, and inspired reenlistments.

The Continental Army had previously suffered several defeats in New York and had been forced to retreat through New Jersey to Pennsylvania. Morale in the army was low; to end the year on a positive note, George Washington—Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army—devised a plan to cross the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26 and surround the Hessian garrison.

Because the river was icy and the weather severe, the crossing proved dangerous. Two detachments were unable to cross the river, leaving Washington with only 2,400 men under his command in the assault. The army marched 9 miles (14 km) south to Trenton. The Hessians had lowered their guard, thinking they were safe from the American army, and had no long-distance outposts or patrols. Washington's forces caught them off guard and, after a short but fierce resistance, most of the Hessians surrendered. Almost two thirds of the 1,500-man garrison was captured, and only a few troops escaped across Assunpink Creek.

Despite the battle's small numbers, the American victory inspired rebels in the colonies. With the success of the revolution in doubt a week earlier, the army had seemed on the verge of collapse. The dramatic victory inspired soldiers to serve longer and attracted new recruits to the ranks

The Battle of the Assunpink Creek,[7] also known as the Second Battle of Trenton, was a battle between American and British troops that took place in and around Trenton, New Jersey, on January 2, 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, and resulted in an American victory.

Following a surprise victory at the Battle of Trenton early in the morning of December 26, 1776, General George Washington of the Continental Army and his council of war expected a strong British counter-attack. Washington and his council decided to meet this attack in Trenton, and established a defensive position south of the Assunpink Creek.

Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis led the British forces southward in the aftermath of the December 26 battle. Leaving 1,400 men under Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton, Cornwallis advanced on Trenton with about 5,000 men on January 2. His advance was significantly slowed by defensive skirmishing by American riflemen under the command of Edward Hand, and the advance guard did not reach Trenton until twilight. After assaulting the

American positions three times, and being repulsed each time, Cornwallis decided to wait and finish the battle the next day. Washington moved his army around Cornwallis's camp that night and attacked Mawhood at Princeton the next day. That defeat prompted the British to withdraw from most of New Jersey for the winter.

Robert Reynolds would have left the 4th Virginia and enlisted with the Continental army at this point. He was with the conditional Army from March 12th of 1777 until the end of the war. Robert was mustered out on 4th of June 1783.

Note: I checked the records before March and after June for the 4th Virginia Regt. Robert was not listed as a deserter.

The Forage War was a partisan campaign consisting of numerous small skirmishes that took place in New Jersey during the American Revolutionary War between January and March 1777, following the battles of Trenton and Princeton. After both British and Continental Army troops entered their winter quarters in early January, Continental Army regulars and militia companies from New Jersey and Pennsylvania engaged in numerous scouting and harassing operations against the British and German troops quartered in New Jersey.

The British troops wanted to have fresh provisions to consume, and also required fresh forage for their draft animals and horses. General George Washington ordered the systematic removal of such supplies from areas easily accessible to the British, and companies of American militia and troops harassed British and German forays to acquire such provisions. While many of these operations were small, in some cases they became quite elaborate, involving more than 1,000 troops. The American operations were so successful that British casualties in New Jersey (including those of the battles at Trenton and Princeton) exceeded those of the entire campaign for New York.

Below shows when and why Robert decided to enlist with the continental Army.

Grayson's Additional Continental Regiment was an American infantry unit that served for two years and three months in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Like other Additional Regiments, Grayson's remained directly under George Washington's control, unlike state regiments. Authorized in January 1777, the unit's nine companies were recruited from the colonies of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Raised by Colonel William Grayson, the regiment participated in actions in Northern New Jersey in early 1777, at Brandywine in September 1777, at Germantown in October 1777, and at Monmouth in June 1778. In April 1779 the regiment was absorbed by Gist's Additional Continental Regiment and ceased to exist.

Grayson was well liked in Robert's neck of the woods. Robert moved from the 4th Virginia Regt. To the Continental Army. Robert went from being like a national guard to joining the Special Forces or becoming a Marine of sort. He was finally paid, had a uniform and supplies unlike before. Of course the Virginians are a proud lot and they still counted Robert as a deserter. For he had left the Virginia forces for the Continental Army. The Reynolds Family was consider one of Virginia own. It was an insult and a slap in the face to see a Reynolds abandon the Virginia line. As Steven said it may have been one of the reasons why Robert left Virginia for South Carolina after the war.

I found many documents for Robert in the Continental Army. There are over 45 payrolls records and 3 years of muster rolls. I have a document which states appointment or enlistment of Robert

Reynolds under Capt. Mitchell's Co. Commanded by Col. William Grayson (from above). Commencement of pay March 12th 1777 with credit of time served of 3 months and 20 days which does not prove when Robert enlisted with the 4th Virginia Regt. It does however prove the Continentals were aware he had served with them in the battle up to and during that time also Robert had not been paid for his services. Robert was paid on that very day for the 3 months and 20 day for time served. That says something all in itself. Robert had the respect of his commanding officers. Anyone who knows anything about our military knows these facts.

I have documents showing Robert was at, Middlebrook encampment, 2nd Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Red Bank, (Note: Robert was listed as sick after the battle of Red Bank) Also Note: Robert was with the Continental Army in winter quarters at Valley Forge, Robert was at the signing of the Treaty of Alliance with France, The Battle of Monmouth, with the Continental Army winter quarters at Middlebrook encampment, the Battle of Stony Point, with the Continental Army winter quarters at Morristown, Also from his discharge payment information alone with his discharge location it is most probable and about a 90% certainty he was at the battle of Yorktown which would have been the last battle of the war. As I said before he was mustered out at Franktown, VA on the date of June 4th 1783.

I want to cover an issue or question which at one point someone will ask. How do I know this Robert is the same Robert of the 4th Virginia, the husband of Mary Jones and the Robert of my line?

I am very happy I brought that to my attention "Smile someone". Without having to go through a very lengthy process. Which I am prepaid for if anyone wants to challenge me on my reasoning. I say bring it on bring your guns out blazing but be prepared if I return fire. You better be prepared for battle.

Short and to the point. I have been researching for months all the possible Roberts born within a twenty year time frame as my Robert. By the process of elimination I have learned what to look for. I also found a 100+ years old book. Titled "Virginia state Library list of Revolutionary war soldiers of Virginia who fought with the Continental Army – Special report of department of archives and history for 1912 – archives H. J Eckenrode, Richmond 1913" -- Within its covers it has only one Robert listed for VA who fits the bill. It also recognizes Robert as being with the 4th Virginia Regt. and the Continental Troops. Robert records with the 4th Virginia Regt. Together with the muster pay roll of the Continental Troops which has the VA notation plainly marked on the Department of Archives Cards, Along with the information this book provides proves a great deal. I also have the original documents I can compare. I will not say it is a 100% but you better be able to present a good case to prove to me otherwise.

I called the library of Congress and spoke with a representative. I asked the representative, has anyone ever filed a pension application on this continental Robert. The answer was no. They also have no record of his marriage or whatever happened to him after the war not even his death or his children. That only supports my theory that Robert of the 4th Virginia is the same as the Robert of the Continental troop under Col. William Grayson. It's a shame Mary's claim was rejected. For Robert would have wanted her to receive what she and his children were entitled to. Now after 230 plus years I will be able to clear my G-G-G-Grandfather's name and give the family the peace we all deserve knowing he was a hero not a disgrace. Look how long his name has been dishonored. He was one of our founding fathers who fought for our rights we all enjoy today. I only wish I knew where his grave was so I could put up a monument in his honor. I

Robert went from being a disgraced as a deserter to becoming a true American hero. Maybe that is all I was put here for, I Hope I am able to see that my G-G-G-Great-grandfather's records is sit straight showing he was not a deserter he would be happy. If so the rest of my line will be able to be proud of our name and who we really are once again.

Signed By: Lendel Reynolds

Credit it due to Wikipedia online. For their Historical information.

To the church of Jesus Christ of LDS and to Steven Danderson of the Family Research Center.

Credit is also due to Janet Mysinger of the Reynolds Family Y-DNA project.

A Short summery from above.

Robert Reynolds was born in Caroline County Virginia in the year 1761.

1. Robert enlisted with the 4th Virginia Regt. Of foot under Capt. John Brent's Co. Commanded by Col. Thomas Elliott sometimes in 1776.
2. Robert was at the battle of Brandywine. There was much confusion and loss of live. Also take Notice: Col. William Grayson was sent by George Washington himself to recruit men for the Continental Army. He recruited most of his men form northern VA, Del, and Maryland.
3. Robert Enlisted with the Continental Troops under Capt. Nathaniel Mitchell's commanded by William Grayson himself on March 12th 1777, On his enlistment Document it shows Robert was given credit for 3 mouths and 20 days for time served; which shows the conventional recognized Robert had prier service with the 4th Va. Also he had not been paid during that amount of time.
4. On April, May and June Robert is listed as a deserter. Tactically He could be considered a deserter form the Va. Line to the Continental Army. It was like moving form a state national guard to the Marines. Robert went with a higher authority.
5. Documents show he was mustered out on June 4th 1783 when he received his final Pay. With these facts it is clear Robert was no deserter.
6. Robert Married Mary Jones on Dec. 20th 1788.
7. Robert received Land under the Rev. War service act. In Ga.
8. Robert dies in Columbia Co. Ga. In 1815
9. Mary Reynolds Pension petition appellation was in 1855 it was rejected for she could not supply the information need.