



Robert Mims: Service and Testimony Relating to Jacob Banks, a Black veteran

Robert Mims was a white Revolutionary War veteran from Goochland County, Virginia, whose sworn pension testimony provided crucial verification of the service later claimed by Jacob Banks, also of Goochland County.

Mims's declaration places him at Albemarle Barracks between 1779 and 1781, where he performed extended wagon and supply service in support of the confinement of the Convention Army prisoners captured at Saratoga. His affidavit describes repeated transport of food and military stores from Elk Hill and Elk Island, partly the property of Thomas Jefferson, as well as from Lewis's Mills and Richmond, with deliveries made to the barracks quartermaster, Christopher Clarke.

These duties corresponded to the operational environment in which Banks served as a wagoner supporting prisoner operations at Albemarle Barracks. Mims served under Captain William H. Miller, an officer associated with Goochland County units active in the same theater during the same period.

When Banks later applied for a federal pension, Mims's testimony independently verified the existence and duration of wagon service at Albemarle Barracks, including the transport of supplies sourced from Jefferson's property, confirming the operational context of Banks's service.

Robert Mims's affidavit illustrates the role of white veterans in providing credible testimony for African American soldiers' pension claims and the reliance of the early federal system on firsthand verification of service.

*This profile accompanies the profile of African American wagoner Jacob Banks.
Activate to view larger image,

**NATIONAL
LIBERTY
MEMORIAL**

Maurice Barboza
Founder & CEO

National Mall Liberty Fund DC
703.299.0408
libertyfunddc.com