

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Rakestraw R8565

Rhoda

f17VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/4/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Georgia Newton County: Personally came before me A. M. Ramsey a Justice of the peace in Newton County who attended in person at the house of the herein after named affixed, on this the first day of September in the year of our Lord 1853 Mrs. Rhoda Rakestraw, in person, who having been injured by a fall she recently received, and by reason of said injury & her extreme old age, is unable to appear in open Court; being confined to her house, and who being sworn according to law, deposes and says, that she is ninety-one years of age, or there about's, that she is the widow of John Rakestraw deceased; that she never intermarried with anyone else, since the death of her said husband; that she & her said deceased husband, her maiden name being Rhoda Lane [?]¹ were married by Nathaniel Jones Esquire at the house of Jesse Lain in the State of North Carolina on the 30 day of July in the year 1783 that she & her said deceased husband lived together as man & wife in the bonds of wedlock, lawfully joined, until on or about the 20th day of March in the year 1794 in the State of Georgia when her said deceased husband departed from home; that while her said deceased husband was absent he died, as she was informed, and believes, that she never saw him after he left his home as above stated; that her deceased husband served two towers [tours] in the Revolutionary war as he stated, and as she believes, namely on or about the year 1780 and 1781 one term as a drafted soldier the other as a volunteer, and Ensign in Captain Robert Rakestraw's Company; but can't say what Colonel, or General Commanded, but believes her deceased husband served the full term, served by the soldiers of those years as above stated, he often spoke in his lifetime of the trying years of the Revolution. She believes her deceased husband was honorably discharged; but that said discharges have all been lost or destroyed; that she never applied to the United States for any pension which the laws may have entitled her to, heretofore, because she was in easy circumstances, but that now her circumstances are such as to induce her to ascertain whether she may not be entitled under the laws of the United States to receive a pension or bounty land or both, and if so, she desires to obtain such allowance, that with a view to ascertain this fact and obtain such pension or bounty land or both, she now appoints Wortherington G. Sneath of Washington District her attorney to prosecute to a conclusion this her claim, if any, hereby ratifying all that he made lawfully do in the premises, that she makes this Declaration all the material averments of which she is prepared to prove, so far as in her power to do so, for the purpose of obtaining such pension and bounty land or both as she may be entitled to as the widow of the said John Rakestraw, under the laws of the United States provided in virtue of his

¹  [Rhoda Love; Rhoda Laine; Rhoda Lain???]

said services.

Sworn to and subscribed before made this the 1st day of September 1853
S/ Alfred M Ramsey, JP S/ Rhoda Rakestraw, RR her mark

[f p. 6: On January 21, 1854 in Macon County Alabama, Winnafrad Rogers [Winifred Rogers?], A resident of said County and state, gave testimony that she is the sister of Rhoda Rakestraw; that she, affiant, was present at the marriage of John Rakestraw deceased to Rhoda Lane which took place at her father's house in Rate County North Carolina; that she does not recall the date of the marriage but that it was shortly after the close of the revolutionary war; that she, affiant, has been informed that John Rakestraw died in North Carolina about the year 1821. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

State of Georgia County of Newton: to wit

On this 17th day of January in the year [paper folded and date obscured] before me Manson Glass one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of the County of Newton aforesaid being a Court of Record, personally appeared Rhoda Rakestraw who, by reason of bodily infirmity and her extreme old age and debility could not appear before me in open Court and at whose house I have, therefore, attended in person, and who is a resident of the County aforesaid, and is 91 years of age, and who being sworn according to law, deposes and says, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of the 7th July 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows," says that she is 91 years of age, that she is the widow of John Rakestraw, deceased, who was an Ensign in Captain Robert Rakestraw's Company, Colonel Campbell's Regiment, under command of General Green [Nathanael Greene], during portions of the years 1780 and 1781, that he served two tours, one in 1780 as a drafted soldier & the other in 1781, as a volunteer, that in one of those tours, he held the post of Ensign in his brother's Company, Captain Robert Rakestraw which tour she thinks was in 1781, That she remembers to have heard him say that he was appointed press master, and that he was at the battle of Guilford courthouse [March 15, 1781], and also in the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781] in which battles he often spoke of the extreme hardships he endured, that she does not remember when & where he was drafted & volunteered for the two tours he served, nor how long he served in each tour, but knows that he served out his full time, each tour, whatever it was, that she is not sure as to the names of the General & Colonel under whom he served, other than above given, she thinks is correct, That she is sure he served under his Brother Captain Robert Rakestraw, That while her deceased husband was in the service of his Country, That she with her own hands spun and wove the close, and made clothing for the soldiers, That she cannot say when & where he was discharged, as all his papers have long since been destroyed, That she knows of no witness living by whom the services of her deceased husband can be proved, than the one herewith sent, That she has no documentary evidence of the facts she within Swears to, she remembers, he did enter one of his tours of service in Halifax County in the State of Virginia, but when she cannot say – That she was married to the said John Rakestraw on the 31st day of July in the year 1783 by Nathaniel Jones Esquire, That her maiden name was Rhoda Lane, and that they lived together as husband & wife in the state of North Carolina a few years, and then moved to the State of Georgia, where they lived together as husband & wife, That the said John Rakestraw left home on a trip to the Western Country and on his way stopped in Edgecombe District North Carolina, that he there died as she was informed and believes in the year 1821 on or about the 25th of October, That she can't say positively as to the letter that conveyed the intelligence of his death

has been lost, but that he is dead, and she is welcome thence, and thinks his death must have taken place as above stated, That she was not married to him, prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the 1st of January 1794, namely at the time above stated, that she is now a widow, and has never married a 2nd time after the death of her said husband, and that she has never before the present time made any application for a pension, That her husband, during his lifetime, never was a pensioner of the United States, that she is very weak and infirm by reason of old age & disease, and is unable to appear in open Court to make this declaration, which he now makes in presence of the honorable Judge Manson Glass one of the Judges of the inferior Court of Newton County in the State of Georgia, a Court of Record, as I am informed and believes, That she submits here with the accompanying proofs of the date of her marriage with her said deceased husband, His service & death, and further said Rhoda does not say.

S/ McKendree Tucker

S/ Rhoda Rakestraw, RR her mark

S/ Robert M. Rakestraw

Robert M. Rakestraw

State of Georgia Walton County: to wit

Before me William Y. Allen a Justice of the peace for said County on this 18th day of January 1854 Milner Echols, who being sworn, deposeth and saith that he was acquainted with John Rakestraw. That they were raised in sight of each other I lived in Halifax & the said John in Pittsylvania Counties of Virginia, That the said John Rakestraw he thinks some ten or twelve years older than himself, That he had an uncle who served with the said John Rakestraw in the Revolution as his uncle stated to him, That it was the common report that the said John was a soldier, That he thinks he served about the year 1780 or 1781, That he can't say positively as to dates, but thinks it was about the time as above stated, That he did not see him in the Army, but believes he was a soldier, That he knows he the said John Rakestraw did serve as press master for General Green, That he had a difficulty with one David Logan because he pressed his horse for the Army, That the said John Rakestraw married one Rhoda Lane, That he did not see them married, but knows that they lived together as husband & wife in the State of Virginia, that he moved the said John Rakestraw and Rhoda his wife to the State of Georgia in the year 1787, That he knows they lived together in Georgia as husband & wife, That he has understood that the said John Rakestraw was dead, That he believes he is dead, That he has understood that he died in North Carolina, but can't say what date, but knows that Rhoda Rakestraw was the wife of John Rakestraw deceased and further said Milner Echols does not say.

S/ Milner Echols