

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Worthington S1272

fn57PA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/1/11

[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 Kentucky County of Muhlenberg: Sct.

On the 24th day of June 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the County Court of Muhlenberg County, in the State aforesaid William Worthington a resident in the County of Mecklenburg and State of Kentucky, aged seventy-two 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That on the 4th of June 1781, he volunteered to serve on an expedition against the North Western Indians, commanded by General George R Clarke [George Rogers Clark] of Virginia. He resided at the time in Westmoreland County and State of Pennsylvania, and served as a private under Colonel Loughery [Archibald Lochry] and Captain William Campbell. They marched to Davor's ferry on the Monongahela River, thence through Washington County Pennsylvania; to Wheeling on the Ohio River in the State of Virginia. That on the day previous to their arrival, General Clark had left Wheeling with the main body of the Army, for the Falls of the Ohio River. That immediately upon their arrival at Wheeling Colonel Lochry dispatched an express by water, after General Clark desiring him to wait his approach; and then Colonel Lochry, with his Regiment, soon after proceeded down the River. That having gone some distance down the River, without having overtaken General Clark, they landed, or were in the act, of doing so, not far below the mouth of the Miami River, and just above the mouth of what is now called Loughery's Creek [Lochry's Creek] – when they were attacked¹ by the Indians in great force, under Brant [Joseph Brant], a Mohawk chief, assisted by James and George Girty and the result was, that the whites were all either killed or taken prisoners – which event occurred in August. That he was among the captives, and believes that Captain Campbell and Colonel Lochry were both killed after they had surrendered, at the insistence of one of the Girtys, who had given them the most positive assurance of protection, in case they would surrender. That he and Captain Campbell were captured at the same instant together – and he saw Colonel Lochry a few minutes after the surrender, tied & surrounded by the savages – but he was shortly afterwards led away by the Indians, and never again shall, or heard of those gentlemen. Captain Robert Orr and Captain Thomas Stoakly [Thomas Stokely] were amongst the prisoners. That he was taken by the Indians, up the big Miami River – and the second day after the defeat, were met by two companies of whites, the one commanded by McKee and the other, by a Canadian. Upon meeting with them, a Council was held which continued for three days, I to which a large

¹ An excellent account of the engagement known as Lochry's Defeat is posted at <http://boards.ancestry.com/topics.Military.amerrev.general/803/mb.ashx>

number of the Indians joined the white companies, and set off, as I understood, for the Falls of the Ohio River. These companies as I understood from persons who had been with the Indians for some time, were assigned as a reinforcement to act against General Clark, but not arriving in time, General Clark was suffered to pass unmolested. But Colonel Lochry's express having been taken by the Indians, they prepared to attack him, which they did successfully, as has been related. Upon breaking up at the Council before mentioned he was taken, with others, to upper Sandusky, – where he was kept about six weeks – and was then, sometime in October, taken to Detroit – and after remaining there some weeks in the hands of the Indians, was at length disposed of, and transferred to the British. That shortly thereafter, he was put on board of a vessel, with others, and having crossed Lake Erie, commanded above the falls of Niagara marched round them to Fort Niagara, and was then sent by water to an Island in the St. Lawrence River about forty miles above Montréal. There was a small fort on this Island, in which he was confined with other prisoners, until about the first of July 1782, when he with 9 other prisoners were taken to Montréal as witnesses against a British officer, who commanded the guard on the Island, and who had treated the prisoners badly. In this town he was put in close jail and remained there until the first of November, when they broke jail in the night and he and 9 others (of the 30 prisoners then in jail) resolved to attempt their escape and after many privations and dangers, he with five of the party reached the frontiers, (the other four having been taken) and arrived at home, in the County of Westmoreland and State of Pennsylvania, the 20th of December 1782, having been in the service and a prisoner of war, one year six months and sixteen days as a private. That he received no discharge having been taken a prisoner, and having made his escape as before stated. He served with no Continental troops, and met with no Continental Officers, Colonel Lochry's Regiment being Militia, and having been disappointed in meeting with General Clark, as before related. That he has no documentary evidence of his service. That he was born on the first of May 1761, in Berkeley County Virginia. That he has no record of his age. He had one, taken from the record made by his father, but some years ago his house was burnt, when this was also consumed. That he lived in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, as before stated, when he entered the service – where he continued to reside until February 1786, when he left there for Kentucky, and arrived at Vienna, on Green River, now in Daviess County Kentucky, in March 1786, where he resided 12 or 13 years, when he moved to his present residence – then in Logan County but now Muhlenberg – where he now lives. That he volunteered into the service as before stated. That he served with no Continental Regiment and knew no Continental Officers as already stated – and served with no Militia Regiments, other than Colonel Lochry's, which was detached from the main Army, and defeated, as before mentioned. That he is acquainted with Charles F. Wing, James Weir, [indecipherable name] Moses [indecipherable name] in his present neighborhood and who can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. That he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to the whole of his services – that he can prove part of them by William Roark,² who was a prisoner at the same time – and a part by Anthony Thompson.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.
Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

² [William Roark S32495](#)



[Isaac Bard, a clergyman, and James Weir gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

The deposition of William Roark, taken at the house of Michael Roark in the County of Gallatin and State of Illinois on the 14th day of July 1832. This deponent, being of lawful age, and first duly sworn, deposeth as follows

Question. Were you in the service of the State of Virginia during the Revolutionary War, and if so, state what service.

Answer. I was. I belonged to Captain Catt's company of drafted militia man, under the command of Colonel Loughery [Archibald Lochry] is all the Colonel that I knew we marched from the County of __ in the state of Virginia in the month of June or July 1781, to Wheeling, and joined Brigadier General Clarke – but in descending the River, some distance below Wheeling, I got separated from the Army, and was overtaken by Colonel Lochry, and his Corps, until we met with a party of Indians below the mouth of the Big Miami, and was defeated by them.

Question. Were you not acquainted with William Worthington, and if so, state what you know of his service.

Answer. I was. He belonged to Colonel Lochry's Corps, who overtook me, I believe in July 1781, with whom I remained as before stated until we were defeated. William Worthington was also taken prisoner – but were separated until about the next October when we again met in Detroit, both of us prisoners. We were then delivered over to the British, and in the latter part of November or first of December, by them taken to an Island about 40 miles above Montréal, where we were kept as prisoners until June 1782, at which time he was sent to Montréal – from which place, I have always understood he made his escape, the October or November

Question. Have you not been acquainted with the said William Worthington since?

Answer. Yes. I lived many years a neighbor to him in the County of Muhlenberg and State of Kentucky, where he now lives.

Question. Are you not certain, that the William Worthington who lives in Muhlenberg County and State of Kentucky is the same identical William Worthington whom you mentioned in the foregoing deposition?

Answer. I am very certain he is the same.

Question. Was not the said William Worthington descending the River to join General Clark, when he was taken?

Answer – He was.

Question. How long was the said William Worthington in the service?

Answer. I cannot state positively – but I know he was in the service including the time he was a prisoner, from July 1781 until June 1782, and believed he continued a prisoner until November, but did not see him after June 1782. He must also have been in the service previous to July 1781, as that is the time we met at the Ohio River.

And further this deponent sayeth not.

S/ William Roark, X his mark

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$56.21 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year and 11 months and 26 days service as a private in the Pennsylvania militia.]