

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Joshua Orr S1577

f10VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/27/12

[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 Tennessee Fayette County: On this the 12th day of July in the year of our Lord 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting Joshua Orr, a resident of Fayette County & State aforesaid aged seventy-two years on the 15th of August 1833, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, to wit, That he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer to the best of his recollection in the month of August 1779, under Captain John Smith from Frederick County, Virginia where applicant at that time resided. That he was marched to Cabin Point, which place the British had evacuated, when they arrived, that he was then marched to Petersburg and discharged. That he received a discharge from Captain Smith which, with all other papers he had was burnt in the year 1827, when he had his house burnt. He was out in this expedition to the best of his recollection eight weeks. He then remained at home in Frederick County Virginia, until about the first of August 1781, when he again went as a volunteer under Captain Rutherford, he was transferred several times from one Company to another until about the first of October 1781, when he joined General Washington's Army at Little York, where he remained until Cornwallis surrendered [October 19, 1781]. He was then marched as a guard to Winchester Barracks in Virginia, Frederick County. He remained a short time at Winchester Barracks, from whence he went as a wagonner to old Williamsburg, where he remained with the French Army until sometime in the spring of 1782. He was at that time in the service of Captain Rutherford who was acting as wagon master. From old Williamsburg we marched to Boston, under General Gustine, as I believe who was commanding the French Army. We arrived at Boston in the month of December 1782, where we remained only a few days when he received another discharge from a French officer whose name he cannot recollect, which discharge was burnt at same time & manner above stated. Applicant further states that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot recollect to a day the precise length of time that he served, but to the best of his recollection he was in the service in all one year and 7 months, during which time he was engaged in no other pursuit or business than serving as a soldier. That he knows of no person by whom he can prove his service as a soldier, having many years since removed to the West, leaving in Virginia all his acquaintances & friends with whom he has had no correspondence. He knows of no documentary evidence that he can procure to prove his services. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Joshua Orr, X his mark

Sworn to & subscribed in open Court this 12th day of July 1833

S/ Thos. C. Hudson, Clk

The Court then propounded to help cut the following interrogatories, which were answered as follows –

1st Where & in what year were you born?

Ans. In St. Mary's County, Maryland, in the year 1762

[2nd Do you have a record of your age and if so where is it?]

2. Had a record of my age which was burnt in 1827 which was contained in my father's Bible.

3. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since and where do you now live?

Ans. 2nd I was living when I went into the service in Frederick County Virginia, where I remained until 1797 when I moved to Murray County, Tennessee, where I remained until the month of February 1830, and then moved to Fayette County in this State where I now live.

3. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute

Ans. 3. My declaration shows, to which I refer.

4th. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you were in the service

Ans. 4th. I am old and efficient in memory as to the names of the officers except those mentioned in my declaration. General Morgan was the only officer with whom I was personally acquainted or whose name I now recollect except those above stated.

S/ Joshua Orr, X his mark

[Eli McNabb, a clergyman, and James A. Heaslet gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]