

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John O'Rear S31285

f45VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/14/12

[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 Kentucky Montgomery County: SS

On this 8th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open Court before Silas W Robbins the sole and Presiding Judge for the County and Circuit of Montgomery, now sitting, John O'Rear a resident of Montgomery County State aforesaid aged 83 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 act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832. That he entered the service of the U S under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

That he first volunteered for a tour of nine months in the militia of Virginia in Fauquier County in the year 1776 I think in April under Captain Leonard Holmes & Colonel G R Clark [George Rogers Clark] & W. Lynn as Major on an expedition to the territory of Illinois. We marched from the County above stated to Readstone [Redstone] (having marched through Virginia & part of Pennsylvania) here we took water and descended the Ohio River to the falls. Here we rendezvoused after the arrival of some Militia from other parts of Virginia. We then continued down the River to within something like 40 miles from its mouth at which place we landed and commenced our march through the wilderness of that Territory to the place of our intended destination piloted by a man by the name of Sanders who professed to be acquainted with the Country, which was Caho [?]¹ as well as I now recollect and as the object of our Expedition was to take a British Governor resident at that place (Kaskaskia). We accordingly after a prudent and very hazardous march through the wilderness arrived at the place and without much opposition took his Lordship (Philip Rosebbave [Philip Rocheblave] as well as I recollect was his name) and commenced our march let me back to Virginia and upon arriving in Kentucky we were relieved of him by Captain ManGaney [?]² who escorted him to Richmond Virginia. I however during this Expedition for something like half the time acted as a Sergeant having been appointed by my Captain as I had to conduct myself as to give confidence in my integrity and ability to discharge that office. I however after my having arrived at home from whence I started I received a discharge for nine months service having been gone that long in the employ of the government. Shortly after my arrival at home I was ordered out on an excursion to prevent the British from landing on the shores of the Potomac & James Rivers under different officers for a

1

Caho.

2

ManGaney

term of at least 2 months, the next was a 3 months tour from same County under Captain Obanion [O'Bannon?] & Col. Churchwell & after him Colonel Dennis after him Brent & then Nickles [Nichols ?] who continued to the end of our Tour. We on this Expedition marched to Williamsburg and there remained until Cornwallis compelled us to abandon the place and marched back & was discharged for 3 months which I think was sometime in the year 1781 [last digit written over and unclear].

I was then drafted for 18 months more but having met with an opportunity to hire a substitute I did so for which I paid a considerable sum of money and I remained home. He states that he was born in the state of Virginia & County of Prince William from thence moved to Kentucky about 23 years ago & County of Montgomery where he has resided ever since and now resides in Kentucky Montgomery County.

He hereby relinquishes all and every claim 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/ John O'Rear, Senior, X his mark

[Buckner H Payne, a teacher of the Christian Mission [?] of the Baptist Church and Alexis Tipton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Kentucky Montgomery County: SS

On this 6th day of May 1833 Personally appeared in open [court] before the Justices of the County Court in and for the County aforesaid now sitting John O'Rear Senior a resident of the said County & State aforesaid aged eighty-four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following supplemental declaration to his original declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed 7th of June 1832.

He states by way of Supplement to his original declaration that he went from the County & State named in said declaration also in the same month & year But now recollects it was on the first of April in the year 1778 – And under the officers therein named. And also the length of time therein mentioned (to wit) for the term of nine months But the person who drew his original declaration made a mistake as to the grade he served in for he now states that he served during the nine months as orderly Sergeant & received orderly Sergeant's pay during the time above named and was discharged by whom he has forgotten but thinks it was his Captain. He states that by reason of old age and great debility and consequent loss of memory he is unable to state all the minute show of his services he also states that there was a mistake as to the second Tour he served in his original declaration for as to the two months therein named he never intended to claim pay for he had forgotten the precise length of time he served in those short tours. But distinctly remembers of a three months tour he served under the officers as named in his original declaration, & in the year therein mentioned but as to the particular time of the year he says he cannot say with certainty but well recollects he on this Tour of duty acted also as an orderly Sergeant during the 3 months Tour, and was discharged for that length of time but by whom he has also forgotten. Having now stated the particular length of time he served & the grade he served in in both cases, he is advised it is sufficient.

He states as to the 2nd Interrogatory that he has a record of his age at home.

And as to the 7th Interrogatory not answered in his original declaration That he knows of

Henry Darnall [??]³ a clergyman & John Daniel both of whom are acquainted with him and live in his neighborhood that can testify as to his character for truth and his reputation in his neighborhood as a soldier of the revolution.

Sworn to and subscribed the day & year aforesaid

S/ John O'Rear

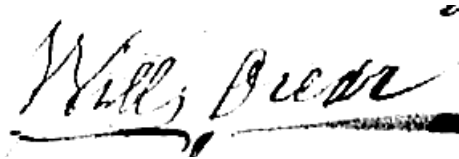


[Henry Darnall, a clergyman, and John Daniel gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

On this 23rd day of April 1833 – Personally appeared before Levy Y. Millspaugh a Justice of the Peace for Montgomery County & State of Kentucky William O'Rear of said County & State and made oath that he is and has been acquainted with John O'Rear who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing original and supplemental declaration. That he became acquainted with him in Prince William County Virginia. And I swear that John open ear who has subscribed as aforesaid went on the Expedition to Illinois as named in his original & supplemental declaration. I was not a long but have a distinct recollection of his starting & returning and that he was gone for nine months on said Expedition and that he started in the capacity he states & returned & was discharged in said capacity as set forth in said original & supplemental declaration. I have also a personal knowledge of the three months Tour as named in his declaration both original & supplemental. That I was a long myself & know that he served in the capacity he states during the time above named. This affiant states he is 71 years of age on the first day of December last.

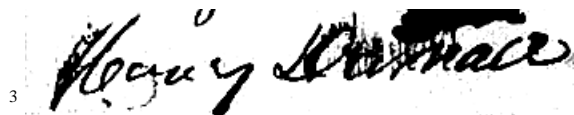
Given under my hand & seal the day and date above written.

S/ Wills Orear



On this 22nd day of April 1833 Robert Garrott⁴ a resident of Montgomery County State of Kentucky personally appeared before me whose certificate is hereto annexed and also a Justice of the Peace in and for said County & State and made oath that he is well acquainted with John O'Rear who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing Original & Supplemental Declaration that he became acquainted with him in the County of Prince William that he moved from thence to Fauquier & from that County I have a personal knowledge of the Tour of 9 months, to Illinois as stated in his supplemental declaration. I was along on that Tour & know that he served in the capacity he states. And as to the last of his military services, I have not a personal knowledge. But I do know that John O'Rear is and always has been a man of truth and a good moral character. Given under my hand and seal this 22nd April 1833

S/ Robt Garrett, X his mark



³

⁴ Robert Garrett (Garrott) FPA S31054

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$46.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months and a sergeant for 4 months in the Virginia service.]