

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Roark S32495

fn45PA/NJ

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/31/11

[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 Illinois Gallatin County: Sct.

On this 15th day of March 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Thomas C Browne Judge of the Circuit Court for the County aforesaid now sitting, William Roark a resident of said County in the State of Illinois aged seventy-three years in June next, 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 June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as therein stated. That he was drafted in the service in the County of Sussex State of New Jersey first under Captain John Fleet and served a tour under him during which time we were marched to Amboy in said State. The next tour of a similar service was under Captain Mark Thompson, during which tour we were marched to a place called Bound Brook, the next tour was under Captain John Maxfield, the several tours comprised a time of __

I do not recollect many of the United States officers except those mentioned and General Washington who was about this time in New Jersey, and General William Maxfield the brother of my Captain, some where during this time Captain John Maxfield received a Commission of Captain in the Regulars, and enlisted a company, at the Grand Camps and I enlisted in it under him, I was at the Battle of Millstone and took a prisoner at or near the settlement of Monmouth. I had lived with an uncle who was acquainted with the General and he came down and got me off from further service at this time. I moved and settled on the Monongahela waters but at what particular period these transactions transpired I am unable to recollect, as I have no record of them or of my age, in the year 1782, I think in June or maybe in August or September, and order came from General Clark [George Rogers Clark] for men and there was a draft, he came down to Allegheny, I again entered the service under Captain Michael Cott, and went to Wheeling on the Ohio River where we were to join General Clark, but he had gone on down the River, Colonel Lowry [Archibald Lochry] had not come on. The General intention was to go to the falls of the Ohio, to get a reinforcement from the Kentucky settlements thence to proceed against the Indian Towns, we started under Colonel Lowry or Laughery [Lochry] and had nearly overtaken General Clark, but got defeated by the Indians in June or July about 10 miles below the Big Miami as it was said, some said it was further, all were killed but forty-seven who were taken prisoners among which I was also taken, the Indians took us to their Towns and after some time we were taken to Detroit, from Detroit we were taken to Canada and confined about forty-six miles from Montréal where we were kept 10 months or upwards then we heard of the surrender of Cornwallis at York, Then under British orders we were taken to Québec and put on board of a ship and taken to New York where we were discharged on parole (7th of March 1783) for there was not prisoners to exchange for us, I heard afterwards the British got prisoners for us and I got

home in January or February 1784. After this time I resided on the waters of the Monongahela from whence I moved to Muhlenberg County where I resided 10 years thence I moved to Gallatin County Illinois in the year 1810 where I have resided ever since. I hereby declare I have received no compensation from the government of the US and that I relinquish all claims to a pension except the present.

Sworn to & subscribed this 15th of March 1833 S/ William Roark, X his mark
[Jesse Pearce, a clergyman, and William Sutton gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Illinois Gallatin County: Sct.

In the Circuit Court of said County at the September Term 1833

William Roark who at the last term of this Court to wit at the March Term 1833, on the 15th day of March 1833, appeared and made his declaration for a pension under the act of Congress of the 7th of June 1832, personally appeared this day in open court and being first duly sworn deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and bodily infirmity and in consequence [loss] of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades. That he served under Captain Jno Fleet three months, in the next tour under Captain Mark Thompson three months, in the last of the three first tours, of this affiant under Captain Jno Maxfield three months all of which tours of duty in the service of the United States were performed by this applicant, as a private in the early part of the war of the American Revolution. He further states that in his enlistment, or enrollment, under Captain Jno Maxfield at the time when as is stated in the said petition he was released, he believes he was in service as a private maybe one month, he further states he was in the actual service of the United States under Captain Michael Catt for and during the term of three months or more as a private, and he further states that he was either in actual service or a prisoner of war from the time mentioned in his Declaration until the time of his return as also mentioned in the said declaration which he here repeats to have been from at least first of July 1781 until January 1783. He further states that he is acquainted with Joseph Hayes, Michael Jones, William Sutton, William Murphy, Michael Roark, John Choissen, Jephthah Hardin and Jesse Pearce and who he believes know him and can testify as to his veracity and honesty.

He hereby declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any State.

S/ William Roark, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed this 13th September 1833 before me

S/ Leonard White, Clerk

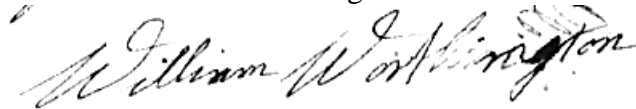
The Deposition of William Worthington¹ aged seventy-three years taken on behalf of William Roark a revolutionary Soldier who being first sworn deposeth & saith

That in the year 1781, this deponent enlisted under Captain Campbell [William Campbell] the Regiment commanded by Colonel Archibald Laughery [Archibald Lochry] of the State of Pennsylvania who was raising volunteer troops to join General George Rogers Clark who under an order of the State of Virginia was collecting troops to march against the Northwestern Indians – we were ordered to rendezvous at Wheeling Virginia on a day appointed by General Clark but owing to some casualty Colonel Loughery with his troops did not reach there on that day & finding that General Clark had proceeded on down the Ohio River – Colonel Laughery forwarded an express immediately to General Clark letting him know of his arrival at

¹ FPA S1272

Wheeling & his situation. On the return of the express Colonel Laughery was informed that General Clark would leave a flat boat for the Horses at a certain Island in the River & some other accommodation for the Light horse troops – Previous to our reaching the said Island, we fell in with a small detachment of Clark's Regiment that from some cause had become separated from the main Army, among them was the said William Roark, which detachment joined & went a board of the boat with us in pursuit of General Clark & the main Army – we descended the Ohio some distance below the mouth of the Big Miami to the mouth of a Creek (now called Laughery's Creek) where we were attacked by a large party of Indians who had embodied themselves for the purpose of attacking General Clark, as we were afterwards informed – the Indians attacked Laughery's troops & killed & took the whole of them – Mr. Roark & myself being among the number of prisoners taken – we were then separated & I saw no more of Mr. Roark until we arrived at Detroit. We were then taken on board a vessel with a number of others & conveyed across Lake Erie to the landing above Niagara from thence we were conveyed to an Island in the St. Lawrence 40 miles from Montréal. Mr. Roark still in company we reached the Barracks on the Island sometime in November 1781 where we continued until sometime in the month of June or July 1782 when this deponent was taken with nine others to Montréal leaving the said Roark on the Island aforesaid a prisoner with a great many others. From our long confinement together I became intimately acquainted with the said Roark – This deponent saw nothing more of said Roark after their separation aforesaid until the year 1801 or 1802 when he met with him in Muhlenberg County Kentucky to which place he had removed & where he resided for about the space of ten years during which time we often conversed about our expedition & imprisonment – from Muhlenberg County said Roark removed to Gallatin County Illinois – he has been at my house in Muhlenberg County Kentucky since his removal to Illinois, and I have no hesitation in saying that he is the same William Roark that was in prison & suffered with me on the expedition aforesaid.

S/ William Worthington

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Worthington". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

State of Illinois Gallatin County Sct.:

This day personally appeared before the undersigned Judge of Probate, the same being a Court of record in and for said County, authorized by law to take examinations, and to administer oaths William Roark, who, from advanced age and bodily infirmity is unable to appear in open Court and stated, upon oath, that on the 15th day of March 1833, he made an original Declaration & on the 13th September 1833 and amended declaration before the circuit Court of said County for the purpose of obtaining a pension under the act of Congress of June 7th 1832 – that said application was returned by the Commissioner of Pensions under date 15th of November 1833 with the objections, "that the claimant could not be allowed for the time he alleged himself to have been a prisoner, unless he shall produce some satisfactory proof thereof other than his own allegation, or the belief of others" – That he then sent a messenger into Kentucky and procured the deposition of William Worthington, Senior, dated the 20th of November 1834, establishing the fact of this claimant having been a prisoner as stated in said original Declaration, and corroborating the general character of his services, which was forwarded, with his said original and amended Declaration to the War Department, all of which were authenticated according to regulations. That again these papers were returned to him, under date of 16th of December 1834,

with the remark "that the New Jersey militia served in tours of one month only – that General Clark's expedition, referred to in the Declaration, took place in September 1782, & not in September 1781, as stated – that the applicant should amend his declaration accordingly, and should also state the time at which he was paroled at New York, &c." Some of these, the Honorable Secretary will observe are new objections which existed before, but which were not then stated. As to the time he served in the three different tours in the New Jersey Militia, he can only state that it seems to him he served for the respective periods stated in his original or amended Declaration, which he submits might have been, notwithstanding the fact stated by the Honorable Commissioner of Pensions. He was & is yet illiterate and ignorant of the laws, rules and regulations governing the New Jersey Service, – This applicant states that he was, besides his three tours under Captain Fleet, Thompson & Maxwell, engaged almost during the whole war in the service of his country, in driving his uncle's team engaged in the artillery service, chiefly hauling cannon balls at Morristown. But he may be mistaken as to the length of his different enlistments, as 50 odd years is a long time, and his memory and other faculties are greatly decayed. In like manner as to the time he joined General Clark's expedition, it certainly seems to him it was in 1781, but if the authentic History of that expedition fixes it in 1782, he must of course have been mistaken in the year. Certainly so horrid a massacre and defeat as that of Colonel Archibald Loughery [Archibald Lochry] must be known at the War Department with all its circumstances of time & place; and if this applicant is mistaken in regard to the year, it will be seen that his fellow sufferer in that affair and in the subsequent imprisonment, William Worthington, is also mistaken, and this applicant then choose to say that no person is more respectable than he is, and he has been drawing a pension for similar services for many years, and has been a member of the Kentucky Legislature and a Judge of her courts for many years. This affiant further states that it was on the 17th day of March 1783 or '84 that he was paroled at New York. He recollects of hearing music, and being told that it was St. Patrick's Day. He states that he was nearly a year or more a prisoner, and if the expedition of General Clark and the defeat of Colonel Loughery took place in 1782, it must have been the 17th of March 1784 that he was paroled at New York. This applicant is old, and very needy, and will not insist upon the accuracy of his memory in regard to his time of service or of imprisonment further, but submits to the better knowledge of important transactions known to exist at the War Department. He hopes that the Department will duly weigh his statements, and the testimony of Judge Worthington, (all of which are herewith returned, together with his letters from the Department) in making such allowance as is just and right according to law.

S/ Wm Roark, X his mark

[attested November 30, 1836]

[Facts in file: Veteran died March 4, 1841; reference is made in 1836 to a son and daughters of the soldier but no names are given.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$53.33 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 16 months service in the New Jersey and Pennsylvania militia.]