

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of Michael O'Connor S35018

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Maryland

City of Baltimore Sct.

On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen personally appeared before me the undersigned Michael O'Conner now resident in Harford County in the state of Maryland, aged Seventy years and upwards, an Applicant for a pension under the late Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War," and then and there made the following declaration on Oath by me administered "that he enlisted first in Anne Arundel County in said State in the summer of 1776 into Cap't. Edward Norwood's Company 4<sup>th</sup> Maryland Regiment commanded by Col [Josias Carvel] Hall, mustered at Annapolis, from thence sent on to Head of Elk [now Elkton MD], from thence marched to Phila. thence into the Jerseys and continued on until they joined the main army at York Island [Manhattan], and was present at the battle of White Plains in the month of November of same year [sic: 28 Oct 1776] And about Christmas of the same year his term of service having expired was discharged and returned home. Some time in the year of 1777 deponant reenlisted at Baltimore into Capt. Alex'r. Furnivaly Artillery Company stationed at Whetstone Point, now known by the name of Fort McHenry, where he remained about twelve months, when he joined Cap't. Richard Dorsey's Company of artillery, marched to Wilmington where went into winter quarters and maned a fort or battery on Wilmington Creek. On the opening of the Campaign in the Spring marched from Wilmington and joined the main army at Valley Forge. was present and took part in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] & after various services was ordered on to the southward under Command of said Capt. Dorsey and attached to a Virginia Regiment commanded by Colonel [Charles] Harrison & Lieu. Col [Edward] Carrington. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1780 was engaged at the Battle of Camden where Capt. Dorsey was wounded and taken prisoner, after which the Company was commanded by a Frenchman who was called Capt. Bachey - was also at the battle of Guilford in March [15<sup>th</sup>] 1781, from thence returned & besieged Camden [see note below] - was at the battle of Eutaw Springs in Sept. [8<sup>th</sup>] of same year, where many prisoners and a brass peice of Ordinance were taken. Also at Monks Corner under Command of General Sumner & Col Lee where 27,000 Guineas and 3 Hhds of Rum fell into the Hands of the Americans, one half a guinea only of the money fell to his share, but he had "many hearty pulls at the rum." [Quotation marks in original. See note below.] After various services & the close of the war was ordered to Annapolis and there discharged from the original Company then under the Command of Capt. James Smith, by Gen'l. [William] Smallwood. that his name hath never been placed on any pension list of the United States, and that from his reduced circumstances needs the assistance of his Country for support.

Michael hisXmark OConner

Untied States of America

State of Maryland, Harford County SS.

On this twelfth day of March 1821, personally appeared in open court, that is to say, the regular County Court in and for the said County of Harford in the state aforesaid Michael OConnor aged Sixty five years resident in Harford County in said State who being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on his oath, declare, that he served in the Revolutionary War, as follows: That he enlisted under Lieutenant John W Dorsey in Captain Edward Norwood's Company of Infantry in flying camp, served out the period of his enlistment and returned to Baltimore after the Battle of White plains, and in the spring of 1777 entered into Captain Alexander Furnivaly Company of Artillery stationed at Whetstone Point (near Fort McHenry) in the state of Maryland for the Term of Three years, from thence enlisted into Capt Richard Dorsey's Company of artillery for 3 years and were attached to Col. Charles Harrison's artillery Regiment, and after the Battle of Monmouth reenlisted for during the war, served out the period of his enlistment and was discharged at Annapolis after returning from James Island

[SC]. That he made his original declaration at Baltimore before the Hon'ble Judge Brice on about the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1818 and was placed on the Revolutionary pension list of the Maryland agency as will appear by his Certificate dated 27 January 1819 and numbered 5829 — and I do solemnly swear, that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18th March, 1818; and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled, "An Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States, in the Revolutionary War," passed on the 18th day of March, 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts, or debts, due to me; nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed, and by me subscribed. That he hath no property of any kind or nature whatsoever, neither hath he any Family. That he formerly obtained his support by common labouring work through the Country, but now from advanced age and debility depends solely on his pension and the assistance of Friends. That in consequence of his reduced Circumstances stands in need of the assistance of his Country for Support not being able to support himself without public or private Charity.

Michael hisXmark OConnor

NOTE:

The phrase "besiged Camden" probably refers to the Battle of Hobkirk Hill near Camden SC on 25 Apr 1781, which was not a siege.

"Monks Corner" refers to the Battle at Quinby Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation near Moncks Corner SC on 17 July 1781, with Gen. Thomas Sumter and Lt. Col. Henry Lee commanding about 555 men. According to Patrick O'Kelley (*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, Vol. 3, 2005), Sumter's official report mentioned capturing only 720 guineas. At that time a guinea coin worth £1.05 weighed 8.4 gm and was about 91% gold. 27,000 guineas would therefore have been equivalent to more than 450 pounds of gold. Sumter neglected to mention three hogsheads of rum.