

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael O'Bryan (O'Brian) S38974

f27VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/12/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

United States District of West Tennessee Sct.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord 1818 personally appeared before me one of the Judges of the Circuit Court for the State of Tennessee Michael O'Bryan of said district aged sixty-five years, who being by me 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 entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war;" That he the said Michael O'Bryan enlisted in the City of Baltimore in the State of Maryland in the year 1776 as well as he recollects with an under Captain Fulford who was shortly afterwards promoted, and Captain William Brown took the command of the company in which he served as a private Bombardier until the close of the war when he was discharged by said Captain Brown at Annapolis in Maryland, the date of which discharge is not precisely recollected, but he believes it was in 1783. He also states that said discharge has been worn out by time and is now lost, and that Captain Brown's Company was attached to Colonel Harrison's [Charles Harrison ] Regiment of Artillery. He further states that he was in the Battle of Monmouth [June 28, 1778], the battle of Eutaw Springs [September 8, 1781], the Siege of Ninety Six [May-June 1781], at the battle of Camden [probably a reference to the battle of Hobkirk Hill, April 25, 1781] and in many other scouts and skirmishes, and that he was wounded in the left ankle by a musket ball and also slightly in the mouth by a musket ball. He further states that this service was rendered in the service of the United States, and that he was continuously in service from 6 to 7 years and a half. He also states that he served in the late war with Great Britain, and in fact that he has been nearly the whole of the time from his enlistment in 1776 to the close of the late war, engaged in the regular service of the United States as a private soldier. He further states that he knows of no officer now alive by whom he can prove his services and but one alive to wit, Reuben Scott<sup>1</sup> who enlisted shortly after him and that he is in extremely reduced and indigent circumstances; that he has no way of supporting himself but by his own bodily labor and exertion; that he has no family or relations own whom he can depend for subsistence; and that in his old age he is in great need of the assistance of his country or public charity for support.

Signed and sealed by the said Michael O'Bryan the day and year above written  
S/ Michael O'Bryan, X his mark

State of Tennessee

This day personally came before me the undersigned Judge &c Reuben Scott and made oath that

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<sup>1</sup> [Reuben R. Scott R9306](#)

he served about 6 years immediately before the close of the War in the year 1783 along with the above named Michael O'Brian as privates in the same company commanded by Captain William Brown. That the said declaration above made by the said Michael O'Brian as to his service in the revolutionary war he knows of his own knowledge is true. Sworn to & subscribed the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 1818.

S/ Michael Scott, X his mark

I Michael O'Brian do hereby release all claim to every pension allowed or granted by any act of Congress except the one above referred to under which this pension is prayed for. 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1818

S/ Michael O'Brian, X his mark

District of West Tennessee, Rutherford Quarter Sessions December 1820

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord 1820 personally appeared in open Court in the court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of Rutherford County (the same being a Court of Record) Michael Obrien resident in the County of Rutherford aged sixty-eight years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1818 & the first of May 1820. That he the said Michael Obrien enlisted for the term of 7 years in the fall of the year 1776 in the State of Maryland in the artillery company commanded by Captain William Brown, in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Harrison, in the line of the State of Virginia, on the Continental establishment, that he continued to serve in the said Corps, until the end of the Revolutionary War, when he was discharged in the town of Annapolis in the State of Maryland – That he was in the battles of Monmouth, Guilford [March 15, 1781], Camden, Brandywine [September 11, 1777], of the Eutaws, at the Siege of Ninety Six & at the capture of Augusta, & that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services, excepting his own oath, & the deposition of Reuben Scott who has now removed to parts unknown to this affiant, but whose deposition was taken in the year 1818, before Jacob C Isaacs, one of the circuit Judges of the State of Tennessee & transmitted to the war Department, with a declaration then made by this affiant, as he has been informed & believes.

And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820, I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Schedule of real & personal property |            |
| belonging to Michael Obrien          |            |
| 1 Shot gun given to him by           |            |
| General Robert Purdy                 |            |
| for hunting                          | \$11.50    |
| 1 Jack knife                         | <u>.50</u> |
|                                      | \$12.00    |

His occupation is that of a farmer, but in consequence of his age, his mental & bodily infirmities,

he having been wounded in the battles & worn down by fatigue & privatization in the service of his country is no longer able to support himself; but has been & is now thrown upon the bounty of the world, without a home, without property & without a family – & having no blood relations in the United States to look to for support in his declining age.

S/ Michael Obrien, X his mark

Baltimore March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1821

Sir/

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the first instant. I was well acquainted with Michael O'Brien, a soldier of the Revolution, and know that most of the facts stated by you to be true, but there are some inaccuracies, to wit: That I've saw him at Monmouth when I was wounded and spoke to him. I was not wounded at Monmouth, but at the Eutaws, in Carolina. I have no doubt of my speaking to him on that occasion though I do not now recollect. I knew him when he lived with Joseph & William Gists, and know that he enlisted in Captain Brown's artillery which was in the service of the State, but was afterwards incorporated into Harrison's Regiment, on the Continental establishment. I well recollect seeing him frequently with the Army. I shall have pleasure in rendering him any service in my power, and will send to Annapolis to examine the Muster Rolls, to ascertain the time when he enlisted, for what period, and when discharged. As soon as I received that information I will make & 4 did you, as full an affidavit of his services as may be in my power –

I am Yr Obedt. Sevt.

John E. Howard [John Eager Howard]

Baltimore March 23<sup>d</sup> 1781.

Sir/ I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. I was well acquainted with Michael O'Brien, a soldier of the Revolution, and know that the most of the facts stated by you to be true, but there are some inaccuracies, to wit: That I saw him at Monmouth when I was wounded and spoke to him. I was not wounded at Monmouth, but at the Eutaw, in Carolina. I have no doubt of my speaking to him on that occasion though I do not now recollect it.

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I am yr Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

John E. Howard

The deposition of John E. Howard [John Eager Howard] of the City of Baltimore who deposeseth & saith that he was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Maryland Line of the Army of the United States in the War of the Revolution, and that he well knew Michael O'Brien before the said War, and that said O'Brien enlisted in Captain Brown's company of Artillery in the service of the State of Maryland; that said company was transferred to Colonel Harrison's Regiment in the pay of the United States; that he well recollects having frequently seen the said O'Brien doing duty with the Army, particularly in the years 1780 & 1781, in Carolina, and that he was esteemed a good soldier. The Deponent further saith that he believes the said O'Brien served to the end of the War, but from the great lapse of time he cannot now say positively that it was the case, and as the Muster Rolls were burnt in the war office he is unable to obtain any authentick document to prove that fact. He has hereto annexed a certificate from the Auditor of the State of Maryland, and believes that Michael O'Brien now of Murfreesboro in the State of Tennessee is the same

person who served in the Army as above stated.

*John E. Howard*

[Attested in Baltimore County Maryland May 28, 1821]

Auditor's office Annapolis May 21, 1821

I Certify that it appears a depreciation Pay Roll Remaining in my office, that Michael O'Brien, a Bombardier, of Artillery, received £111.9.5 depreciation money, Issued to the Maryland Quota of Continental Troops on Continental Establishment, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1782.

P. S. Scale of depreciation

\$260 for \$1

S/ Thos. Karney, A. G. S. M.

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing November 9, 1818 for service as a bombardier in the Virginia Continental line.]