

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Orr S4631

fn74PA

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 Pennsylvania Armstrong County: SS

This 21st day of September in the year of our Lord 1732, Personally appeared in open Court, before John Young Esquire Resident and Joseph Rankin Esquire one of the associate Judges (the applicant being the other associate) of the Court of Common Pleas, now sitting, Robert Orr Senior Esquire a resident of the Borough of Kittanning in the County of Armstrong in State of Pennsylvania aged eighty-seven 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 June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated,

That he was a Captain under Colonel Archibald Lochrey [Archibald Lochry]. That there were two other Companies under said Lochrey to wit Captains Thomas Stotely [Thomas Stokely] and William Campbell. That he volunteered and raised the Company that he commanded at his own expance about the first day of June 1781 and returned home in May 1782. That he resided in Hannah's Town [Hanna's Town] in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. That he as before stated was a volunteer. That he was engaged in several fights with the Indians. That they marched down the Ohio River below the mouth of the Big Miami when they were attacked by the Indians, & in which about one half of the men were killed and the rest were taken prisoner, some of whom were afterwards killed, among the latter Colonel Lochrey¹ was also killed, That they were by the Indians marched through several of the Indian towns to Lower Sandusky where the prisoners were divided, and from thence he was taken to Detroit and put in the hospital having had his arm broken in the fight with the Indians when they were taken, That he remained at Detroit until the next spring and was taken to Montréal and put in jail, remained there about four months and was taken to Quebeck [Québec] and from Québec to and Island called "Beak" below Québec and from thence he was taken by the "Cork Fleet" to New York and from New York up the North River to "Dolbs ferry" [? Dobbs Ferry?] and there exchanged after having been in the service, a prisoner about one year and ten months, that he arrived at home to wit at the place where Hannah's Town had stood the town having been burnt by the Indians during his absence sometime in May 1783. In answer to the several Questions directed to be put by the War Department, he the said applicant answers as follows

To the 1st I was born in the Parish of McCaskey, in the County of Derry in Ireland

To the 2nd I have no record of my age my father's Bible was burned at the burning of Hannah's

¹ There is an excellent account of Lochry's Defeat posted at <http://boards.ancestry.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=803&p=topics.Military.amerrev.general>

Town, by the Indians in which my birth was recorded.

To the 3rd I was living in Hannah's Town in Westmoreland County Pennsylvania, after the Revolution I lived there until 1792 when I left that Andrew came to Armstrong County where I now live.

To the 4th As I before stated I was a volunteer.

To the 5th There were no Continental companies with us unless Captain T. Stotely's: Colonel Lochrey was under General Clark [George Rogers Clark] but General Clark never was with us.

To the 6th I received a Commission or authority signed by Colonel Lochrey which was taken from made by the Indians.

To the 7th The Reverend G. A. Reichart, Ezekiel Lewis & Michael Meckling.

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.

Sworn & subscribed in open Court the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Robert Orr



[G. A. Reichart, a clergyman, and Michael Mechling gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

Test: S/ Fredk Rohrer, Pro.

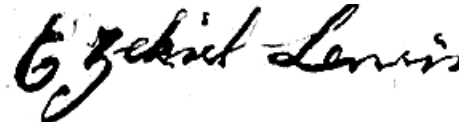
Armstrong County SS

Personally appeared in open Court Ezekiel Lewis² who being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith That he became acquainted with Robert Orr Senior Esquire about the first day of August 1781, That at that time he was Captain of a volunteer company under Colonel Archibald Lochrey, That he marched his company with the Companies of Captains William Campbell and Thomas Stotely down the Ohio River below the mouth of the Big Miami when they were attacked by a large body of Indians, in about the one half of their men were killed, and that they that remained were taken prisoner, and that the Indians killed a great number of said prisoners among whom was Colonel Archibald Lochrey, That they were taken through some of the Indian Towns to Lower Sandusky where they were separated, this deponent being taken to "Prisoner Island" and the said Robert Orr Esquire as he believes having been taken to Detroit, That the said Robert Orr did not return home to his place in the Westmoreland County until sometime in May 1783. That this deponent has been acquainted with the said Robert Orr Senior since that time, that he is and has been an honest and up right man and is throughout his neighborhood reputed & and it is the general belief) to be a Soldier of the revolution. And further this deponent sayeth not.

Sworn and subscribed in open Court this 19th day of September 1832

S/ Fredk Rohrer, Pro.

S/ Ezekiel Lewis



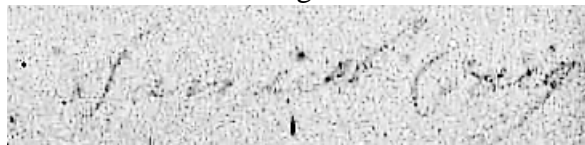
[fn p. 20: original is very faint]

Westmoreland County: SS [Pennsylvania]

² FPA S4533. A transcript of this veteran's pension application was filed in this database 8/31/11.

Personally appeared before me Michael Huffnagle Esquire one of the Justices of the Peace and of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Westmoreland also Prothonotary of the said County the subscriber Samuel Craig³ who being sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that he was a Lieutenant in a company of Militia commanded by Captain Robert Orr and marched in an expedition carried against the Indians by General George Clark [George Rogers Clark] in the year of our Lord 1781. That on the Ohio River below the mouth of Big Miami they were attacked by the Indians, where a number of Officers and private men were killed and the remainder of the party taken prisoners. That the said Robert Orr was wounded in his left arm, was afterwards carried to Detroit where he was put in the Hospital to be assured of his wound, and was left there by order of the Commanding Officer when the other Prisoners were first forwarded to Montréal – near a year afterwards while the deponent was yet a Prisoner at Montréal the said Robert Orr was brought there, his wound being better, but not cured. That the deponent was with the said Robert Orr from that time until they've were both released and came home together. The said Robert Orr being then able to travel, but still much afflicted with pains occasioned by the said wound, and that the deponent has reason to believe that the said Robert Orr is not yet, and probably never will be perfectly restored to the strength and use of his arm.

S/ Samuel Craig



[attestation is illegibly faint]

[fn p. 29]

Westmoreland County SS

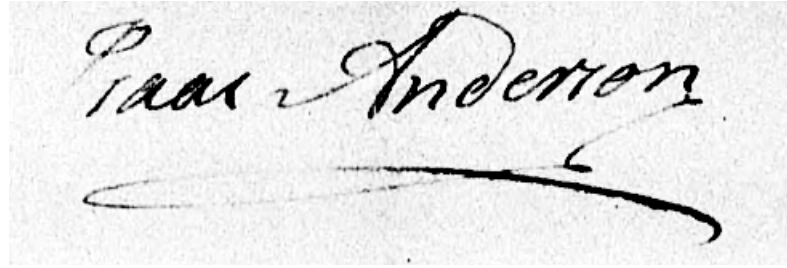
Personally came before me Michael Huffnagle Esquire one of the Justices of the Peace and of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Westmoreland and also Prothonotary of the same County – the subscriber Isaac Anderson⁴ late Lieutenant of Captain John Shearer's [?] Company of Rangers raised for the protection of the frontiers of said County of Westmoreland, Who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that in the year of our Lord 1781, the Deponent was ordered with a part of the Company to which he belonged under the command of Archibald Lochry Esquire Lieutenant of the County of Westmoreland, to assist General Clark in an expedition against the Indians, that a number of Militia of Westmoreland County were ordered on the said Expedition of which Robert Orr Esquire was a Captain and had the command of a Company, that the said Troops when collected proceeded under the command of the said Colonel Lochry down the Ohio River, and that on the 24th day of August in the year 1781 aforesaid they were attacked by a party of Indians below the mouth of Big Miami River, when the said Colonel Lochry with a number of others were killed and the remainder taken Prisoner, and the said Captain Robert Orr was wounded in the left arm, was afterwards with difficulty carried to Detroit, and there left under the care of the British Surgeons, not being able to travel further as the deponent believes – The said Deponent further saith that Captain Thomas Stokely who had the Command of a Company of Rangers of said County was at the same time taken Prisoner, and was next senior officer after Colonel Lochry's Death.

³ FPA W3075

⁴ FPA W4628

Sworn and subscribed before me August 7th, 1788
S/ Mich Huffnagle

S/ Isaac Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Isaac Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. Below the name, there is a long, horizontal flourish that extends across the width of the signature.

[fn p. 31]

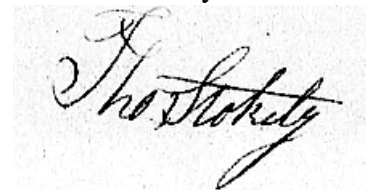
Pennsylvania Washington County SS

I do hereby certify that Thomas Stokely⁵ late Captain of a company of Rangers Stationed on the frontiers of Westmoreland County, under the command of Colonel Archibald Lochry Lieutenant of the said County of Westmoreland came in his proper person on the 31st day of July A.D. 1788 before me Thomas Scott Prothonotary of Washington County aforesaid and made Oath that in the year of our Lord 1781 the said Colonel Lochry ordered this deponent and a part of his company into service in order to assist General Clark [George Rogers Clark] in an expedition against the Indians and also raised a party of Volunteers for the said purpose, and that Robert Orr of Westmoreland County Esquire was Captain of a company of the said Volunteers, – That the collected parties under the command of said Colonel Lochry having proceeded down the Ohio River below the mouth of the big Miami, was on the 24th day of August in the year aforesaid attacked by the Indians – The said Colonel Lochry was killed with many others, and the whole remainder of the party captured, in which attack the said Captain Orr was wounded in the left arm afterward carried to Detroit, and there left under the care of the British Surgeons appearing not able to travel further. –

In testimony whereof and of the said Thomas Stokely's signing the above deposition I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said County of Washington the day & year first written.

S/ Thos. Scott, Prot.

S/ Thos Stokely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thos Stokely". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "Stokely".

[fn p. 36]

In July 1781 Captain Robert Orr of Westmoreland County in Pennsylvania, raised a number of men, for an Expedition against the Indians on the great Miami and Scioto, the Expedition was commanded by General Clark of Kentucky (then in Virginia). These men were raised in pursuance of Orders from the Supreme Executive Council, the former of Pennsylvania, were commanded by Colonel Archibald Lochry County Lieutenant of Westmoreland, the subscriber and 30 of his men were by Council ordered on the same Expedition.

As General Clark was depended on for provisions he by some means left us without any,

⁵ FPA W4079

Therefore the respective Captains were Obligated to provide for the men, out of their own money, On our march at Washington (then called Catfish Camp after an old Indian of that name) And at Wheeling Captain Orr informed me, That he paid for the supplies of all his men, that his money was exacted [? exhausted?], And that he then supported them on money Borrowed from his Good Dutch neighbors, The conversation at Catfish and at Wheeling was at night when Captain Orr's men were present round a fire at the same time several of his men (whose names I do not recollect) Said they chose him because they knew him to be a Good Generous man, that their whole dependence was on him, And as yet he had proved faithful and had supplied them as well as the Country would admit of.

After we left Wheeling there were no Inhabitants on the Ohio. To the falls of that River (LowryVilliee)[?] Except a small Stockade garrison of Virginia militia stationed at the mouth of Grave Creek 12 miles below Wheeling.

24th of August 1781 ten miles below Great Miami on the bank of the Ohio River Colonel Laughry [sic] And all his Officers and men were either killed or taken (not one Escaped) Captain Orr was amongst the wounded.

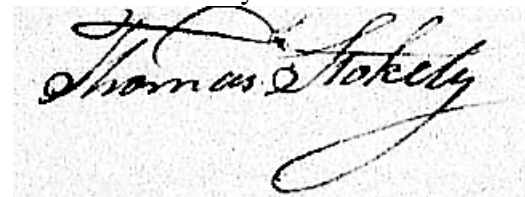
Captain Orr's house was destroyed by the Indians whilst he was a prisoner in Cannady [Canada], When the Indians burned Hanna's Town (then seat of Justice of Westmoreland). He was deemed and known as a useful brave and meritorious Officer.

As an Evidence of his particular usefulness and that his real merit was by his Country known and approved of, are fully shown when he shortly after his return from captivity was elected high Sheriff of Westmoreland County.

As my residence was in the same County with said Orr And was with him and his captivity at Detroit and at the City of Montréal Where we were in one prison together I deem it my duty to my country as well as to Captain Orr together the foregoing statement of facts.

7th of March 1821

S/ Thomas Stokely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Stokely". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent flourish at the end of the word "Stokely".

[fn p. 40]

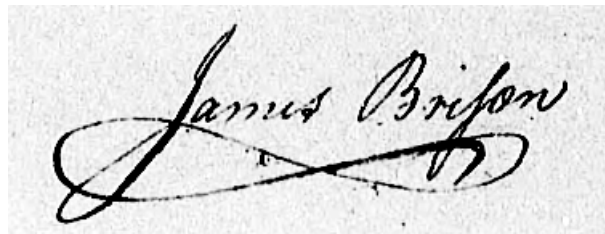
I hereby certify as of my own knowledge that in the month of August in the year of our Lord 1781 Captain Robert Orr (now an associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County in Pennsylvania) marched with a company of volunteers from Hanna's Town in the County of Westmoreland under Colonel Archibald Lochry, then County Lieutenant of the said County, in order to join General Clark in an expedition against the hostile Indians on the Western frontiers – that during his absence on that expedition his dwelling house and other buildings in Hanna's Town were burnt and his personal property generally burnt or destroyed by the Indians in the summer of the year 1782. – It is impossible at this distant period to form any correct estimate of the laws which Captain Orr's family sustained on that occasion – He kept Tavern in the then County Town and had household furniture, livestock &c perhaps equal to any there. I have no distinct recollection of the value of his buildings they were convenient cabins for public accommodation – the only kind of building then in the place –

As Colonel Lochry was also Prothonotary of Westmoreland County and I kept that office as a Deputy, I went with the volunteers from Hanna's Town to their place of Rendezvoused at

Jacob's Creek where they were joined by Colonel Lochry & the other Companies and I there drew Certificates for the appraisement of the horses and arms which they entered the public service.

12th of November 1819

S/ James Brisson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Brisson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

[fn p. 49]

Mercer County Pennsylvania January 22nd 1819

Sir After my respects to you and family I have been informed by George Decamp [?] that there is some proof required concerning the situation that General R. Clark used the hundred Pennsylvania Volunteers that he requested from our Colonel Archibald Laughney [sic] to accompany him on an expedition down the Ohio against the Indians in the year 1781 as I understood, by orders of our commanders we rendezvoused and marched over the Monongahel at a place then called devores [?] ferry from that you with 2 of your men went to Pittsburgh where General Clark was with parts of his Army you returned in a few days with orders to meet him at Wheeling when we came to Wheeling the General was gone down the River we then sent after him the express returned with orders for us to follow him &c he would meet us at the big Island on the Ohio River when we came there he was gone and left a few men with a horse flat and orders for us to follow him which we did until we were taken prisoners at the mouth of the great Miami on the 24th of August 1781 I recollect of you losing your horse saddle & bridle also your rifle gun &c we frequently during our captivity both at Detroit and Montréal seen each other in lower Canada I recollect of you being wounded I think in the left arm in that engagement likewise we were left by the General without arms ammunition or provision in a savages enemys country.

The Hon. Robert Orr

S/ Manasseh Coyle⁶

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manasseh Coyle". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Sworn and Subscribed before me this 22th Day of January 1820

S/ James Clark [JP]

[facts in file: Veteran died September 4, 1833; Veteran's son, R. Orr, Jr., was a resident of Kittanning, Pennsylvania in 1832]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$440 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for one-year and ten months service as a Captain in the Pennsylvania militia.]

⁶ FPA W2759