

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Daniel ORear (O'Rear) S7376
Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Sct
Prince William County }

On this 20th day of September [1832?] personally appeared before me James Foster a justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Daniel ORear resident in the aforesaid County and State aged 72 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 after stated – 1st tour of 3 months in 1777 – he entered the service of U. States as a substitute for his father under Capt'n [John] Hedges & Col Jesse Ewell and marched from Prince Wm. Cty to the Neigh'd of Philadelphia where he arrived a few days after the Battle of Germantown [4 Oct 1777] – served out his tour, but was not in any battle – 2^d tour of 8 months in 1778 on the Illinois expedition – he Volunteered under Capt'n Helms [sic: Leonard Helm] in Ap'l. Marched to Redstone old fort [Redstone Fort at present Brownsville PA], thence down by water to falls of Ohio [at present Louisville KY], where we were joined by other troops and put under the command of Col. Clarke [sic: George Rogers Clark], went 150 or 200 miles by water into the Country beyond the Ohio river & then landed & marched thro the woods and took Illinois Post, Coho [sic: Cohoes], OCo. and the OPost on the Wabash & also took Gov'r Roseby [sic: P. F. Rastel de Rocheblave at Kaskaskia IL, 4 Jul 1778] and bro't him a prisoner to Richmond in Virginia last of Nov'r. 3^d tour of 5 months to the South in 1780 drafted under Capt'n John Brett [sic: John Britt] and Col. Lucas. Marched to Hillsborough & Salsbury [sic: Salisbury] in North Carolina was put under the command of Gen'l Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] and attached to Gen'l Greens [sic: Nathanael Greene's] army and marched to the Cheraw Hills in South Carolina [20 Dec 1780] – a severe tour on account of suffering and fatigue and hunger but was not in any battle all his service was as a private soldier 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, nor never was

[signed] Dan'l. ORear

[Certified by Stephen French and Enoch O. Rear (as he signed). Enoch ORear also stated that he remembered the name of Stephen French as one who had served with Daniel ORear on the tour to the North.]

Prince William County State of Virginia

This day appeared in person before me James Foster a justice of the peace in and for aforesaid County George Mills [pension application W7449] aged [blank] years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, declares that Daniel ORear served a 3 Months tour in the Militia of the United States in the Year 1777 under Capt'n Hedges – that they were Messmates, marched from the Red House (now Hay Market [Haymarket]) in aforesaid County by way of Frederick town in the State of Maryland to the Neighborhood of Philadelphia where they joined the Main Army and were placed under the command of Col. Jesse Ewell and were attached to the division of General Crawford that they started from the Red House as aforesaid in the Month of April and returned home in July following

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3^d. day of June 1833 [signed] George Mills

[On 6 April 1846 ORear made a declaration very similar to the following declaration, except for the significant quotations inserted in brackets in the following. A letter from the Pension Office dated 14 Nov 1846 in the file of Joseph Bobo (R981) explains that ORear's claim for six-months service in the South was

denied because, "No men were ordered from Prince William, where [Daniel ORear] resided, to go to the South, and none of them served more than four and one half months." This statement appears to be in error, because Thomas Brown (S6769), Henry Barrett (S8057), and George Wilder (S17204) also stated independently that this tour was for six months. Daniel Cole (S8236) stated that he was at Cheraw Hills for three months, and the total length of the tour was six months, "being detained by the officers for the want of troops." ORear was finally pensioned for 16 month's service.]

Amended Declaration of Daniel ORear so as to embrace his northern tour of service of three months under Captain Hedges in 1777 and his services to the South of six months in 1780-1 under Captain Britt and also his services of eight months & a few days in 1778 under Colonel George Rogers Clarke making altogether seventeen months & a few days.

State of Virginia County of Prince William to wit

On this thirty first day of December 1846 personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in & for the said County Daniel ORear a Citizen of the said County aged eighty eight years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. His services amounting in all to one year five months & a few days (Viz.) 3 months at north in 1777 under Hedges in the Virginia Militia 6 months at the South in 1780-1 under Britt in the Virginia Militia and eight months & a few days in 1778 as volunteer under Colonel George Rogers Clarke to the west; That his first term of service in the Revolution was in the year 1777 & he was then in his eighteenth year said tour was one of three months under the command of Captain John Hedges who raised a company in the said county of Prince William and marched through the northern part of Virginia and through the State of Maryland into Pennsylvania. his company under Hedges marched from his native county Prince William to the best of his recollection on the 7th of September 1777 and the officers of the said service were James Ewell was Major George Madden first and Isaac Wickliffe second Lieutenants and Jesse Ewell was Colonel and the Company was under the command of General Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg] of western Virginia. That his company as before stated marched to the state of Pennsylvania & whilst on their march thither he remembers to have heard of the battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] having been fought between the British & Americans and he distinctly remembers that his company under Hedges & Gen. Muhlenburg encamped at the battleground and that about that time he understood the British had gone on to Philadelphia and Congress removed its members to Lancaster [27 Sep 1777] and resumed its session this he heard whilst in camp at the time but cannot state it as a fact of his own knowledge that on his march to the north his company was stationed at Fredericktown in Maryland for a week or ten days & from Fredericktown his company marched to Lancaster in Pennsylvania and continued there for some time about two weeks and whilst on his way from Fredericktown to Lancaster he remembers to have met with some of the Maryland Militia on their return home carrying with them the sick and wounded from the battle of Brandywine that from Lancaster his company marched to little York in the said state of Pennsylvania & were stationed at that place more than a week that he supposes the number of Virginia Militia then out in service was about 4000 men that from little York his company went to the battleground of Brandywine and then took up head quarters & that was the head quarters of the Virginia Militia at this place his company remained till the expiration of the three months for which they had been raised & ordered out that during said tour of three months his company was not in any battle but he remembers that whilst stationed at Brandywine that General Muhlenburg was shot by one of the guards because he advanced without leave & was said at the time the General made the attempt in order to test the fidelity of his men. That of said tour he has no proof whatever & has therefore been more particular to enumerate as many facts as he can recollect that of that tour remembers there were four companies from Prince William County. Viz Capt. Hedges Company Capt. Brents [Willaim Brent's] Company Capt Val. Peytons [Valentine Peyton's] Company & Capt. Britts Company That he knew the said four Captains personally and after this served a

tour of six months to the South under the same Captain Britt That these Companies remained together during this term to the north. That he recollects that his friend James French was first Peter Cummings 2^d Thomas Wheatledge 3^d & Cooper Chancellor 4th Sergeant of his said Company under Hedges. The said Chancellor died in Prince William County four or five years ago & he believes had previous to his death been placed on the rolls as a pension of the United States. he would therefore refer the department to the papers of said Cooper if on file for the facts as above. That of said Company he remembers the names of Stephen French John Franklin John Grinstead Josiah Stone Rawley Hogan James Garret Thomas Holmes all of whom were privates under the said Capt John Hedges & were acquaintances & from his part of County of Prince William but all of these men he believes are now dead except James Garrett who removed to Kentucky & may yet be alive. That said tour of three months to the north expired as before stated at Brandywine & he together with French Wheatledge & some others came on home together & he reached his Fathers in Prince William County a few days before the Christmas of 1777. He remained at his Fathers John ORears till the Spring of the year 1778 & in April he went under Col. Rogers Clarke as a private in the secret expedition to Illinois in the west which service he did not set forth at large in his former declaration hoping that he should be able to furnish the testimony of two men Robert Garrett [pension application S31054] & John ORear [S31285] who were with him in said service under Col. Clarke & whose certificates he had procured and placed in the hands of James Foster of Prince William who says he deposited the same in the war office at Washington. That the said service of eight months & a few days in 1778 under Col Clarke in the west was performed under the command of Captain Leonard Helm who was raised in Prince William County & who at the time resided in Kentucky & Helm was connected in some way with the Indians in the west that said Helm came in to his native county Prince William & made the call for volunteers & himself the said Daniel ORear Joseph Anderson Moses Kemper Tillman Kemper James Monroe Samuel Humphreys James Holmes Robert Garrett James Woods James Garrett Charles Jones John ORear Jesse ORear Richard Lutrell & Benjamin Kindall [Benjamin Kendall, pension application R5857] (privates) & Levy Todd [Levi Todd, R18516] was 1st & Henry Floyd [R14982.5] was 2^d Lieutenants of the company under Helm making fifteen who went from Prince William County & were his acquaintances & neighbors at the time of the said service, these men formed themselves into a company at the house of his father John ORear of Prince William & marched under the direction of his brother John ORear till they reached the said Helms at Stony Spring Tavern in Fauquier County Va about 10 miles above the present Ct. House of said County & then went on to Winchester & from Winchester his company marched on to Redstone old fort on the Monongahelia River & remained there till the volunteers in that section had collected together & then marched on to the site of Wheeling where there was then a fort erected & from Wheeling his company went on to the falls of the Ohio where head quarters was formed & all the forces had collected together & from the falls of Ohio his men went to the section of country near the Illinois River passing over an extensive wilderness to the Town of Kaskaskia then called Illinois a Town of considerable size & the residence of the Governor named Rosebly a Frenchman in the British service, that his forces reached the Town in the summer season on one Saturday night the moon shone very bright & about midnight his men saw the sentinel or watch or guard of said fort of Illinois leave his post & went in the fort & his men immediately made the attack & took the said Governor & fort without firing a single gun the Governor was himself asleep in the fort, this was in harvest time & he had given a feast & there was a great frolick in the fort that after taking said fort all the Town surrendered to his forces that his men then marched on & took the Fort of St. Vincennes in the same county [sic: country] on the Wabash about 50 miles & that the said Governor of these parts & he thinks his name was Rosiblay was taken prisoner as before stated by his men and brought on here to Richmond in the State of Virginia & he understood was afterwards exchanged for General Lincoln who was defeated at Charleston in South Carolina [see endnote] that after reducing the fort before mentioned together with several other vilages the names of which he has entirely forgotten some time in July he thinks, his men started back for home taking with them the said Governor & went to the said falls of Ohio

& so on to Virginia thence on by Staunton in the sd. State & thence to Richmond in the said state & delivered the said Governor & then went on & reached their home in Prince William County a few days before Christmas of 1778. That from a calculation made by his brother John O'Rear that there were precisely one hundred & seventy seven men including officers in said service under Col. Clarke & including Captain Montgomerys [John Montgomery's] men who he understood were mostly from Pittsylvania county in Virginia but served with his men in this tour. That of term of service he has always had a distinct recollection that it was a laborious undertaking & the men saw very hard times & were greatly exposed during the tour back to the enemy & to hardships & had proved his services in the same by two witnesses to wit Robert Garrett & John O'Rear & by another he thinks James Woods & placed their testimony in the hands of James Foster of Prince William County as before stated that he would refer the department to the papers of Robert Garrett of Kentucky in his application for a pension if on file, having understood from his son recently in from that state that his father was a pensioner of the United States from that State. That for said service he claims a pension & unless the the affidavits refered to can be found he has no proof in respect to the same as he believes all the men who served with him are dead unless Robert Garrett is yet a live in the west. That after the termination of this tour of service to the west he remained at his fathers in Prince William until the fall of the year 1780 when was drafted in the Militia & served a tour of six months to the South under Captain John Britt from Prince William County which service he has proved by two witnesses viz Daniel Cole of Culpepper County & Joseph Bobo of Prince William County Va. who were with him during the whole of this tour at the South & whose certificates were forwarded with his former application & he begs leive to refer the Department to the same & can assure them that these men are both respectable citizens and both of them are now alive. The following are the particulars of the tour to the south (& he would respectfully ask a comparison of this with his former naritive that they may see whether his recollection can be relied upon) under Captain John Britt of Prince William County Va. said Britt made the draft he thinks some time in September 1780 & he hired a substitute to takes his place – one Zachariah Reed & gave him a horse worth \$50 – but when the time came for marching off he recinded the contract with Reed & took his place & went to the South himself & said Reed went as substitute for John Bridwell who was overseer for Cud Harrison [Cuthbert Harrison] & who could not part with Bridwell. That William Farmer was 1st. & Solomon Ewell was 2^d Lieutenants Cud Peyton [Cuthbert Peyton] was ensign & Philip Conner was sergeant of said Company under Britt. That his company took up their march early in October 1780 from Dumfries in Prince William County Va. & went in to Frederiksburg & from that place to Richmond & Drew their arms for the service & from Richmond his company marched on to Petersburg in Va. & from that place to Roanoke in the said state of Va. & his company was stationed there some time waiting for orders whether to go on to the south or return to Williamsburg. orders at length came for them to go on to the South & his company marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina where they were stationed for some time & from that place his company went on to Guilford Ct House in N C & from Guilford C House his Company marched on to Salisbury in the said state which was about 6 miles on the south side of the Yadkin River, at this place his company was stationed for some time longer than they remained at any other place during the tour. from Salisbury his company was ordered on to Cheraw Hills in South Carolina some hundred miles from Salisbury towards the sea coast on the west side of the great Pedee River at Cheraw Hills his company was stationed several weeks [“a considerable time over four weeks”] and whilst there the term expired & they were retained a short time in service & either at Guilford C H or Hillsborough his men were discharged & started for home. That General Stephens [sic: Edward Stevens] was the commander in Chief of these forces during this tour of six months to the south under Captain John Britt [“and he remembers Captain William Masons company was with his own and staid together during the whole tour to South and when the term expired came on home with his men said Mason's company was from Fairfax County in Virginia adjoining the County of Prince William from which he went, that he knew the officers of Masons company Doctor Nisbitt was first and William Dowell was second Lieutenant and Samuel Adams was

Ensign of said company all of whom he remembers very well"] & he recollects that Captain Masons Company from Fairfax was the only company in this tour which had good tents the other Companies had to make shelters of Pine brush during the tour That of his own Company he remembers Joseph Bobo of Prince William County Daniel Cole of Culpepper County Va. John Matthews Robert Matthews Benjamin Rives Zephaniah Martin John Stewart Jarvy Seal Anthony Buckner & William Legg [pension application X456] all of whom he believes are now dead except Bobo & Cole both natives of Prince William County Va. that he returned to his home in Prince William County & never more entered the service of his country or been out of the State of Virginia. That he reached his native county Prince William in the Spring of 1781. That he feels sorry to learn that the department denies the fact that men served as much as 6 months in this tour & would ask them again to refer to the certificates accompanying his former application & in addition to the proof hertofore furnished he would respectfully invite their attention to the certificate of his old acquaintance Elijah Hansbrough and a minister of the Gospel also the testimony of a few of his neighbors & acquaintances herewith sent that he does feel mortified to learn that his statements are doubted at Washington when his acquaintances one & all have & have always had full confidence in what he says that he considered his claim so well established in his former application that he did not think it worth while to trouble his neighbors to testify for him. But if the department will not allow him but 4½ months at the South he must submit to their decision he hereby relinquish all claim to a pension except the present & declares his name is not on the pension rolls of any agency in the United States of America

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year before stated. [signed] Daniel Orear

State of Virginia } SS
Prince William County }

On this 17th day of May 1850 personally appeared before me a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Daniel Orear a resident of said County aged 90 years (as will appear by reference to the family record now in possession of his brother Enoch [see endnote] 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 pass'd. June 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the State of Virginia under the following named officers and served as herein stated: That he volunteered in a company commanded by Capt. Leonard Helm & Lieutenant Levi Todd: – Helm was from the County of Prince Will'm. & Todd from Caroline Co Va. That he and two of this brothers Jesse and John left their home in Prince William County, Virginia in April 1778, and joining Helms Company as before stated, pass'd. on through the State of Virginia to the Town of Wheeling on the Ohio, where they met the balance of Col Geo. R. Clarks Regiment, and that under the command of said Clark, they embark'd. on board of flat Boats and went down to the falls of the Ohio, where they landed. That after taking the Fort in Illinois and Capturing the French Governour – Rosebla – and taking the other Forts on the River he and his Company were sent back with Capt. Montgomery & his company to the falls of the Ohio, in charge of Rosebla – as was also Capt. or Major Lynn & his party from Pittsburg Penn's. That from this point (the falls of the Ohio) he and his companions came through the State of Kentucky – by Harrodsburg – and thence by a trail across the Alleghany Mountain [sic: Allegheny Mountains] to Staunton in Augusta County Virginia: That on reaching this place, there being no longer any danger apprehended from attacks by the Indians, he and his companions were discharged – and returned home about the last of Nov'r. 1778 – and Capt Montgomery & his men went on to Richmond Virg'a. with their prisoner. That he has no recollection of having had a writen discharge but thinks if he had it must have been given by Capt. Montgomery at Staunton: That he did not receive his pay until the 1st. of Jan'y. 1779 when Col. Harry Lee [Henry Lee], the Delegate to the Virginia Assembly from Prince William County brought the money from Richmond: and he & 15 or 16 of his Companions went to Col. Lees house on the Potomac River below Dumfries & got their pay – giving him a receipt for it at the time. That he does not recollect the names of any officers that

served in this tour except Clark, Lynn, Helm, Todd, and Montgomery. and he farther states that soon after the passage of the Law of June 7th 1832, he wrote himself, to Kentucky and obtained the certificates of Jno. Orear & Robt. Garrett, two of his companions who serv'd with him in Capt. Helms Company on this tour to Illinois, in order to establish this claim – and that he learns that their certificates so obtained have either been mislaid or lost, and as one is certainly & the other most probably, and he knows of no one now living who served with him, and no one who has any knowledge of the service in question, but his brother Enoch, who was then a boy of 16 years of age & can testify to his having volunteered in Capt. Helms Company and as to the time he left and when he returned home.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the pension granted by the U States Government for 2 tours of 4 months each in the Virginia Militia and for which a Pension Certificate (granting a pension of twenty six dollars & 66 cents a year from March 4, 1831:) was issued on the 3rd of Sept. 1849: – and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any State – or if any only on that of the Agency of the State of Virginia. [signed] Daniel ORear

State of Virginia, } SS
Prince William County }

Be it known, that before me Allen Harrison a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, personally appeared Enoch Orear and made oath in due form of Law that he is the brother of Daniel Orear, of the County & State aforesaid – that he was with his brothers Daniel John & Jesse, living with his father when in the month of April 1778 they all three volunteerd in Capt. Helms Company & left his fathers house in Company with James Holmes Robert Garrett & several others to join the said company: – That the said Daniel Orear, & his brothers Jesse & John were about above 8 months on a tour of service in Col. G. R. Clarks Regiment in Illenois. That he is now 87 years of age & his brother Daniel 90: by the family record in his possession.
Given under my hand this 17th day of May 1850.

NOTES:

Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, who was captured at Charleston on 12 May 1780, was exchanged in the following November for Gen. William Phillips, who had been captured at Saratoga.

Enoch ORear's certificate of his brother's service, dated 27 Aug 1849, was witnessed by a Thomas D. ORear. A certificate of ORear's veracity dated 31 Dec 1849 was signed by John H. ORear, among many others. Another such certificate was accompanied by a letter dated 9 July 1850 stating that ORear lived on the line between Prince William and Fauquier counties. A letter in the file dated 15 Mar 1857 refers to Thomas ORear, son of Daniel ORear. The family record referred to above and transcribed below was certified by Enoch ORear as being from the Bible of his father, John ORear in his possession, in the handwriting of his brother, also named John Orear,.

Jeremiah Orear was Born May the 16 In the year of our Lord God 1744

Mary Orear was Born August the 21 In the year of our Lord God 1745

Benjamin Orear was Born February the 20 In the year of Our Lord 1747

John Orear was Born March the 21 In year of our Lord 1749

Elizebeth Orear was Born Aperl the 7 In the year of Lord 1751

Margret Orear was Born February the 13 in the year of our Lord 1753

Jesse Orear was Born January the 24 day In the year of Our Lord God 1756

Daniel Orear was Born December the 23 Day in the year of our Lord God 1759

William Orear was Born December the 13[?] Day In the year of our Lord God 1761

Enouch Orear was Born February the 18 Day In the year of our Lord God 1763