

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Roush¹ S7401

f100VA [PA]

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/6/12

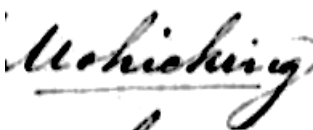
[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have 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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 63]

State of Virginia Mason County: SS

On this 18 day of November 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for said County of Mason, George Roush a resident of the said County of Mason and State of Virginia aged 75 [could be 72] years and three months 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 herein stated that in the year 1777 in the month of June declarant thinks about the 7th day in Fort Pitt in the State of Pennsylvania at the place where Pittsburgh now stands declarant enlisted into the service of the United States for three years as an Indian Spy declarant states that his services was excepted by a man by the name of Captain Samuel Brady and continued under his command until the expiration of his said term of three years the subaltern Officers names who belonged to Captain Brady's Company were Lieutenant Timothy Murphy, Ensign James Ervin declarant states that he was then stationed at Fort Pitt the place aforesaid declarant states that in obedience to the order of his said Captain Brady he proceeded to than his thighs & legs with while cherry and white oak bark and to equip himself after the following manner to wit a British clout [cloak ?], lather leggans [leather leggings], maggusons [moccasins?] and a cap made out of Rackcoon [raccoon] skin with the fethers [feathers] of a hock [hawk?] painted red fasted [fastened?] to the top of the Cap, declarant was then painted after the manner of an Indian waryor [warrior] his face was painted red with three black stripes across his cheeks which was a signification of war, declarant states that Captain Brady's company was about sixty-four in number all painted after the manner aforesaid declarant states that he was engaged in spying the country by regular towers [tours] from Fort Pitt on to the borders of Big Bever [Big Beaver Creek] from thence to little bever [Little Beaver Creek] from thence to yellow Creek from thence to Kill water from thence to the Tuscarora River [Tuscarawas River] from thence to white woman Creek from thence to Black fork Mohishking [? Mohican?]² from thence to the clear fork of Mohisking [?Mohican?] from thence to Owl Creek³ from thence to the waters of licking River a branch of the Muskingum

¹ BLWt31315-160-55



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³ Perhaps a reference to the Kokosing River, a tributary of the Walhonding River

River from thence to black lick Creek from thence to Walnut Creek from thence to big Elm Creek from thence to the Sciota River [Scioto River] near where the town of Columbus now stands the seat of Government of Ohio State declarant states that he then retraced his steps to the Fort aforesaid declarant further states that he did not always return the direction that he went that he sometimes returned striking the Ohio River at Wheeling Fort and following the meandering of the River to Fort Pitt aforesaid the occurrences which took place during three years laborious servitude were so numerous that declarant cannot at this time enumerate them all the following are a few of the many that took place, in the month of October 1777 whilst declarant was on a spying tower [tower] on still water a stream which empties into the tusarawaiwa river [Tuscarawas River] a party of Indians was espied [espied] by declarant and those who were with him to wit Captain Brady and fifteen of his soldiers it was late in the evening the Indians encamped in an old hunting camp which had been built by the Indians, declarant is of opinion that the Indians had come for the purpose of hunting, there were six in number five men and old squaw when it was ascertained that the Indians intended to remain in the camp all night Captain Brady ordered his men to encamp not far distant from the Indians and at the hour of Twelve in the night Captain Brady marched his men within about thirty paces of the Indian Camp and us [we] lay behind a log until it began to get light at which time we were discovered by the dogs which the Indians had brought with them for the purpose as we supposed of hunting, the barking of the dogs alarmed the Indians and one of them awoke and noched [knocked?] the timing out of his gun and primed it fresh and walked the way we were laying and encouraged the dogs which continued fiercely barking during which time the other four Indians were [were] yet a sleep in the camp declarant thinks that the Indian discovered Captain Brady who lay behind the log. Captain Brady had on a French cappa coat made of fine sky blue cloth which declarant thinks the Indian discovered above the__, we lay behind the log the Indian wheeled and walked carelessly [carelessly] back towards the Camp keeping his eye on the spot where we lay, we did not let him take but few pases [passes] toward the camp before Captain Brady gave the signal agreed on which was an alternate hunch of the elbow, declarant and a man by the name of Applegate fired and the Indians fell dead to the ground, the report of our guns awaked those in the camp and they got up and stood [stood] by the fire, we fired and killed three one of which was a squaw and then approached the Camp and an Indian springing out of the Camp ran up the hill, Captain Brady gave orders for us not to shute [shoot] running as of the fifty [?] Indians, that we had seen on the evening before, whilst we were examining their guns an Indian boy which we supposed to be of the age of fifteen or seventeen years came near and hollered to us and said uncles [uncles?] what did you shoot at and a man by the name of Fulks answered in the Indian language and said a Rackcoon the Indian came across the Creek and when he came in shooting distance one of our company shot him, on our return to the Fort on yellow Creek we were retarted [retarded?] by a party of Indians, from intelligence afterwards about 44 in number in all were engaged took place six or seven rounds were fired the result was that one of our men was killed by the name of rickantaua [?] two wounded we were sooner powered [overpowered?] by number that we were compelled to retreat, the number of the Indians killed we at that time could [not] ascertain but from intelligence after received by James Whitecar [James Whitaker ?] who was a prisoner amongst the Indians at that time the Indians lost twenty-four killed on the first of action and six wounded which reached the Sindusky [Sandusky] towns and four of the six wounded died and again in March 1778 as declarant and fourteen of his fellow soldiers were on a spying tower on the Allegheny River about eighteen miles above Fort Pitt near the mouth of Puckity Creek declarant together with his fellow soldiers espied five Indians crossing the Allegheny River on

some logs which they had lashed together they had in company a woman by the name of Kiser wife of Benjamin Kaiser who they had taken, declarant states that he together with those who were with him fired on the Indians whilst in the act of crossing aforesaid and the Indians were all killed the first fire we made declarant states that he fired the first gun and aimed at an Indian who had a poll in his hand steering the raft the result was that the Indians fell dead declarant states he was engaged in seven other skirmishes during his term of service but cannot entail [detail] them with precision [precision] declarant states that he continued engaged in the service as aforesaid until the time for which he was volunteered had expired at which time he was discharged by his said Captain Brady having served three years as an Indian Spy as a private Soldier which term of service expired about the 7th of June 1780, declarant remained in and about Fort Pitt from the expiration of the above term of service until June 1781 during which time he was frequently engaged as a volunteer on Spying tours and in June 1781 declarant left Fort Pitt and went to Hampshire County Virginia to see his relatives and remained until August 1781 at which time declarant states that he was drafted for a term of three months as a private Soldier at which time declarant states that he was living in the County of Hampshire State of Virginia, declarant states that he was placed under the command of Captain Cunningham, Lieutenant's name was Peral [?] – as well as he recollects, Ensign name not recollected. Captain Cunningham collected the company at Caadis town [?]⁴ on Big Capen [Capon River] twenty-four miles from Winchester, declarant states that he was then marched to York town by way of Winchester and Bullskin, declarant states that he there participated in witness the glorious event long to be remembered by every American Citizen, the capture of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. Captain Cunningham commanded a Company of Riflemen and was detached from the main Army to guard the British prisoners of war from Yorktown to Winchester, declarant aided in guarding in the prisoners as aforesaid to the town of Winchester, the prisoners were placed in the Barac [barracks] four miles from Winchester, declarant states that he was discharged by his said Captain Cunningham, and returned home on Big Capon four miles above Colonel Poston's in Hampshire or Frederick County Virginia, the declarant does not recollect which of said Counties, this terminated declarant's Service having served three years as a private Soldier as an Indian Spy as heretofore stated, again as before stated declarant was drafted and served as before stated from August 1781, until after the capture of Lord Cornwallis the declarant thinks he served between 2 and 3 months, declarant does distinctly recollect that it was in August when he left his house and returned home in November 1781, declarant hereby relinquishes all claim to a pension or an annuity except the present, and further declares his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State whatever, and further the declarant states that the foregoing declaration contains the truth to the best of his recollection of past events, having left no record and further the declarant saith not, in testimony thereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year 1st above written.

Interrogatories prescribed by the War Department

1 Where and in what year were you born?

I was born in the year of Christ 1760, 4 miles from Hagerstown Maryland, at Antietam Creek 1 mile from below Hughes Iron Works, this is from my own knowledge and information of my parents.

2 Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

The record of my age is [in] possession of my eldest sister Mrs. Mary Hinkle, who lives in

⁴ *Caadis town*

Greenbrier County Virginia if alive. I have not seen her for the past 40 years.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

I lived on Big Capon, in Hampshire County Virginia from thence I went to Fort Pitt and entered the service under Captain Samuel Grady, I have lived since the Revolution in Pennsylvania & Ohio, I now live in Mason County Virginia on the Ohio 14 miles above Point Pleasant 1 mile from Letart Falls

4 How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute.

I volunteered under Captain Samuel Brady as an Indian Spy June 7th 1777 I was also drafted for 3 months in the Virginia militia.

5 State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

I knew Colonel Jo Gibson, Captain Reed and Captain Hook and Brady at Fort Pitt I also knew General Anthony Wayne and General Washington who was at Yorktown.

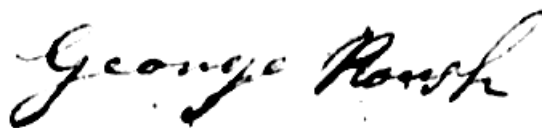
6 Did you ever receive a discharge from the service.

I did receive discharges from Captain Brady & Cunningham which discharges I have lost or mislaid, I cannot recollect what I have done with my discharges.

7 State the names of persons to whom you are known.

I am known to John Love and Henry Love who can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my having been an Indian Spy in the war of the Revolution. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. In testimony whereof I have set my hand and seal this 11th day of November 1833

S/ George Roush

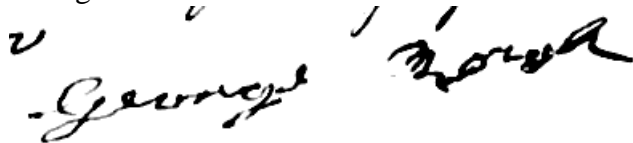


[Robert Love and Henry Love gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 95: Copy of a letter dated May 7, 1834 from the veteran then living in Mason County Virginia in which he asked the War Department to again examine the roles of Captain Samuel Brady's Company of the Indian Spies. He feels certain his name must be on that role. He states that he can't remember the following persons who served with him in that company: Thomas Richard, Jacob Miller, Lieutenant Timothy Murphy, __ Dorrah, Henry Applegate, James Jeffries, Hamilton Clark, Jeremiah Williamson (or Williams), George Fulks, Lewis Tucker, __ McMahan, James Rian [James Ryan?].]

[f p. 4: On July 9, 1855 in Meigs County Ohio the veteran, 95, describing himself as a resident of Mason County Virginia filed for his bounty land entitlement as a veteran of the revolution.

He signed this document as follows:



[f p. 30: Report of the US Senate Committee on revolutionary Pensions as follows:

That the petitioner claims a pension in consideration of services, as a private, in the war of the Revolution. It appears to your committee that the only difficulty that the petitioner had before the Commissioner of Pensions was, that he claimed in the name of George Roush, and the name of George Roush does not appear on the rolls of the company in which the petitioner says he did serve; but the name of Jacob Roush does appear on the roll of the company in which it is alleged that the petitioner did serve. The evidence filed shows that the petitioner did serve in the revolutionary war; and the evidence satisfies your committee that the name of the petitioner was entered Jacob, instead of George, on the roll. Leaving the petitioner to be entitled to a pension, the committee report and bill for his relief."

[Note: f p. 22: viz. a note in the file that the veteran was placed on the pension rolls pursuant to an act February 25, 1847 at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing February 25, 1847.]

[f p. 49: on September 7, 1852 in Ohio County Virginia, the veteran, then 92 years and 19 days of age filed yet another application for a pension under the 1832 act. It is not clear to many why such a application was made since the veteran had been pensioned under a private act of Congress in 1847. Perhaps it was to try to get his pension effective March 4, 1831 as it would have been under the provisions of the act of Congress of June 7th, 1832 in any event he substantially restates his services as set forth in his previous, more thorough, application. In this document he says that his family record is in the possession of his sister who was some 8 years previously still living and was in Harrison County Ohio. Her name is not given. In this document he states that he lived for 30 years after the Revolutionary war just opposite Braddock's field on the Monongahela River in Pennsylvania, removed to Belmont County Ohio opposite Grave Creek on the Ohio River where he lived some 10 or 11 years; then moved to what is now Marshall County Virginia where he lived 4 years but was then part of Ohio County; then moved to Mason County Virginia where he now resides. In answer to the interrogatories required him to state the general circumstances of his service he responded as follows:

I first served under Captain Brady (Samuel) of Pennsylvania who was under General Gibson at Fort Pitt as an Indian Spy. The first year I was in the service I was employed as a scout to protect the frontier counties adjoining Fort Pitt – Sometime in October 1777 when on Stilwater Creek in Ohio under Captain Brady in company with George Fulks , Lewis Tucker, Thomas Richard, Jacob Miller and some seven or eight others whose names I do not now recollect we had the first combat with the Indians we killed five and if there was any others they were dispersed and on our return from Stilwater to Fort Pitt we were attacked by a party of Indians consisting we ascertained of some 50 Indians – with whom we exchanged fires and had one of our party killed and two wounded – and without further firing we beat a retreat and succeeded in reaching Fort Pitt in safety without any further loss of men – we afterwards ascertained that we had killed several of the Indians during the 1st year I ranged about the Monongahela River up as far as Brownsville Pennsylvania and up the Allegheny River as far as Puckety Island him which is some 18 miles from Fort.)

The second year ranged westward and South of Fort. Along the Ohio River and out some 50 miles in the State of Ohio and without any skirmishes with the Indians that year.

The third year 1779 – 1780 ranged about Washington County Pennsylvania up the Monongahela River and up the Allegheny River – about the town of Kittanning in Armstrong County Pennsylvania. Had a combat with the Indians this year on the Allegheny River some distance above Kittanning at a place called Brady's Bend where we killed some 18 Indians and took 17 prisoners during the whole of the 3 years in which I served as an Indian Spy I did nothing else but range around the wood and own campaigns with my comrades for the protection of the Frontier.