

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Rankins (Rankin) W26365

Peggy

f117VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/7/12

[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.]

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an Act, entitled, "An Act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828, I, Robert Rankins, of the County of Washington, in the State of Alabama, do hereby declare, that I was in Officer of the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the War, and also to the time when the Arrangement of the Army provided by the Resolves of Congress of the 3rd and 21st of October 1780, were carried into effect, and was reduced under that arrangement, at which period I was a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of the Virginia line.

And I also declare, that I afterwards received a certificate (commonly called a Commutation Certificate) for a sum equal to the amount of 5 years full pay, which sum was offered by the Resolve of Congress of the 22nd of March 1783, instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled by the Resolve of the 21st of October, 1780.

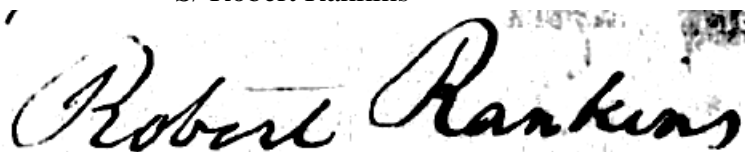
And I do further declare, that I have received of the United States since the 3rd day of March, 1826, no money nor have I received since the close of the War of the Revolution, from the United States, any manner of compensation whatever for my services in said War.

And I do further declare, that I was one of the officers who served under and was captured with, Major General Lincoln at the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, [May 12th, 1780] and that every officer in the Army of the said General Lincoln in reward for the signal services rendered by them at that memorable Defense was promoted a grade higher by a Resolve of Congress, but I cannot remember, at this distance of time, whether the said officers were regularly commissioned or not. But if my Commission as a Lieutenant (the grade to which I had been promoted) was ever received it has, in the long lapse of 50 years, then either lost or mislaid, or destroyed by time or accident so that it cannot now be produced.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 26 July 1828

S/ Wm Grimes, JP

S/ Robert Rankins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Rankins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. There are some faint, illegible markings above the signature, possibly from a stamp or another document.

[f p. 73]

Revolutionary Claims
Treasury Department,
August 26, 1828

Robert Rankins of ___ in the County of Washington in the State of Alabama has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that was an officer in the Continental line, and served as such to the end of the war, at which period he was a Lieutenant in the 3rd regiment of the Virginia line; and that he received commutation certificates for the five years full pay granted by the resolve of 22 March, 1783; and, further, that he has received as a pensioner since the 3rd of March 1826, ~~nothing dollars, paid to him by the agent in the State of ___~~

The Third Auditor is requested to report how far the several statements are corroborated by the records in his Office.

By order of the Secretary
S/ F. A. Dickins

Treasury Department,
Third Auditor's Office,
2nd September 1828

It appears by the records of this office, that final settlement certificates had been issued for the commutation of five years full pay to Robert Rankins, Lieutenant in the Virginia line, amounting to Sixteen Hundred dollars.

It further appears that Robert Rankins is not now on the pension list of any agency, and has not been so since the 3rd of March 1826 ~~at the rate of ___ per month.~~

S/ Peter Hagner, Aud.

The State of Alabama County of Washington: SS

I, Robert Rankins, aged seventy-five years, do, upon oath, testify and declare, that in the year 1776 – I entered the service of the United States for the term of "during the War", in the ~~third Regiment (to the best of my recollection)~~ under the command of Colonel Hugh Stevenson of the Virginia Line, and that I continued in the service aforesaid until the close of the War. I do further declare that I entered the said Regiment a private and was afterwards promoted to the rank of Ensign, and, before the close of the War, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, in which capacity I was disbanded or deranged after the conclusion of Peace.

I further declare, that I have never received a Warrant for the Bounty Land promised to me on the part of the United States, nor have I ever assigned, or transferred my claim in any manner whatsoever:
therefore,

Know all men, by these presents, that I Robert Rankins, as aforesaid, do hereby constitute and appoint Colonel Joseph Watson of the City of Washington, to be my true and lawful Attorney, for me and in my name to demand and receive from the Secretary of War of the United States a Warrant for the quantity of Land due to me as aforesaid and my said Attorney is hereby fully authorized and empowered to constitute and appoint one or more Substitutes or Attorneys under him for the Special purposes before expressed.

S/ Robert Rankins

[Attested September 18, 1828 by William Grimes, JP]

[f p. 16: On March 22, 1844 in the Sixth Judicial District of the Republic of Texas, Peggy Rankin [sic], a resident of Liberty County, Republic of Texas and aged eighty-eight years as of the 16th

of February 1844, filed for a widow's pension under the 1836 act stating that she is the widow of Robert Rankin, a Lieutenant in the revolution and pensioner of the United States; that he was in the battles of Germantown [October 4, 1777], Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Stony Point [July 16, 1779] and the siege of Charleston – that at the latter place he was in command of a battery and was taken prisoner and later exchanged; that she married him October 1, 1781 while her husband was home on furlough; that her husband served after their marriage and left the service in Frederick County; that her husband died November 30, 1837; that she and her husband had ten children, seven sons and three daughters six of whom are yet alive, the oldest of which was born May 8, 1783 and the youngest of which is now 44; that her husband died in St. Landry Parish Louisiana; that she soon after his death moved to Texas to live with her children; that her name prior to her marriage in Frederick County was Peggy Berry [could be Barry] which was her maiden name; she signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 24: a transcript from the record of the births of the children of Robert and Peggy Rankin:

Thomas B Rankin was born 17th May, 1783

Elizabeth Rankin was born 27th January 1785

William M. Rankin was born 24th of August 1781

Joseph Rankin was born forth November 1788

John K Rankin was born 5th January 1791

James Rankin Junior was born 27th of June 1792

Frederick Rankin was born 15th of February 1794

Henry Rankin was born 7th February 1796]

[Facts in file: Thomas B Rankins, son of the veteran and his widow, was killed by the Creek Indians at the battle of Fort Mims in 1813, while serving as an officer of volunteers; William M Rankins in 1844 was living in Montgomery County Texas and Frederick Rankins in 1844 was living in Polk County Texas. William Butler stated in 1846 that John K Rankins married in 1815 or 1816 a sister of his, but her name is not stated.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$320 per annum under the act of May 15, 1828; his widow was pensioned in a like amount commencing November 1, 1837.]