

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

Pension application of John Rooker W4786

Anna

fn46SC

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/1/09

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of South Carolina York District

On this 17th day of October 1832 personally appeared in open court before me William D. Martin a Judge of the court of Sessions and common pleas now sitting John Rooker aged 77 born in Northumberland County northern neck of Virginia the 12th of March 1755 came to North Carolina Bute County now Warren and Franklin Counties in March 1776, enlisted as a volunteer under Captain James Denton of the aforesaid County and joined the Halifax Troops under the command of Colonel Long a tour after the Tories that rose on Drowning Creek and Cape Fear River marching to join the British troops on the coast not landed but were defeated before they reached the British at Moore's Creek by Colonel Caswell and our horse company under the command of Colonel Eaton our foot company did not reach till the defeat but took a number of Prisoners and their baggage wagons running away from the defeat then marched home to the place of rendezvous and were disbanded. The same year August 1776 volunteered for 6 months to go to Kentucky to guard the Inhabitants from the Ravages of the Indians was in that Service till March 1777 and on the 7th day of that month enlisted as a volunteer under Colonel Daniel Boone and served 7 months and then we had a reinforcement of 100 men under the command of Colonel Hogan of Virginia and then was discharged and returned to North Carolina Bute County now Warren and Franklin, removed to South Carolina York District December 6th 1790 where I have ever since resided. I never had any written discharge from my service, that he was on duty altogether about 14 months. He has no written or documentary evidence of his service nor can he procure the evidence of any person here that he knows of to prove his services. He refers to Benjamin Chambers the Judge of the Court of Ordinary for York District and to Bartlett Meacham to prove his character for veracity & their belief of his services. He hereby relinquishes all claim whatever to any pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed this 16th of October 1832 in open Court

S/ A McWhorter, CCC

S/ J. Rooker

[Bartlett Meacham & Benjamin Chambers and R. Y. Russell, a clergyman, gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 8: on June 9, 1845 in Lincoln County North Carolina, Anna Rooker, 86, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of John Rooker a pensioner at the rate of \$43.33 per annum for his services in the revolution; that she married him sometime in the year 1780 and her husband died June 24, 1840.]

[fn pp. 10-24 is a printed document entitled "An Essay on the Soveereignty of God, Decddicated to, and a Legacy for, the Baptist Church of Christ, on Sugar Creek, Y. D. S.C. By their long standing Pastor, John Rooker now in the 85th Year of his Age" printed in Charleston by W. Riley , 41 Broad Street, 1839.

The document reads in part as follows:

"I shall here give a very short sketch of my life, and then the reason of my publishing the following treaties.

"I was born the morning of the 12th of March, A.D. 1755 in Northumberland County, in the northern Of Virginia; my father was a full-blooded Irishman, although American-born; my mother's father was of the Welch dissent, by the name of Davis; her mother was of English descent, by the name of Hammond, among the first settlers of Virginia. I remained in Northumberland and Richmond counties until February, 1774, then came to Bute County, (now Warren) in North Carolina, and served 2 years in the capacity of a teacher of reading, writing, and arithmetic. In March, 1776, went a volunteer soldier in the American Army against the Scotch Tories, which were defeated. In August following, went a volunteer soldier to Kentucky, and Ward against the Indians until October 1777, then returned to Warren County, North Carolina, bought a wagon and team, drove them 2 years and sold them. On the 20th of April, 1780, married Anna Hawkins, daughter of John Hawkins, Esquire. On the first day of September, 1782, joined the Baptist Church in Warren County, North Carolina, and in April, 1783, began to preach. November, 1790, came to South Carolina, York district. In 1792, the first day of Made, the Baptist Church of Christ, called the Sugar Creek Church, was constituted by Abraham Marshall, of Columbia County, Georgia, consisting of 13 members, and on the same date 5 more joined it, by a declaration of their faith and Christ Jesus. With them (so long as they live) I continued a member and a pastor, and with the rest ever since.

"We were settled in the midst of a Presbyterian congregation, by whom we were much persecuted, although there a minister, Mr. M'Ree, ever treated me with politeness and friendship, whose urbanity is well known...."

[fn p. 43]

State of South Carolina York District: To the Honorable Secretary of War as required by the Commissioner of Pensions, I, John Rooker do hereby certify that, in the year 1776 a large number of Tories did embodied themselves to aid the British forces to land on North Carolina; to prevent which, the citizens of Halifax & Bute County's in North Carolina (or a number of them) did meet at Bute Court House (Bute County since divided, making Franklin & Warren) where several Captains companies were made by volunteers, who went against said Tories under Colonel Nicholas Long and I enlisted or volunteered under Captain James Denton of said Regiment & marched down the country against said Tories, who were commanded by one McLeod who was defeated by the Whigs before Colonel Long's Regiment reached the Battle ground on Moore's Creek: but we, Colonel Long's Regiment, met a number of said Tories & baggage wagons & took them, & sent the Tories to the Barracks high up in Virginia; which service, if I recollect right, was about one month.

The following summer the Indians in Kentucky commenced hostilities on the inhabitants, & one William Cooper was sent and express to Granville County in North Carolina where I then resided, for a force to assist the white inhabitants of Kentucky; where I volunteered for 6 months, & went to Kentucky against the hostile Indians; &, after the expiration of that term, I volunteered under Colonel Daniel Boone, (William Hayes Captain) Colonel Daniel Boone was authorized by

the Virginia legislature to enlist all the young men he could until said legislature could send him a sufficient force. I served under Colonel Boone against hostile Indians 7 months, when Colonel Hogan arrived from Virginia with 100 men to defend the white inhabitants; when I & the balance of the volunteers were discharged by Colonel Daniel Boone, & I with others returned to North Carolina. I do further certify, that I know of no living person by whom I can prove the above statement, for I am now 83 years of age, & I presume all my old associates are deceased.

York District South Carolina: Personally appeared before me Joshua P. Smith (one of the acting justices of the peace) John Rooker and made oath in due form and says that the above is a true Statement to the best of his knowledge -- Sworn to and subscribed before me

S/ Joshua P. Smith, JP

S/ J. Rooker