

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Erasmus Oakley W5437

Rhoda Oakley

f26GA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/14/09: rev'd 12/18/17

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 8]

[State of Virginia, Cumberland County]

At a Superior Court of law held in Cumberland County the 5th day of October 1818 present the Honorable William Daniel Judge

Erasmus Oakley of the State of Virginia and County of Cumberland made oath in open Court that in the year 1776 and month of October as well as he could now recollect he enlisted in the Continental service with Captain Elisha Miller to serve for the term of three years, that in the spring of the year 1777 he marched from Cumberland County State of Virginia as a Sergeant in the company of said Miller for the South, that he belonged to the second Regiment and eighth company of the Georgia Continental line, the Regiment was commanded by Colonel Samuel Albert [sic, Samuel Elbert], that he was in several skirmishes with the Indians and British, said Oakley being of the Florida Scouts. That he was in a battle with the Indians and British at Briar Creek [Briar Creek, March 3, 1779]. That he was at the siege of Savannah [September 16-October 9, 1779] he thinks in the year 1779 and was taken prisoner with the American forces. That he escaped from the British some time after and joined a party of Americans at Augusta, commanded by General McIntosh [Lachlan McIntosh], with which he remained until the expiration of the three years that he was on board of a prison ship (the *Whitby*) for nine months and never got his regular discharge as his company was scattered after it was captured at Savannah. That he returned to Cumberland in the year 1779: That he is in reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support --

George Booker being sworn in open Court says he is acquainted with the said Erasmus Oakley and his situation. And that he is in reduced circumstances and needs the assistance of his country for support.

A Copy Teste

S/ Miller Woodson, Jr. Clerk

[p 11: On October 5, 1840 in Cumberland County Virginia, Rhoda Oakley, 77, filed for a widow's pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of Erasmus Oakley, a Sergeant in the Army of the revolution; that she married him in the year 1780 but she is unable to find any record proof thereof; that her husband of Erasmus died in the month of August 1825 (the particular day she is unable to name); that she was not married him prior to his leaving the service. She signed her application with her mark.]

[Mrs. Nancy Hatcher, 74, and William Jenkins, 67, residents of Cumberland County gave

testimony as to the marital status of Erasmus and Rhoda Oakley]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$8 per month commencing October 5, 1818, for service as a Sergeant for 3 years in the Georgia Continental line. His widow was pensioned at the rate of \$120 per annum.]