

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension Application of David O’Roark W5450

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia and }
County of Rockingham } to wit:

On this 15 day of October 1832 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Rockingham, now sitting, David O’Roarke, a resident of Shenandoah County, and tate of Virginia, aged 78 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 stated.

In 1777 he volunteered and marched under Capt. John Hopkins, Ensign Richard Ragan [sic: Richard Reagan] to Staunton and thence to Point Pleasant in Virginia [now WV]. He served three months in this term of service, and thinks he marched out in the fall and recollects that there was snow on the ground when he returned. but he cannot recollect the time of the year precisely. He served under Col. Dickinson [John Dickenson], and knew Col. Skilleren [sic: George Skillern], from Botetourt, and Maj. [Samuel] McDowell from Augusta. He was not in any engagement with the Indians during this period of service and got no written discharge.

About the last of April or first of May 1778 he volunteered, and took the place of his brother Philemon O’Roark, who had been drafted, and had a family but got no pay from his brother. He marched to Tygarts Valley, under Capt Robert Cravens [Robert Craven], Lieut. Josiah Harrison, and Ensign Joseph Dictum, and served three months and returned after harvest - but got no written discharge. There was no higher officer than a Captain with the detachment in which this tour was served - and this applicant acted as orderly sergeant in his company and was not in any engagement with the Indians.

He was born in Shenandoah County, near the Rockingham line, then a part of Frederick, on the 1st day of March 1754, and has resided in the same neighbourhood ever since. He has a record of his age at home in the family Bible.

He has no documentary evidence of his services, he relies on the testimony of Jacob Kipps [pension application W7993] & John Nicholas [S5829] to prove the latter, who will be introduced into Court for that purpose, and who served in the same companies.

For his character for veracity, and the belief in his revolutionary services in his neighbourhood, he refers to Andrew Byrd.

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.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] David oroark

NOTE: On 14 Sep 1837 Jane O’Roark, about 80, applied for a pension stating that she married David O’Roark “about 59 or 60 years ago” as estimated from the ages of her children, “but knows her husband was drafted once after their marriage.” She stated that he died 11 Jan 1833. Barbara Moffett, 79, of Rockingham County, stated that David and Jane O’Roark were married at her home by her husband, Rev. Andrew Moffett, not long after her own marriage in 1779. Timothy O’Roark, son of David and Jane, deposed that he had his father’s Bible with the family record, according to which he was born 5 Apr 1781, and his brother, John, was born 27 Mar 1779. The file contains a copy of a certification dated 27 Apr 1780 by Jane Holmes that she had married David O’Roark.