

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements

Pension application of Robert Rankin W5664
Transcribed by Will Graves

Mary

fn40NC
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[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 Tennessee, McNairy County

On this the 20th day of May in the year of our Lord 1833 Personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Circuit Court for McNairy County now sitting Robert Rankin a resident of McNairy County in the State of Tennessee, aged Seventy four 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 the 7th day of June 1832. that he was Born on the 29th day of May in the year of Our Lord 1759 in Guilford County State of North Carolina, and that he entered the Service of the United States On the 16th day of June 1776 as a Draftsman, under Captain Bell, Colonel Caval and General Rutherford [Griffith Rutherford], he was mustered into Service on the said 16th day of June 1776 at Martinsville North Carolina, On the 7 or 8 day of July 1776, the Army took up their line of March, and went through Salisbury and crossed the Blue Ridge at a place called Swanno [sic, Swannanoa] Gap, then Crossed Swannanoa River and marched directly on to the Cherokee Nation of Indians. At Big Pigeon River in the Nation we had a fight with the Indians, we killed a few and took some Prisoners, Burnt the Indian huts and destroyed their Corn, this was as he believes about the 20 day of August 1776. From thence we marched directly back to Guilford County near the same way that we marched out and [on] the first day of October 1776 I was discharged, having gone out on a four months tour, and my service not being required for the balance of the time. I was discharged having served in this Campaign three months and 14 days. I received a Discharge from Captain Bell and had it for several years after the war, not knowing it would ever be of any service to me I permitted it to be destroyed. I then remained at home in Guilford County until the 3 or 4 day of March 1780 when I again entered the Service of the United States as a Volunteer under Captain Reden [sic, Redden?] Moore, Colonel Pasely [sic, John Paisley] and Generals Cavel & Rutherford in Guilford County North Carolina, after the Army was Organized we marched directly to Salisbury from there to the Flat Rock in South Carolina, from there to Camden, then to a place called Munks Corner [sic, Moncks Corner], here we had a fight with the British horse, some of our men was killed and some taken Prisoners. I think this took place the last week in April or the first week in May in the year 1780. From here we were compelled to retreat before the British Over the River Santee in South Carolina, where we met with Colonel Bluford's [sic, Abraham Buford's] Regular Army, we Joined him and the British horse and infantry pursued us until we got to Camden, here our Regiment separated from Colonel Buford's Army. Buford marched to a place called the Flat rock in South Carolina and was there defeated. We marched to Fayetteville North Carolina, crossing the Yadkin [sic, Yadkin River] or Pedee River above the Cheraw hills when we arrived at Fayetteville we took some salt in wagons which was sent up to the Mountains to keep from the enemy. I went with it up to the Cross roads in Randolph County North Carolina where I was discharged, this was on the 3 or 4 day of June 1780 after I had served the full end and Term of three months out, the time I volunteered for, for this Tour I received a discharge from Captain Moore, but it is now lost or destroyed. After I received my discharge in Randolph County I

returned home to Guilford County where I remained for a very short time. And about the first day of July 1780 I again entered the Service of the United States as a volunteer soldier under Captain Ross and Major Donald to fight the Tories which was then rising in all quarters, so soon as I entered the Service, we marched to a place called Scraps Mill in Guilford County where we had a skirmish or Fight, from here we marched from one place to another all over the State of North Carolina for the purpose of keeping in check the Tories, at length we Joined General Green's [sic, Nathanael Greene's] Army not far from Guilford Courthouse, then the whole Army marched on to Martinsville, where we fought the Battle at Guilford Courthouse North Carolina which was on the 15 day of March 1781, this Battle I was in and on that day I was commanded by Captain Forbis who was killed in the engagement. I was then discharged on the 16 day of March 1781 having served in this Tour Eight months and 16 days. I received a discharge from my Captain but it is now lost or destroyed, I then remained at home but a short time, when I again entered the service of the United States as a volunteer soldier as a minute horse man under Captain McAdoo to and Colonel Paisley, the month nor the date of the month, which I entered the service at this time I cannot now recollect, but I volunteered for the Term of Three months, so soon as we were Organized, we marched to Randolph, Moore & Montgomery Counties to keep the Tories in check, and continued in service until my time of three months was out. I then received a Discharge from Captain McAdoo, but it is now lost or destroyed I resided in Guilford County North Carolina until the year 1830 when I moved to McNairy County Tennessee where I now reside. I know of no person by whom I can prove my Services. Parson John Gillaspie of McNairy has known me for some time and can testify as to my veracity and the neighborhoods' belief of my Services, and also his belief of my Services, also William R. Wilson of McNairy County has known me for a number of years and can testify belief of the neighborhood in North Carolina as to my Services also the belief of the people in the neighborhood where I now reside, as to my Services in the Revolution and also he can testify as to my Honesty and veracity, that I have no Documentary evidence by whom I can prove my Services by, I Hereby Relinquish every Claim whatever to a Pension or annuity except the present and Declare that my name is not on the Pension roll of any Agency of any State.

S/ Robert Rankin

Sworn & subscribed in Open Court the day and year above written.

S/ Maclin Cross, Clerk of McNairy Circuit Court

[John Gillaspie, a clergyman, and William R. Wilson gave the standard supporting affidavits.]

[fn p.11 on July 12, 1853 in McNairy County Tennessee, Mary Rankin, 75 filed for a widow's pension under the 1853 act stating that she is the widow of Robert Rankin a pensioner for his services in the revolution at the rate of \$62.50 per annum; that she married him on November 22, 1803; that her husband died December 21, 1840; and that she remains his widow.]

[fn p. 13: William R. Wilson and Lydia Wilson testified that they knew the veteran and his wife when they lived in Guilford County at the time of their marriage on November 22, 1803; and that they thereafter lived together as man and wife.]

[facts in file: the veteran's wife's name prior to her marriage to him was Mary Moody; the widow died July 11, 1854; there is no information in the file regarding any children or other family they might have had]