

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael Rork W5720

Letty

f44VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

7/25/12

[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.]

State of Tennessee Hawkins County: Circuit Court December Spatial Term 1832

On this third day of December 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Samuel Powel one of the Judges of the Circuit Courts of Law and Equity of the State of Tennessee, now sitting, for the County of Hawkins aforesaid, Michael Roark [sic], a resident of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee aforesaid, aged about eighty-seven 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 at several different times. That at one time he volunteered under Captain Michael Coger, and promoted to and held the rank of Lieutenant in the company commanded by said Coger during the campaign, which lasted about three months. That he returned and in Rockingham County in the State of Virginia, in January 1781 that he left home about the 14th of said month under the command of said Coger, Major Gay Hamilton [Gawen Hamilton], and Colonel William Nall [William Nolle or Nail]. That they first marched to Richmond Virginia after remaining there a day or two they crossed James River at Hogg Island ferry, and marched to the Tanyards near Suffolk – thence they marched to Stoner's Mills – there Colonel Nall left them and was succeeded by Colonel John Bowyers. From thence they marched to Edmonds' hills where we remained several days – thence we marched to General Gregory's head quarters in North Carolina – After remaining there some time, we marched back to Edmonds' hills again – thence to Stoner's Mills and near there we received our discharge – was in no regular battle during this Campaign. That he volunteered for the period of three months, but was detained in service a little longer, that at this time of entering the service he resided in Rockingham County, Virginia.

This Declarant further states that about a year before the period last mentioned, as well as he now recollects, he volunteered at Shenandoah Court house, Virginia, as an Indian Spy, for the term of 3 months under Captain Michael Rader, and served as a private in his Company, we first marched to Tiger's Valley [Tygart's Valley] and were stationed at Westfall's Fort in Virginia – we were detained there about two months, when our provisions gave out, and the alarm from the threatened attack of the Indians having subsided we were discharged. Several months after this (say about nine) I volunteered again at Rockingham Court house, Virginia for the period of three months under Captain Robert Cravens – we marched to Warwick's Fort on the Clover lick in Greenbrier Virginia, he remained at that Fort about two months, when there was a call for men at Kenawha [Kanawha] , and our Company was ordered to repaired there – we started and my brother took my place, and served out the balance of my term. The last time I entered the Service I volunteered at Rockingham Courthouse, was under Captain William Baxter to go out against Cornwallis – we marched about a hundred miles to a place called the Bowling Green

where we heard of the defeat of Cornwallis, and returned having been absent about two weeks – I served during the several periods above mentioned, in all, about the term of eight months and a half – I removed from the State of Virginia in the month of April 1792 and settled in Hawkins County Tennessee in the month of May ensuing, where I have ever since resided – I was born in Bucks County in the State of Pennsylvania on the 29th day of September 1745 and at the age of about two [could be ten] years moved to Virginia and am now upwards of eighty-seven years of age. Declarant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his various services or discharges, having lost all his papers, – and that he knows of no person living by whom he can prove his service except Charles Dyche¹ who resides in Greene County in this State, whose affidavit is hereunto annexed) and who served in the same Regiment with this declarant one Campaign – And also a certain Spencer Breeding [?] who resides in Russell County Virginia, who also served one tour with the Declarant whose affidavit is hereto annexed. Declarant not being able to get his personal attendance at this place.

He further states that in addition to the officers above named he was well acquainted with Generals Washington & Morgan and others whose names he cannot now recollect. That 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. This Declarant further states that there is no Clergyman residing in his neighborhood who certificate he can obtain.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court 3rd December 1832

S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clerk

S/ Michael Rork



[George Kite, Nicholas Long and Jesse Spears gave the standard supporting affidavit; "And the said Kite further states that he lived neighbor to said Roark in Rockingham County Virginia at the time he was in service and (being then a small boy) recollects to have heard the friends & neighbors of said Roark say that he was absent in the Army of the Revolution – And the said Long also states that he has often heard his father speak of the service of said Roark in the Revolutionary war of his own knowledge...."]

[f p. 24]

State of Virginia Russell County to wit

This day came Spencer Breeding before me the undersigned justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid and made oath, that Michael Rhak [sic] now an applicant for a pension under the acts of Congress passed June 7th 1832 served one tour of three months in the war of the revolution as a Lieutenant in the company commanded by Captain Michael Cogar [sic Coger] and that the said company rendezvoused at Rockingham County in the State of Virginia he thinks in the year 1781 – and that the said company was attached to the Regiment of the Virginia State line commanded by Colonel William Nall; and Major Hamilton, and that said Michael Rork served out his full time of three months as a Lieutenant in said Company.

Sworn to and subscribed this 21st day of October 1832 before me

S/ John Sewell, JP

S/ Spencer Breeding

¹ FPA S1950 [also spelled Charles Dyke]

Spencer Breckinridge

[f p. 37]

Personally appeared in open Court Charles Dycke resident of the County of Greene in the State of Tennessee who being first duly sworn deposed and saith that he is well acquainted with the before mentioned Michael Roark, that he has a personal knowledge of the service of said Roark as a volunteer during a three months Campaign in the Revolutionary War, that he first became acquainted with said Roark in Rockingham County in the State of Virginia, that they volunteered under different Captains, but served together in the same Regiment, and under the same commanding officers, viz. – Major Guy Hamilton, and Colonel William Nall, that they started from home on the 14th of January 1781 and first marched to Richmond Virginia as stated in the declaration of said Roark, and often performing the various marches therein stated, we were discharged, having been in service three months, the period for which we volunteered – or perhaps a little upwards – Witness further states that he knows of said Roark having been engaged in the service of the United States during the Revolutionary War, on Warren or perhaps two other occasions, but cannot state the length of time he served, or the nature of the service, not having been along with him, but believes from what he heard the neighbors, and persons with whom he served say, that said Roark served the two other campaigns as stated in his said Declaration

S/ Carl Jak [sic]



Sworn to and subscribed this 2nd October 1832
S/ W. B. Mitchell, Clk

[f p. 8: On February 13, 1840 in Hawkins County Tennessee, Letty Rork, aged about 90, filed for a widow's pension under both the 1836 and the 1838 acts as the widow of Michael Rork; that she married him sometime in the year 1766 and that he died January 9 1839; that she remains his widow. She signed her application with her mark.]

[f p. 9: John Kite,² 73, gave testimony on February 13, 1840 in Hawkins County Tennessee in support of the widow's pension as to her marriage to the veteran and the date of his death.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$26.66 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 8 months in the Virginia militia. His wife was pensioned in a like amount.]

² FPA S21334 [in his own application dated February 23, 1835, this veteran stated his age at that time as 71 – there is no explanation for the discrepancy between his stated age is at various times]