

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rankin W1081

Sarah

f50PA/VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/6/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

[f p. 11]

State of Tennessee Greene County: October Sessions 1832

On this 23rd day of October 1832 personally appeared in Open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid William Rankin a resident Citizen of Greene County aforesaid aged seventy-four years the 27th of January [indecipherable word]<sup>1</sup> 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 7th of June 1832. That he was born in Cumberland County Pennsylvania five miles below Carlisle and raised there till twelve years of age and then moved to Jurriatta [?]<sup>2</sup> in the same County where he continued until the War of the Revolution had progressed some time. He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein after stated to wit, in the year 1779 in the month of August he volunteered and served a Campaign against the Indians and British who had taken Freeland's Fort and committed much depredations in the quarter of this Country and pursued the enemy some fifty or more miles and after considerable roting [sic ?] and fatigue returned to the place from whence he started and was out two weeks, and perhaps three weeks or more.

Shortly after that campaign perhaps one month or less he was drafted to serve two months in the same Section of the State against the same enemy and was stationed at or near Freeland's Fort and was continued in that campaign his full time ranging the Country and guarding the frontier settlements his Officers' names on the Campaign he cannot state except he believes Ensign George Dickey was in command who was from the neighborhood of Carlisle.

In the summer of 1780 in the month of June his father Thomas Rankin and family and this applicant moved to Augusta County Virginia near Staunton and soon after perhaps in the fall he was drafted to serve three months and after they rendezvoused he was selected to drive and take charge of a baggage wagon and team and was then marched to Richmond with the troops, the officers and men all being strangers to him and for which reason he cannot now name the officers under whom he entered the Service at that time. When the troops marched to Richmond Virginia the Applicant was present and continued in the baggage wagon Department and performed a trip with warlike stores to Staunton River on the borders of North Carolina and after

*ensuing*

<sup>1</sup> [ensuing?, misspelled]

<sup>2</sup> *Jurriatta*

unloading at Staunton River they returned to Richmond and then were discharged and returned home having been out seven weeks or more. He remembers he arrived home on Christmas day.

In the summer of 1781 he was again drafted for twenty days and during that time was the battles of hot water [also called the battle of Spencer's Tavern, June 26, 1781] and James Town [perhaps a reference to the engagement known as the battle of Jamestown Ford, July 6, 1781] in June and July he will was one of the detached party who made the assault on the British picket at James Town and brought on the battle under Major Ruchard a Continental Officer though his name may have been Richard and after the battle was brought home he was during the battle on the right wing and he was one of the last man who left the ground. Generals Lafayette and Wayne commanded in that battle.

About the first of September 1781 he was appointed by Quarter Master Hunter at Staunton a quartermaster to take charge of the baggage wagons to take provisions to Richmond and after conducting the wagons with provisions to Richmond he was then reappointed to the same command by Major Claiborne Quarter master at Richmond to continue on with the provisions to the Army having had a wagons under his command from Richmond he went with his wagons to Williamsburg where he received fresh orders from Colonel Carrington. He then loaded his wagons with military Stores and marched to Yorktown and was then in the main Army at the Siege of York when his wagons and [he] was then under the command of Captain Stuart wagon master general and remained there in that service until 8 days after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis [October 19, 1781]. After the surrender he assisted to haul the munitions [of] war to the wharf from there he was sent in charge of a wagon loaded by Major Claiborne to Richmond and then returned to Staunton which ended his military career having served in that service 2 months or more. Near York town General Washington halted say about 5 miles from the Town and the wagons under the command of this Applicant and munitions laid within about 10 rods of his tent until the Army drove in the British outposts. He served 9 1/2 months altogether to the best of his knowledge. He has no witness to prove his service except the Affidavits of Francis A. McCorkle & James McGill hereto annexed and he has not any documentary evidence to prove his service as he never received any written discharges. And he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any State or its Agency. Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 23rd day of October 1832  
S/ M. Payne, D. C. S/ William Rankin

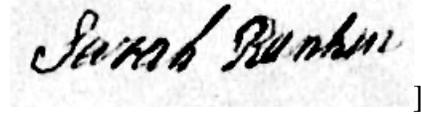
1832  
*William Rankin*

We Francis A McCorkle and James Magill resident citizens of said County do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with William Rankin who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration and that we believe him to be 74 years of age as he has stated and that it is reputed and believed in his neighborhood that he was a soldier of the revolution and we concur in that opinion. Sworn to and subscribed this 23rd day of October 1832

*Francis A McCorkle*  
*James Magill*

[f p. 5: On March 25, 1844 in Greene County Tennessee, Sarah Rankin, 81, filed for a widow's

pension under the 1838 act stating that she is the widow of William Rankin, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she married him August 29, 1787; that her husband died December 13, 1833.



Sarah Rankin

[Facts in file: Veteran married Sarah Moore born July, 1763; they had the following children  
Thomas born July 13, 1788  
Peggey born January 1 1790  
John Moore born April 10, 1792  
Anthony born August 23, 1794  
Isabel Clindinon born August 30, 1796  
William born March 23, 1799  
Ginny born November 17, 1801  
David born February 10, 1804.]

[f p. 22: copy of a marriage bond dated August 24, 1787 issued in Greene County Tennessee to William Rankin and David Moore conditioned upon the marriage of William Rankin to Sarah Moore.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$45.88 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private & quarter master for 9 months and 23 days in the Virginia militia. His widow was pensioned in a like amount.]