

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Rankin [Rankins] S31315

f32VA

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 8th of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Mason County SS

On this ___ day of November in the year 1833 personally appeared in open court William Rankins [sic], a resident of said County of Mason and State of Kentucky aged about 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 June 7th 1832.

He says that in July 1776 he enlisted for the term of three years under Captain William Brady in the County of Berkly [Berkeley] State of Virginia, Christopher Brady Lieutenant and the company was [indecipherable word] for Colonel Hugh Stevenson's (called Stinson) Regiment, but he departed this life before the same was completed and then the company was marched to Philadelphia & from thence went by water to Trenton – thence to Princeton – then to a place called [word too faint to discern] near the City of New York where they were attached to the Regiment of Colonel Moses Rawlings from thence they went to Fort Lee – and from thence crossed over to Fort Washington – where he was taken prisoner on the 16th of November 1776: from thence he was taken by the British to a Sugar House in New York & after some time removed on Board of the British fleet – where this occupant was placed on board the transport Ship called "the Dutton" and in year following in February or March 1777 he was paroled and returned to Philadelphia and remained there until April when he was sent home by direction of General Daniel Morgan who happened to be a personal acquaintance and remained in Virginia until summer 1778 when he was called to his Regiment under a proclamation that the Prisoners were exchanged and he marched to Fort Frederick in Maryland & joined the Regiment there commanded by Colonel Rawlings – and quartered there that winter guarding prisoners and upon regular duty. And in the Springs 1779 he marched under Captain Thomas Bell to Pittsburgh with a portion of said Rawlings' Regiment where they remained until June 1779 and marched down to Fort Lawrence [Fort Laurens] on Muskingum under Colonel Campbell and back under a Major Varnum – to Pittsburgh where he received a discharge – the end of his enlistment for three years – at the time he was discharged Colonel Broadhead & Colonel Gibson appeared to be in command – but whether one of them or Captain Bell signed the discharge he cannot say. It has been lost long ago – or put in the land Office in Virginia to get a land warrant – he cannot recollect but possibly the latter; he cannot say positive – but he thinks he did get land warrants, but having traded so much in that business cannot speak certainly. He has no documentary evidence by which he can prove his services. But John Kercheval and his wife Jane Kercheval both know that he did serve in the war of the revolution – in the latter recollects the day he marched from her father's in Frederick County Virginia –

And the said William Rankins 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.

He states that he is well acquainted with John Chambers Esquire late in Congress from this district and has lived near him for thirty years. He is well acquainted with the Clerk of the court of Mason, Colonel Keg [?] & the Judge Walker Reid & [text too faint to discern] Ward & all the officers & has been for at least 30 years with those named.

He is acquainted with many clergymen and especially with the Reverend Walter [last name indecipherable, looks like "Yraider"] and Hiram H Baker.

S/ Wm Rankins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm Rankins". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[Hiram H Baker, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[Walter Reid, Judge also gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 10]

The deposition of Thomas Jones taken at the House of ~~Peter Clarkson~~ said Jones on the 1st of October 1832 to be read as evidence to prove the Services of William Ranking [sic] in the Revolutionary war – This deponent being about seventy-five years of age deposes and saith –

That in the year 1777 [last digit written over and unclear] he received from the hands of General Margain [presumably Daniel Morgan] then in the Service of the United States the above named William Ranking – in the City of Philadelphia, as a sick soldier, belonging to the American Army and was directed by the said General Margain to convey the said Rankins [sic] to the State of Virginia his former State of Residence – which duty this deponent states he did perform – but this deponent is not able to say to what Regiment the said Ranking did belong – but that he did receive him from the hands of General Magan as stated above – and strictly complied with the order of General Mayon –

And further this deponent saith not.

S/ Thomas Jones

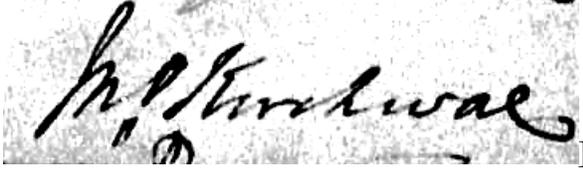
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Jones". The ink is dark and the handwriting is very fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.

[The above affidavit was attested October 1, 1832 in Bourbon County Kentucky by Peter Clarkson, JP]

[f p. 13: John Kercheval,¹ aged about 71, a resident of Mason County, Ky, gave testimony that he is well acquainted with William Rankins; that Rankins enlisted in the company of William Brady in 1776 in Berkeley County Virginia; he saw Rankins March off with his company; in the year 1777 he met said Rankins returning to Virginia in a low state of health in the wagon of Thomas Jones who lived in the neighborhood of this affiant's father; that Rankins informed the affiant that he had been taken prisoner at Fort Washington in the fall of 1776 and was on parole or exchanged (but affiant thinks paroled) on his way home for the purpose of endeavoring to restore

¹ This is probably the same man as FPA W3023

his health; that Rankins returned to the Army in 1778; that the affiant understood from Robert Rankins, the brother of the veteran, and an officer in the Army that William Rankins was ordered with his company and Regiment to Pittsburgh.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Rankins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured background. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial "W".

[Facts in file: Veteran died April 12, 1836; he was survived by children but their names and the name of his wife are not stated in the file.]

[The veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia service.]

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Addendum to William Rankin [Rankins] S31315

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. 27 Jan 2021.

[From [bounty-land records in the Library of Virginia.](#)]

I Certifie that Mr Wm. Rankins enlisted himself as a Soldier in my Company august 3rd 1776 and that he serv'd three years the term of his enlistment

Given under my hand this 22nd day of February 1783 William Brady Capt. [VAS2605]

(Copy B Stark)

Sir Please Give Robert Rankins a Certificate of My Service in order that he may obtain a warrent for my proportion of Land as a soldier of the Virginia Continental Line three years as I have appoint'd him to transact this business for me

Given this 29th day July 1783.

Teste

John Rankins

Benj'a Rankins [Benjamin Rankins]

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Rankins". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and somewhat slanted to the right.