Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

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Pension Application of James Rankin W3867 Rebecca Rankin Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

County of Botetourt State of Virginia Sc

On this 14th day of February 1825 personally appeared in open Court being a court of record for the County of Botetourt James Rankin resident in said County aged about seventy years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th March 1818 and 1st May 1820 – that he the said Rankin enlisted for the term of one year in the fall of 1775 in Hackets Town [Hackettstown] Sussex County in the State of New Jersey in the company commanded by Captain Shaw [possibly Archibald Shaw] in the Regiment commanded by Colonel [William] Maxwell in the line of the State of New Jersey on Continental establishment – that he continued to serve in the said Corps untill the fall of 1776 when he was discharged from the said service at Mount Independence which was called by that name because the army was stationed there when independence was declared. He does not know what state it is situated in but it lies on the east side of Lake Champlain [in present Vermont].

That in the year 1777 he again enlisted for three years or during the war in the same Company but the former Captain having deserted to the British it was commanded by Capt Luce and ultimately by Captain William Helms – that he continued to serve during the war when he was discharged at Newburg [sic: Newburgh] in the State of New York as a Coporal [sic: Corporal] – that he was in the Battles of Short Hills [26 Jun 1777], Piscataway [17 Mar 1777], Springfield [23 Jun 1780], Germantown [4 Oct 1777], Brandy Wine [Brandywine, 11 Sep 1777] and would have been in the battle of Monmouth [28 Jun 1778] had he not been appointed, on that occasion one of the guard of the Baggage Waggons – In addition to these battles he was at the Seige of York from its Commencement till the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's army [28 Sep - 19 Oct 1781].

That having removed a number of years ago from the State of New Jersey where his services are known and being unable from indigence and infirmities to travel thither to obtain testimonials thereof he is without other evidence of them than that which can be supplied by his former Captain William Helms now residing, as he is informed in the state of Tennessee and by Joseph Anderson Esq'r [Joseph Insla Anderson, pension application W23449] of the Treasury department at the City of Washington both of whom were formerly from New Jersey and he has reason to believe will recollect him and will testify to the services he has rendered.

And in pursuance of the act of the 1st May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.

A Schedule of Property belonging to James Rankin a revolutionary Soldier Two Beds one Cupboard Six chairs and Large wheel one small wheel three Pots one Kettle two ovens three Tubs one Table & one spider, and one Loom being all the property of any discription that belongs to me Febuary 14th 1825

James Rankin

Virginia, Franklin County toWit.

On the 5th day of March 1828 personally appeared in open Court being a Court of record for the County of Franklin aforesaid, resident in said County James Rankin aged about seventy three years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to

obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st May 1820. That he the said James Rankin enlisted for the term of one year in the state of New Jersey in the Company commanded by Capt. Shaw in the second Regiment commanded by Colo William Manwell [sic] in the line of the State of New Jersey on continental Establishment and that he served in the said Corps until the expiration of his term, he then reinlisted in the same Company then commanded by Captain Henry Luce for and during the term and continuance of the War. That he served in the said Corps until the conclusion of the War in the year 1783, and was discharged at Newburgh on the North river in the State of New York. That his discharge has been lost or mislaid, That he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the Present. That he has made repeated applications to be placed upon the Pension list, but either from defects in his papers or want of proof of his services, or some other cause he has he thinks failed. [Oath similar to the one above follows.]

NOTES:

On 5 April 1828 Joseph Anderson Comptroller of the US Treasury, stated in a letter to Congressman Nathaniel H. Claiborne that he recalled the name of James Rankin and was able to describe him, and that a letter from Rankin detailed officers and events that he also recollected.

On 20 April 1843 Rebecca Rankin, about 88, of Franklin County VA, applied for a pension stating that she married James Rankin in Sussex County after he left the service and before 1794, and he died on 27 Aug 1836. She stated that her eldest daughter, Peggy, 55, the widow of William Greenwood, was born after the marriage. The file includes a copy of a bond signed on 26 Dec 1810 by William Greenwood and John Burns for the marriage of Greenwood to Peggy Rankin, daughter of James Rankin. On 16 May 1843 Abraham Gish, about 74, stated that 30 to 40 years previously James Rankin moved about three miles from him in Cloverdale Furnace in Botetourt County, and that Peggy Greenwood of Franklin County was at least as old as his son, John Gish, who was born on 6 April 1793. On 26 Sep 1848 Rebecca Rankin was said to be 90.