

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Richard Booz R1026

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia, }
County of Rockingham } S.S.

On this 20th day of January 1834 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of Rockingham now sitting, Richard Booz Sen'r. a resident of Harrisonburg, in the County of Rockingham and state of Virginia, aged sixty-nine 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 sevice of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated.

He was born in Amelia County, Virginia, on the 25th of July 1764; his age was recorded in his father's bible, where he has often seen it, but his father removed to Kentucky, and carried his Bible, where he presumes it is at present in possession of some other member of his father's family. From Amelia County, his father removed to Lunenburg County, where he resided during the Revolutionary War. After his services in the Revolutionary War, he went to Fredericksburg, Va. where he learned his trade as a tailor. From Fredericksburg, he removed to Amelia Ct. House, from thence to Nottoway Ct. House, thence to Fredericksburg again, thence to Stanardsville in Orange County, thence to Madison Ct. House, thence to Rockingham, and thence to Augusta County, where he has resided for about twenty-seven years last past, until February 1833 when he removed back to Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, where he resides at present. Owing to his frequent removals, and loss of memory, he is unable to specify with accuracy the dates of his various removals, or the period which he remained at each place. He has resided longer in Augusta County Va than in any other place, and it is to the neighbourhood in which he resided in that County, where he is best known, and the neighbours best acquainted with his services, that the certificate of the Clergyman hereto annexed, refers. He trusts this slight variance from the established form, but which is to the same effect substantially, will not present any obstacle to his success. He has not lived long enough in the place of his present residence, to enable him to procure the certificate in the usual form. His father John Booz [pension application S35198] who was a private Soldier in the Revolutionary army, was at home on furlough in Lunenburg County, in the year 1778 and in the month of October, as well as he recollects he went in company with his father to Cumberland Court House, Virginia, and joined the troops stationed at that place, as a volunteer with the view to serve as a musician, (a fifer) but finding no vacancy for him as a musician, the places being supplied, he mustered as a soldier for a few days, in Capt. Greer's company the same to which his father was attached – he was then ordered to work under the Command of Sargeant James Bachelor, of Capt. Greer's Company, in making Cartridges – and continued thus employed during the whole period of his services. Besides Capt Greer's, there were Capt's. Wiley & Lovely, with their companies, stationed at Cumberland, under the immediate command of Col. Mosby. After continuing at this place eight or nine months the detachment marched to New London in Bedford County [now in Campbell County] Va. where they were under the Command of Col. [Samuel Jordan] Cabell. He volunteered for the period of 18 months, and continued at New London until his term expired. Sergeant Bachelor had under his command, eight or ten soldiers besides himself, who were employed in making cartridges, canteens, and other articles for the use of the soldiery. Their roll was regularly called, and they drew rations as other soldiers. The detachment with which he served had no engagement with the enemy during his term of service; and was under the command of Gen'l. Muhlenburg [sic: Peter Muhlenberg], whom he frequently saw – his father drove that officer's baggage waggon for a considerable time. This applicant and his father got a written discharge, on the same piece

of paper, signed by Gen'l. Muhlenburg – it was kept by his father; who removed to Kentucky, and settled on the land, drawn for his military services. [See endnote.] He knows of no person living, by whom he can prove his services, unless a certain John Kirtly who removed to Woodford County Kentucky, is yet alive – but his efforts to hear from him have proved fruitless heretofore. He has no documentary evidence of his services. For his character for veracity, and the belief of his services as a soldier of the revolution he refers to the Rev'd. Mr. Cunningham, John Crummey and Jeremiah Fuller of Staunton, Augusta County.

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 any agency in any state.

Sworn to, & subscribed, the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Ricard [edge of page]

State of Virginia }
Rockingham County } S.S.

This day [29 Aug 1834] Richard Booz personally appeared before the undersigned and a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, and made oath in due form of law that in the year 1777 as well as he now recollects he entered the military service of the United States, he being then about 14 years of age. He went with his father, and joined the troops stationed at Cumberland Court House, Virginia with a view to serve as a musician, but finding no vacancy for him as a musician, he entered the ranks, and bore arms as a soldier, and was regularly subject to military duty as a Soldier, mustered and carried a gun, and his name was called at the calling of the rolls – in the same manner as any other soldier, and was in all respects subject to military duty, as completely as any soldier in either of the companies. After continuing in the ranks for some time, he was ordered to quit the ranks, and to work in the laboratory – together with two other soldiers, (Long and Yates,) from the same company and had no option whatever, nor any contract whatever, but he was ordered to that duty, and was under the command of a sergeant, subject to military duty, and the roll called regularly every day, and his own name, in the same manner with any other soldier. He was tasked as to the quantity of work required to be done, and subject to be flogged if the task was not performed. He drew rations while in the laboratory, as another soldier, was not permitted to leave the encampment, without a written permit, and on one occasion he recollects getting such written permit. He was entitled to the same monthly pay as another soldier, & never considered his services in the nature of a civil contract, and in fact had no contract whatever, other than his military engagement. When the detachment to which he belonged was marched from Cumberland Court-House, to New London, in Bedford County, he marched with the troops, as much subject to military discipline, and military regulations, as any soldier in the Corps, and if he had quit the troops would have been considered a deserter, and liable to be apprehended as such, as much so as any soldier in the Corps. When the roll was called on the march between those two places, his name was called as another soldier and he encamped with the troops, and was not permitted to quit the encampment at night, any more than another soldier, and if he had done so, would certainly have been punished as another soldier. When he quit the service he got a written permit, from his officers, and did not get a regular discharge for some considerable time afterwards. Before the detachment left Cumberland Ct-House he was employed in building huts for the use of the soldiery, and laboured with the other soldiers, and at the same time he was regularly mustered twice a day as a soldier, and his name regularly called whenever the roll was called, as another soldier's. And had he refused to work, would have been subject to military punishment; and had no contract for this kind of labour, different from any other soldier in the detachment. While he was employed in the laboratory, or work-shop, at New-London there were about eight or ten other soldiers under the command of Sergeant Bachelor, besides, himself, as well as he now recollects. The troops with whom he served, were partly regulars, and partly militia, but his memory does not serve him sufficiently to designate particularly, which of the officers were regulars and which were militia. but his present impression in that Captains Wiley & Lovely were regular officers, and Capt. Greer a militia officer, but he cannot speak positively. [signed] Richard Booz Sr

Sir [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions]

Harrisonburg Va. Sept 9th 1834

I learned with some surprise from your letter of the 11th August, to Allan C. Bryan, (who has acted as my agent and advisor,) that my claim for a pension under the law of June 7th 1832, was rejected, on the ground that I was not a soldier, but a labourer on civil contract.

It never for a moment entered my imagination that I was not as much a soldier, bound to military service, as any soldier in the camp. My memory does not serve me sufficiently to enable me to say what portion of the troops with whom I served, were militia, and what portion were regulars, but I do not entertain any doubt of there being both kind of troops employed, and if I am not mistaken, the records will show that some of the officers named in my declaration were regulars, and others only militias – eighteen months militia men. I presume if I had joined the militia, as a volunteer and served eighteen months in the ranks as another soldier there would be no doubt of my right to the pension, subject to the rules and regulations of militia cases, for the proof of my services; and it is extremely hard indeed, because I was ordered and compelled to perform a particular kind of service, which had to be performed by some of the soldiers, that I should be deprived of the bounty or the government. As to my being a boy of only fourteen years of age, I believe that is about the age at which Gen'l. [Andrew] Jackson served [sic] in the Revolution, who has received the honour of being styled the hero of two wars.

The printed instructions of the War Department on the subject, say the law has been construed to embrace “all persons enlisted – drafted, or who volunteered, and who were bound to military service.” [See endnote.] If the facts stated by me, on oath on this sheet, are to be believed, I do not see how it can be denied for a moment that I come within the description of a volunteer bound to military service. If the certificate of the magistrate, who administered the oath as to my veracity, is not deemed sufficient on the subject, I would have no difficulty in procuring additional testimonials in abundance.

I flatter myself therefor that you will not find it inconsistent with your official duties, to review my case and reverse a decision, honestly made I doubt not, but under misapprehension of the facts.

Very respectfully Your obt. Serv't./ [signed] Richard Booz Sr.

The State of Ohio }

Preble County } SS. First Judicial Circuit of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the State of Ohio now setting and holden at Eaton in and for the county of Preble aforesaid on this 24th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one – personally appeared in open Court Before the Hon. Judges of the court of common pleas aforesaid Richard Boaz a resident of Jones[?] township in said Preble County aged seventy seven years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his Oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832.

That he entered the service of the united states at the county of Lunenburg in the state of Virginia early in the month of April in the year AD 1778 or 1779 as a volunteer in a company of Volunteer Virginia Militia commanded by Capt. Greer in Colo. Sam'l Fee Baker's Reg't. that on entering said company they were marched to Cumberland Court House where they joined Captains Loveleys & Wileys company of militia that they were then under the command of General Muhlenburg who commanded in person. that they remained at Cumberland Court House Eight months and engaged in watching the movements of the British army that from Cumberland Court House they marched to Bedford C. H. (New London) where they were stationed and remained in actual service ten months and was still under the command of Col. Baker & General Muhlenburgh. that at this place after serving ten months he got a permit to return home which he did that he arrived at home in the latter part of the month of October in the year AD 1779 or 1780 after serving eighteen months as aforesaid and that he did not again return to the army. that he after his return home got a written discharge from General Muhlenburgh for his said 18 months service which discharge he has lost long since . he avers and declares that he served as aforesaid 18 months he does not recollect the day of the month on which he entered the service nor the day of the

month on which he left the service but he recollects that he entered the service in April and left it in October and that he always computed his service at 18 months actual service and he knows that he served not less than that length of time. he further states that he has no Documentary evidence of his said services and that he does not know of any person now living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services 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. he further states that he has no record of his age but was told and understood by his parents that he was born in the County of Amelia and State of Virginia on the 25th day of July AD 1764 according to the best of his recollection and at the time he entered the service he resided in the county of Lunenburg & state of Virginia and that he served in a Company of Virginia Volunteer Militia as aforesaid in the War of the Revolution and that since the Revolutionary War he resided in Virginia and from that state he came to Preble county in the state of Ohio where he now resides and has resided for the space of four years past and that he is known to James Kilkenney and James Cassaday who resides in his present neighborhood who can testify as to his character for truth and veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolutionary War

he further states that he would have made an early application for a pension under the act of Congress passed the 7th June 1832 But that he had no knowledge of the passage of said act until he was informed by the Hon. J. B. Weller in the month of may last of the passage of said act. and that his services would come within it provisions

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid [signed] Rich'd Booz

NOTES:

John Booz stated in his own pension application that he had never seen the land for which he obtained patents for his service.

The file includes additional lengthy correspondence regarding the objections to Booz's claim: that he was merely a volunteer not engaged in military service and was too young to have been enlisted in the militia. The pension act of 7 June 1832 included "all persons enlisted, drafted, or who volunteered and who were bound to military service, but not those who were occasionally employed with the army upon civil contracts, such as Clerks to Commissaries and to Store Keepers, &c., Teamsters, Boatmen, &c."

On 5 Aug 1834 Henry Booz stated that since 1808 or earlier he had frequently heard his father, Richard Booz, "boast, and speak about having had a share in the struggle for the liberty of the Country, that the leading circumstances of his services, have been familiar to the mind of this deponent since his childhood. He always represented that he had served for the period of eighteen months, first as a musician, and afterwards as an artisan."