

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Zerah Osborn R16861

f15VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/28/12

[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 Virginia County of Randolph: SS

On this 1st day of November A.D. 1833 personally appeared before me one of the Commonwealth's Justices of the peace in and for said County of Randolph and Virginia State, Zerah Osborn a resident of Cove Settlement in said County of Randolph aged 78 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:

That in the month of March 1776 affiant volunteered as a private and Indian Spie [Spy] under Captain Haymond [possibly either Thomas or William Haymond] on Cheat River at Manurs [Minear's]¹ Block House then in Augusta County Virginia, for a period of six months and was marched to Stradlers Fort [also called Statler Fort] on Duncard Creek [Dunkard Creek], a branch of the Monongahela he of River, near where Morgantown [Morganton] now stands. When Captain Haymond's Company reached said Stradlers Fort on Duncard Creek, Captain Haymond inquired of his Company of Volunteers whether there was any man in the Company that could drill the men, and go through the exercise of Military Tacticks [tactics], no man replied whether he could or not, until affiant who stepped forward and said he felt he could (for he had been drilled in Morris County and State of Jersey, from whence he emigrated, to military tacticks and understood the same). He was asked to proceed, done so, and Captain Haymond appointed him first Sergeant in his company of Volunteers. Captain Haymond appeared much pleased and devolved considerable of the drilling duty upon Affiant. On intermediate meetings after spying excursions, affiant took charge of Four men namely Andrew Shepherd, Aaron Grimes, Thomas Seely and James Tanner and proceeded to examine the War paths of the Indians leading up Fish Creek and Fishing Creek from Ohio River, which headed against Ten Mile Creek, Buffaloe Creek, Duncard Creek, &c and being themselves into West fork of Monongahela and Monongahela River itself, and leading to the Settlement which affiant had to defend, all the aforementioned streams now lives in the Counties of now Tyler, Harrison and Monongahela, Virginia affiant and his Company (which were not separated from him that year) continuing their

¹ Leon Harris provides the following information regarding this fort:

Regarding the fort mentioned, I have this from the web:

MINEAR: Fort on the east side of Cheat River, on the site of the present town of St. George, in St. George District, Tucker County. It was built by John Minear in 1776 (or 1774), assisted by a body of emigrants who accompanied him here and who afterwards became the founders of St. George. It came under Indian attack in 1780 and 1781.

examinations until October of that year, and although many visitations of the Savages were made into the West fork (Settlement) of Monongahela, and occasionally on the Monongahela Settlement, yet affiant and his Company never were in any personal Conflict, during the above period and was discharged by his Captain Haymond. Then in the spring of 1777 Captain Haymond in April of that year, divided a Company of Volunteers; he had raised among whom Affiant was one, the Company again was raised from Cheat River, then in Augusta County Virginia, now in Randolph County Virginia Consisting of twenty-five men, who had volunteered for six months each as Indian Spies and privates, Captain Haymond advised that ten men should be stationed at Manurs Block House on Cheat River, to aid those who were left to protect that settlement during that season, Captain Haymond proceeded with fifteen men to Morgantown (in Monongahela [Monongalia] County now) then Augusta County Virginia, and left affiant with the residue of ten men on Cheat River, at Manurs Block house as aforesaid, appointed him again first Sergeant, over said men directed a Continuous Spying by said men, on the waters of Clover Run, Horse Shoe run, (waters of Cheat River closed (and on waters of Tigerts Valley [Tygarts Valley], Buckhannon River &c now in the Counties of Randolph, Lewis and Harrison and State of Virginia affiant and his Company diligently performed their duty during that Season, he commanding as first Sergeant and although the havoc of the Indian enemy spread gloom, through the neighboring Country and that their approach, and Flight (after having committed their horrible deeds) was on several Occasions, closely pursued by affiant and Company, yet they were in no personal Conflict that year and as well as affiant remembers Only succeeded in rescuing three Horse Creatures the property [of] Mr. Goffs and Jenkins, that the Indians had stolen, continued in service until the latter end of October 1777 and Captain Haymond not yet having returned, the term of Servitude for which Captain Haymond had volunteered his men having elapsed affiant, gave to said men a verbal discharge, then in April 1778, affiant Volunteered as a private and Indian Spy in Morgantown (now) then in Augusta County Virginia on the Monongahela River, under Captain Theopolis Philips [Theophilus Phillips?], for a servitude of six months and was stationed at Martin's Fort On Crooked Run, in said County (now) of Monongahela, was ordered to spy on waters of Duncard Creek, Buffalo Creek, Ten Mile Creek, Fishing Creek, Fish Creek and Bingaman Creek in the Counties (now) of Harrison, Monongahela and Tyler State of Virginia, affiant done so, acted vigilantly watched the Indian War paths, came in no personal Conflicts and was discharged in October of that year having served the period for which he volunteered, by his Captain Philips. Then in March 1782, Affiant Volunteered for a period of nine months under Captain Theopoles Philips at Morgantown in Monongahela County Virginia was marched to Pittsburgh then Fort Pitt from thence to Wheeling on the Ohio River Contemplated an excursion into of Ohio State; and by order of Colonel Zane, Captain Theopolis Philips marched his men to Morgantown, Monongahela County, and dispatched them to different forts, and ordered them upon their Spying Excursions, until November of that year and affiant was discharged having served nine months the services of affiant did not amount to less than 27 months in all and that during that time he knew the following named officers at Pricketts Fort knew Captain Springer, at Power's Fort Captain Robinson, at Morgantown, Colonel Evans, Captain Haymond, Phillips & at Wheeling Virginia [one or more indecipherable words] Cols. Zane and Shepherd. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person 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. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Zerah Osbrn



The said Justice then proceeded to propound the 7 several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, to which the said Declarant answered as follows viz. to the

1st I was born in Morris County in the State of New Jersey 15th day of August 1755

2nd. I have no record of my age, but remember the account given me thereof by my parents.

3rd. When called into service, I was living on Sheet River in Augusta (now Randolph) County Virginia. I have since lived in the Cove Settlement where I now live in Randolph County Virginia.

4th. In each and every tour I volunteered

5th. From the nature of my service, I had no opportunity of seeing any part of the regular Army or regular officers commanding. I seen Captain Robinson who commanded a Garrison on Simpson's Creek now in Harrison County Virginia, Springer at Pricketts, Phillips at Martin's and Miner's Forts in what is now Monongalia County Virginia I knew Colonel Zane who commanded the militia of Ohio County.

6th. I never received a written discharge at the expiration of each engagement I was verbally discharged except the 2nd when I retired from service after having served out the time for which I engaged.

7th. I am known to Andrew Miller and John Graham who reside in my neighborhood and can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as an Indian spy in the War of the revolution.

S/ Zerah Osborn

[Andrew Miller and John Graham gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[f p. 13]

Zerah Osborn, Served 27 months – Applicant – Luke Bryan, says that Osborn is a neighbor of his has known him for 26 years – in that time he has had frequent conversation with him about the Revolutionary War – he never pretended that he took any part in that Struggle until after the passage of the Pension Law of 1832, after that occurrence, Osborn contended that he had been in service for 3 months – but he don't believe him & which is the opinion of everyone that knows him – this is one of J. F. Newlons [J. F. Newlon's] cases

A Copy

S/ W. G. Singleton

Andrew Miller

General Edward. served 27 months. - Applicant -

Edwin Ryan, says that Ostrom is a neighbor
of his. has known him for 26 yrs - in that time he has had
frequent conversations with him about the Revolutionary
War - he ^{never} pretends that he took any part in that struggle
until after the passage of the Pension Law of 1832, after
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A. G. G.

W. G. G. G. G.

Andrew Miller.