

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

Pension Application of James Ballard R463

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Deposition of Majr Bland W. Ballard [pension application W20655] taken at the house of s'd. Ballard in Shelby County Kentucky on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1832

The deponent being about 70 years of age and first duly sworn before Robert T. Robb a justice of the peace for Shelby County deposed and saith that he knew his brother James Ballard in 1780 at Louisville as a Militia soldier and rendered services there under the controle of Gen. George R Clark [George Rogers Clark] untill the fall 1782 then went under Capt Aquilla Whitaker against the Indians at Shawnee Town on the Miami under the comand of Gen George R Clark and in 1786 went against the Wabash Indians and frequently services rendered at intirvells as Scouting ranging and spying in 1788 he acted as a guard and Spie for about one month on Brasheers [sic: Brashears] Creek then Jefferson County Ky under the Command of Capt. Aquilla Whitake in 1789 he went under Capt Bland W. Ballard Comand by Col. John Hardin against the Wabash Indians also Capt Paine Comanded by Gen Charles Scott against the wabash Indians also he went in 1793 in Capt William Steels Company Commanded by Gen. Charles Scott and joined Waynes [Anthony Wayne's] Campain. I believe James Ballard is about 66 years of age and further the deponent sath not.

[signed 1 Mar 1838] Blan W Ballard

The Declaration of James Ballard of Shelby County Ky made on this [blank] day of Feby 1838 to receive the benefits of the provisions of the act of Congress passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> [sic: 7<sup>th</sup>] day of June 1832

He states that he is now in his 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age. That he rendered service in the war of the Revolution as follows, that in the month of May 1780 Bland Ballard the father of said James landed at the falls of Ohio Ky. that in June following he volunteered as a militia soldier in Capt Jacob Piatts [possibly Jacob Pyeatt's] company and was hunting securing and killing provisions for the army under the command of Captain Piatt untill Spring following. Captain Piatt was an officer under the command of Captain Piatt was an officer under the command of George R Clark that during the term aforesaid he was employed and engaged as an Indian Spy and ranger and hunting for the army – and was in numerous skirmishes and engagements with small parties of the Indians. That in the Spring 1781 he again joined the Company of Capt George Owen's [George Owens's] Company as a spy and ranger. that he continued to act as a Spy in said Owen Company all the summer and untill September of that year having to do continual service as a spy and having had numerous skirmishes with the Indians, that it was about this time that an engagement took place between the Indians an Col Floyd in which Col Floyd was defeated [John Floyd, at Long Run Creek, 14 Sep 1781] and that he was one among the defeated on that day and fled for safety. That at Floyds defeat he recollects Col Sam'l Wells [Samuel Wells] was in the engagement

That in August or Sept 1782 he volunteered as a soldier in Capt Whitakers Company for 3 months or upwards and marched under said Capt Whitaker and under Gen'l Clarke to Miami River to Shawnee Town from thence to McKees Towns on the Sciota River, having taken the Towns and destroyed them, and also took prisoners – and returned home to the Station, in the month of Dec following. That when he returned he continued to act as a Spy from that time untill the Spring following – giving the Commander in Chief all the information they could procure relative to the movement of the army of Indians and depredation of the settlements, and supplying the army with all the provisions they could kill & pack in. that the Army under the command of Genl Clarke had to be supplied with provisions almost entire by hunting which was done mostly by spys That he acted at some time under special directions of Genl Clarke as a spy and hunter and at others in a company reguarly raised for the purpose. That in the spring of 1783 he continued to render similar service, In a detached party under special directions of Genl Clark as a spy not having any special commander only to return and give such information as he had in

procured to Genl Clark and securing the army provisions which was killed & packed in That he continued in service untill the fall of 1783 and that he was in all Clarkes expeditions West after 1782 Towit at Wabash River under Col John Hardin 1786. that in 1788 he acted as a spy on Brasheares Creek for 8 months. that he was in all the campaigns from 1788 untill 1793 under Genl Scott Harmer & Wayn's untill all the difficulties were fully settled with the Indians in 1794 or therabouts.

That in the service aforesaid he knew in 1781 or thereabouts Genl Clarke Col George Slaughter Col [Joseph] Crockett Capt [Benjamin] Roberts Capt Rogers Capt Mark Thomas Capt George Capt Benj Field [sic: Benjamin Fields] Lt Sanders Col Todd Col Floyd Col Wells Major Harlan and nearly all the inferior officers of the Regiment under the command of Genl Clarke & [John] Montgomery, which were on state establishment and numerous others of the militia of the State of Va. That he never has received any pension for the aforesaid services and hereby relinquishes all others but the present.

[signed] James Ballard

Louisville March 26<sup>th</sup> 1838

Wm H Todd – Dr. Sir I omitted in the business I intrusted to you, to state that my father, mother, two brothers and a sister were killed in my Fathers house and the house burned, all my Fathers papers as well as my own were then destroyed by fire. For reference in relation to this matter you may correspond with the Hon Jon Pope & Henry Clay members of Congress from Kentucky. I am not intimately acquainted with Mr. Graves but I would also refer you to him

This letter is written from Louisville I will soon return to Shelbyville, where I will expect frequent letters from you. Yours with respect James Ballard

P.S. Refer also to Col. R. M. Johnston

NOTE: Ballard's claim was not allowed in spite of the fact that the pension act of 1832 provided for Indian Spies in service during the Revolutionary War (up to 15 Apr 1783) in an embodied corps such as George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment. For the rationale behind the Pension Commissioner's decision, see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.