

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Ruminger (Ruminger) R9071

fn11NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/23/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Indiana County of Daviess

On this 12th day of November 1833 personally appeared in open court, before James McDonald Judge of the Daviess Probate Court now sitting John Ruminger, a resident of Bogard Township in said County of Daviess and State of Indiana, aged seventy-one 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 7, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

This declarant was born in Rowan County North Carolina, when very young he removed to Lincoln County in the same State, where he resided during the Revolutionary War, and till the year 1813 [could be 1811 or 1812]. In the month of March 1780 (the date not recollected) he volunteered for three months in a company raised in the County last aforesaid, under Captain Joseph Collins, Lieutenant David McMicking, & Ensign William Batey, destined for the defense of Charlestown [Charleston] (South Carolina). The said company immediately marched for the place of destination, and on their way joined a party of North Carolina Militia under Major Harris in Rowan County (NC). Thence he proceeded under said officers to the Eutaw Springs, where they fell in with a party of Virginia regulars (the names of their officers not recollected) and the whole proceeded towards Charleston, crossing the Catawba [River], proceeding down it some distance, then crossing Wateree [River] at Camden, and proceeding to Moncks Corner eighteen miles from Charleston. The Country between Moncks Corner and Charleston was, at that time, infested by the enemy; they therefore took water near Moncks Corner, in a schooner, and arrived safe at Charleston with said party & under said officers, just thirty days before the surrender of that place. The siege had commenced before this declarant arrived at Charleston but they encountered no difficulty in getting into the place in the night time. He recollects that the besiegers, under Sir Henry Clinton, labored on their works, principally in the night, making themselves a light by setting barrels of tar on fire, and working at some distance so as to have the advantage of the light so made, without being easily perceived by the besieged. During the siege, the American forces made but few sorties on the enemy, but kept up a constant fire when any of the besiegers showed themselves. The place being no longer defensible, was surrendered about the 12th May 1780, and after the surrender this declarant was, in about eight days, paroled by the British, and went home. General Lincoln commanded the American forces, and this declarant, having seen him often during the siege, remembers him well. Declarant started home in said company wherein he volunteered, still with said Major Harris; but on the way declarant, being nearly barefoot, ran an oyster shell in his foot, which so lamed him, that he was obliged to

stay behind the company. When he was able to travel, he pursued his journey, in great pain, making his way, and arrived at home in harvest having served in this tour full three months. He got home in June, the date not remembered. He received a written parole from the British in Charleston, and kept the same for many years it is now lost.

In the all-time of 1781, he again volunteered in a company under Captain Abram Forney¹, for a tour of three months, against the Cherokee Indians who were, at that time, combined with the British and hostility on the frontiers of North Carolina, Georgia & Virginia. He believes that there were neither Lieutenant nor Ensign in this Company. Several other companies (one under Captain Wilson, the other Captains not recollected) joined declarant's company, in all about three hundred, all mounted on horses, and all under command of Major Miller, Colonel McDowell & General McDowell. He proceeded under these officers about 100 miles to Tennessee River, through a wilderness. The Army fell in with the Cherokee settlements on a stream called Swanno [Swannanoa], a branch of the Tennessee. The Cherokees fled everywhere, and never stood a fire. The party burnt several Indian towns on Cowee River & on the Tennessee, and cut down a great deal of their corn, & destroyed their provisions. He recollects they took an Indian and squaw. In crossing the Cowee the squaw let her pappoose [papoose] fall into the stream, & as our men believed that she dropped it on purpose, some of them shot her. The Indian man was killed also by a pet Indian that had gone out with Major Miller. After the old warrior was shot in the bowels he made signs for our men to shoot him in the head which was done. On the Swano declarant took a little circuit out from the body of the Main Army, and came on an Indian camp, the fire was burning and a pot on it. He saw some corn lying on a kind of bed, which he took care to preserve, set the camp on fire, and returned to the Main Army. On the night of the same day, the Indians stole 15 or 20 of their horses. This occurred as they were returning. In this tour he suffered a good deal from hunger, the provisions having failed, and the Army reduced to the necessity of depending on conquest for food. This expedition declarant believes humbled the Cherokees & broke their force so that they were for a long time afterwards peaceable. In this expedition he served 3 months as a mounted man, but he cannot recollect with certainty either the month or day he set out or return from this tour. He thinks, however, that the expedition commenced about the first of September 1781 and ended about the first of December of the same year -- and he is well satisfied that he served for 3 months. After he returned home, he lived in the same County of Lincoln (NC) till 1812, when he removed to Jefferson County Kentucky, thence moved to Hardeman County Tennessee where he lived 7 years -- Thence removed to said County of Daviess, Indiana, where he has ever since resided. He was born, as above stated in Rowan County (North Carolina, in February 1763. He has no record of his age. He has no recollection of any other regular officers, who were with the troops where he served, no Continental or militia regiments, other than those before named. He never received any discharge other than the parole aforesaid and a written discharge from the said tour in 1781 which is also lost. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services -- But George A/ Waller & David McDonald can testify as to his character for veracity, and their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution they being resident in declarant's neighborhood, and being acquainted with him. 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.

S/ George Ruminger, X his mark

sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid S/ John Cantrell, Clerk

¹ [Abraham Forney W3976](#)

[George A. Waller and David McDonald gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 6: on July 6, 1834 while still living in Daviess County Indiana, the veteran executed a power of attorney for the purpose of pursuing his claim.]

[A note in the file indicates that this claim was rejected because the service claimed by the veteran was "a little upward of 5 months" -- under the 1832 act proof of 6 months service was required to qualify for a pension.]