

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Ryker R9129

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 8/22/12

[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.]

Declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832

State of Indiana, County of Jefferson

On this 11th day of November 1834 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Probate of Jefferson County and State afore aid now sitting. John Ryker a resident of Jefferson County and State of Indiana, aged seventy 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:

In the year 1776 met a party of British 300 in number, who ascended North River for the purpose of plundering, taking cattle or horses, had a skirmish below Dobbs Ferry in New Jersey, the British retreated. Went out under Captain Bell. Called from the company under the command of Captain Herrin [Abraham A. Haring], in which company I was a private from the latter part of the year 1776 to the latter part of the year 1777. My service under Captain Herrin was for one year. Was in no engagement under his command, Was ordered to be always ready for services. Was regularly exercised. Performed not much active duty, did not march far nor very frequently. Was during this year in the month of June taken from the command of Captain Herrin and transferred to the command of the same Captain Bell who marched his company against a party of British who had plundered and had taken 40 head of cattle and horses. We fired on them at below Dobbs Ferry and this fire was exchanged. Our fire was made from the top of a cliff and had the desired effect. They retreated and we retook the cattle and horses. This service and the skirmish before stated under the same Captain Bell together amount to about 2 days service. This last service was in the month of July if I recollect right. My recollection of the dates is however very imperfect. The British then lay in New York — was rendered in Rockland County New Jersey. Resided in Rockland County at this time.

In 1778 moved to Virginia Beckly [sic, Berkeley, now in West Virginia] County, in 1779 left Beckly County Va. In the spring of 1780 landed at the falls of Ohio (Kentucky). On the first of July or thereabouts 1780, went on a campaign under the command of General Clark to the Miami Indian towns. Colonels Lynn, Logan & Slaughter commanded under Clark. Colonel Slaughter had command of Transport Boats which conveyed stores & provision from Louisville to where Cincinnati now stands, Robert Johnson was Captain of my Company. We started from Bear Grass Floyd's Station, thence up the Ohio River. Some of the boats aforesaid on one & some on the other side the river. Men went on land except those who manned the boats. I was marched on the now Kentucky side the river. About 2 days march from Louisville boats on the opposite side were fired on by Indians, 2 men killed 3 wounded who afterward died of their wounds. Captain Bunn was one

of that number. We set out immediately to cross the river in our boats, fired on Indians & they dispersed. This was late in the evening. We arrived at the mouth of Licking, thence to Chillicothe, destroyed Indian town then. Town was in part fired by Indians upon our approach. We fired the balance and destroyed a large quantity of their corn. Thence to Piqua town when we had a battle with Indians, lossed 12 or 15 men. Killed a number of the Indians: took and destroyed town. Thence returned to Bear Grass same route. Campaign lasted two months & I think somewhat longer. Started in July about the beginning of the month. Returned home in September but the precise time I cannot recollect. — In the spring of 1781 was called upon to work a tour of duty at Fort at Louisville for its defense & worked 30 days and soon after was called upon to build Block house & magazine some miles above the falls of Ohio. Worked 10 days as I believe. In the month of ___ [blank in original] 1781 went with a party of men under Floyd & Whitaker to Bullets Lick to bring back families defeated & massacred by Indians (such as survived) while moving from Bear Grass to Harrodsburgh, massacre was at Clear Station. Went on 2nd trip to bury the dead, distance not now recollected, suppose it was 15 miles. Time occupied in going both trips was about 3 or 4 days.

~~During Summer of 1781 Served as Indian Spy frequently went a distance of 20 or 25 miles.— On the Ohio and up the River and in various directions, as occasion required (lived then on extreme frontier). Service as Spy here spoken of would amount to ___ [blank in original] days.~~

In the spring of 1782 went out on scouting party under Captain Whitaker. Marched from Bear Grass to mouth of Kentucky River, distance 60 miles or thereabouts. Thence to Drinness Lick 15 or 20 miles, thence in a circuitous route to Floyd's Fork near where it empties into Salt River. Thence to Bear Grass. The whole distance of march about 150 or perhaps 160 miles not less: had no engagement or skirmish. This we performed in about 5 or 6 days or a week.

In August 1782 went on expedition to the Indian towns of Miami under General Clark [George Rogers Clark], Col Slaughter, Logan, Floyd & Lynn: Richard Chinowith was my Captain. Marched from Bear Grass. Went up the Ohio River, army went on land & provisions were conveyed in boats. Boats now landed at Cincinnati where it now stands, and a Guard left with them, I was one of that Guard, The army went out against Indian towns: took one Indian town, destroyed some towns, and killed some warriors, Captain McCracken, captain of horses died at Cincinnati of wounds recd. in battle at Indian town, was buried close under the breastwork with the honors of war. Campaign lasted from August to last of October, about 2 months to the best of my recollection.

Then was a spy sent out by Major Whitaker acted as such for 7 months, this was however after the year 1783.

In 1782 went to Boone's Station from Bear Grass a distance of 25 miles, went to rescue families in the fort after it was attacked. Esq. Boon was wounded in the attack. Company was commanded either by Capt Hardy Hill or Whitaker. Service occupied 5 or 6 days.

Has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no living witness other than [name is illegible, but affidavit given by Gerardus] Ryker by whom he can offer any proof of his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declared his name as not on the pension of the agency in any state.

Recapitulation:

New Jersey Services	1 year	Days
1. Expedition to Miami towns		2ms
Work on fort at Louisville		30
Do. at Block house		18
Trip to Bullits Lick		4

Do. Up Kentucky River	7
Do. To Boone's Sta	6
2. Miami Towns Expedition	2

The aforesaid service He declares was all previous to the peace of 1783 and included no service in which he afterwards engaged which would amount to 2 full years service & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

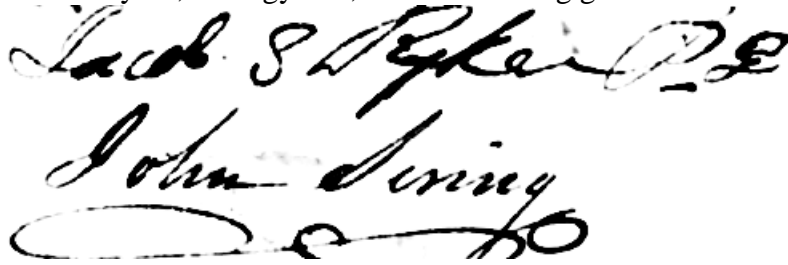
S/ Jno. Ryker



S/ R.C. Talbot, Clk,

per Jno W. Taylor, D. C.

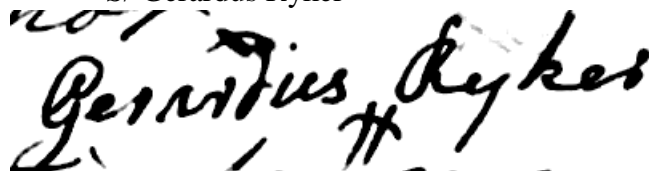
[Jacob S Ryker, a clergyman, and John Sering gave the standard supporting affidavit.



Gerardus Ryker¹ being duly sworn says that he is in the 68th year of his age that he knows that John Ryker served in New Jersey the length of time he states and as he states. That when he served upon the Expedition to the Miami Towns the first Expedition he was at the fort where he started from at the time he started and was there on his return, he resided there. He states that he served with him on the 2nd Expedition to the Miami Towns. That he knows that he worked at a fort at Louisville & on the Blockhouse & Magazine. I well recollect of his trip to Boone's Station lived at the fort where he started from. We have always lived near each other. Emigrated to Indiana nearly at the same time previously to Kentucky together Always lived within a mile of each other except two or three years of time, He having come to Indiana this much sooner than myself.

& further saith not.

S/ Gerardus Ryker

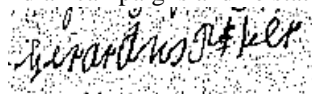


State of Indiana, Jefferson County

This day personally appeared in Open Court before the Court of Probate for said County & State, John Ryker, who being duly sworn says that in addition to the Service stated in his declaration now on file in the War office of the United States, and further declaration in order to

¹ This MIGHT be the same persion as Gerardus Riker FPA S11293, but this veteran does not mention in his own application having been in the Indian campaigns and he stated his age in 1832 as being 76. His signature on his

application appears as follows:



obtain benefit of the Act of Congress of 7th June 1832. He states that he performed the following Service viz.: in the Spring of 1780, he assisted in Building Floyd's Station Situated 5 or 6 miles Southeast of Louisville, Kentucky, that he was employed about 20 days in said Service, that it was absolutely necessary to build the same to protect the inhabitants from the Indians: besides the above time in service he would state that he marched from Bear Grass & what is called the Dutch Station to Boone's Station a distance of upwards of 20 miles, with a party who went to bring families away who were in imminent danger, were about three days in going and coming. He does not think that this Service was mentioned in his declaration now on file but that it was omitted to be mentioned. This last Service tour in the year 1782, and further saith not.

S/ John Ryker

Sworn and Subscribed in Open Court this 13th day of November A.D. 1835.

S/ Jno. H. Taylor, Clk

This day personally appeared in Open Court, Gerardus Ryker who being duly sworn says that he assisted to build Floyd's Station at the same time that John Ryker was engaged in assisting to build same. Remembers that it was in the spring of 1780 and soon after Landing at the Mouth of Bear Grass. Knows that the said John Ryker was as much as 20 days employed in said service. Also has a recollection of his going to Boone's Stationed as alleged but was not in the Company with him, recollects that I had to stand guard while he was gone & further saith not.

S/ Gerardus Ryker

Sworn & Subscribed in Open Court November 13, 1835.

S/ Jno. H. Taylor, Clk