

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of David Minear S15932

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[Capitalization partly corrected]

State of Virginia } SS

Randolph County }

Personly appeared before me the Subscriber an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Randolph and State of Virginia on this 6th day of November 1833 David Minear a Resident of the said County of Randolph and State of Virginia aged 78 years and three months who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the Binefit 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 after stated

That in the year 1779 in the County of Monongahela [sic: Monongalia] in the Spring of this year I volenteered in a Company of Rangers command by Captain William Haymond. Our Principal station was at Morgantown. From this place we were oftin out on Rainging Parties untill the winter of 79-80 set in We then were engaged in guarding the fort or Town until the spring of the year of 1780. I was discharged having served in this company of Rangers near nine months in the spring of the year 1780 After I had been discharged by Captain Haymond I went to Kentucky In company with my brother Phillip Minear in order to Explore and View the Country. We arrived at the Falls of the Ohio where Lewis Ville [sic: Louisville] now stands. We arrived at this place about the 20 of March[?] Remained in this neighbourhood untill some time in the month of June or July when we ware Drafted for a Tower of Duty the presise length of which is not Ricollected. a few days after our Company was formed we joined the Army under the command of General [George Rogers] Clark and marched up the Ohio River to the mouth of Licking Creek [1 Aug 1780], as the canoes & Boats descended the River they ware fired upon By the Indians and kill'd & wounded Nine men of whom 4 were Buried in the Sand on on the River Bank. This attack was as well as this affiant Remembers about the third day after the Army left the Falls from the mouth of Licking Creek we crossed the Country then a Wilderness to the Indian Town called Chillicothe We found this town Evacuated by the Indians and the Houses or wigwams on fire as the Indians had fired the Town before they fled. We stayed at this place no longer than to cut down and destroy the growing crop of corn, which we did. We then marched to the Picua Town [sic: Piqua, 8 Aug] about twelve miles from Chillicothe. at this place the Indians made a considerable stand, and as will as affiant recollects the Battle lasted about 3 howers. at this Battle I believe there was fifteen Indians found dead many having been removed as was the custom of the Indians to remove all their Dead that they possibly could. I beleave our loss was also about 15 kill'd... We destroyed this Town by burning the houses, and we also cut down all the corn belonging to the Indians It was supposed that at the two Towns there was not less than 300 Acres of Corn Destroyed... after this Battle had ended we gathered all of our Dead and Buried them in the floor of the Indian Houses and then Burned the Houses Down to Disguise the graves — But the Indians made them [illegible word] afterwards. That altho we had been cunning in disguising the graves they had found them and had Raised[?] the dead and had Scalp'd them. after the Battle of Picua Town we marched back to the Fort or Station at the Falls of the Ohio. When this affiant was drafted he was placed under the command of Captain Braser [possibly Richard Brashear]. This affiant also Recolects that Col. Lyn [possibly Maj. William Lynn] was with the Army. As well as affiant remembers this Army was about one Thousand strong when we left the Falls, but not quite so many when they arrived at the Towns in the Spring of 1780 the Indians had attacked the settlements in Kentucky and had Taken two Stations [Martin's and Ruddle's, 24 and 28 June] and led the captured Prisoners to the Indian Towns. This as this affiant beleaves was the cause of the Expedition of general Clark as discribed by affiant When we arrived Home from this Expedition we ware ordered to keep our selves in readiness to march at a moments warning as the Indians was expected to take vengeance the first oppurtunity and in fact it was but a very short time after our arrival at home that they ware again in small Numbers plundering the Country and in some Instances kill'd some few who were hardy enough

to leave the fort. I recollect that about 4 weeks after the arrival of the Troops at the fort there was a man brought in who had been killed by the Indians his name I do not recollect. I was employed the Ballance of that year untill about the first day of December in guarding the fort & making short excursions in the country. at which time I was discharged by Captain Brisco [Parmenas Briscoe, spelled variously], having served six months. I then with my Brother came back to the County of Monongahela in the State of Virginia... in the spring of the year 1780 the Indians made an attack upon the settlement of Cheat River and killed first Barney Sims [see endnote]. this Happened whilst I was in Kentucky - in the month of April 1781 the Indians again made an attack upon the same neighbourhood on Cheat River and killed three men one of which was affiants Farther [John Minear]... Frederick Cooper & Daniel Camron [Daniel Cameron]. This attack caused Col Benjamin Wilson to order out the militia and affiant was Drafted & placed under the command of Captain Salathial Goff, under whoos command I remained during this Tower, which as will as affiant remembers was six months During which Time they ware Employed in Excursions in every direction for many miles around the fort and in guarding the Fort and in from one fort to other forts in the County. The fort to which this affiant properly belonged was call'd Manier's fort upon the land of affiants father [Fort Minear built by John Minear in 1776 at present St. George in Tucker County WV]

In the month of March in the 1782 this affiant was again Drafted and placed under the command of the aforesaid Captain Salathiel Goff and was engaged during this summer in ranging the country from Manears fort on Cheat River to Wilson's fort on the Tegarts Valley [Fort Wilson built by Benjamin Wilson about a half mile above the junction of Chenoweth Creek on the E side of Tygart Valley River in present Randolph County] and as far as morgantown & Dunkin Creek [sic: Dunkard Creek] and when not out on Ranging parties he affiant was engaged in guarding the fort untill the time of year had expired when the Indians usually committed their Depredations. When this affiant was discharged having served full six months — That in the spring of the year 1783 in the month of April as will as this affiant remembers on the 16th day the Indians again made their appearance and commenced their Depredations in the affiants neighbourhood on this day they killed & scalpt his Brother Jonathan Manier. They the Indians took from his head a large piece of scull bone and stuck it in a stump by way of Triumph. This affiant was then again Drafted and put under the said Captain Salathiel Goff and was again employed during the Spring Summer & Autumn of this year in ranging and guarding the fort as a four said for the Tower of six month, when this affiant was discharged after having served full six months, from this Period unto the close of the war this affiant was often actively engaged in ranging, spying & guarding the country against the Depredations of the Indians.

This affiant hereby relinquishes every claim whatsoever to a pention or annuity except the present and he declairs that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Subscribed and sworn to the day & year a four said [signed] David Minear

I was born in Bucks County Pensylvania in the year 1755

I have [a record of age] It is in a book in my possession taken from the Family Record

[When first called to service] I was living upon Cheat River in the County of Monongahala I reside upon the same farm at this time but by the Division of Counties I live now in the County of Randolph

The first Tower I volenteered. Ever after I was drafted

I am not certain that I knew any of the Regular officers as I never served with any Army except in Kentucky. I then knew Capt Brisco, Col Lyn & General Clark.

I have never received a written discharge

I refer to Thomas Parsons & Aron Laugry [Aaron Lugrey] as persons who can testify to my character & beleaf of services

Sworn & subscribed this day above written [signed] David Minear

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Lewis, Harrison, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth.]

David Maneir draws \$80—

on the 3rd of November 1834 Mr. Manier gave the following statement of his age and

services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution to Wit - he is in his 80th year of age, was born Near Philadelphia Pen, but lived on Cheat River (now Randolph County) when the Revolutionary war commenced. the first he done (cant tell in what year) was under Capt Benjamin Wilson at Miners Fort. whilst there he would be out scouting sometimes a week. Some times a day or two - cant recollect how long he was at Miners Fort - he also went under Clark to Kentucky was in that touer four months. went in the Spring & returned about christmas - he also served under Capt Haymon.

this Pensioner is very infirm, almost Eat up with cancer, it is with difficulty he can be understood, and with more difficulty can he be made to understand. Enoch Minier a son of David states that he was present when Camp & Bird wrote his Declaration but cant recollect what statement his Father gave of his services - his father agreed to give them one half, the retained \$125 out of \$240 drawn on his Fathers certificate.

Note by Mr. Goff [pension agent at Clarksburg]. from all I can understand about Mr. Minears Revolutionary services - All of opinion he is not entitled to anything. I think he done some service scouting in his section of Country and that his service in Kentucky was of a similar character. he has no property

Nathan Goff

this case was examined by Mr. Goff. the above is an exact copy of his research note.

W. G Singleton Nov. 26, 1834

NOTES:

"Barney Sims" was evidently Bernard Sims. For accounts of this and other attacks mentioned by Minear, see *Chronicles of Border Warfare* first published in 1831 by A. S. Withers.

As he often did in similar cases, Singleton wrote "Fraud" on the cover of the report. In fact, however, Singleton and the Col. James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, had merely changed their minds and decided that Indian spying was not eligible service. In Minear's case, however, there is no doubt that the campaign under Gen. George Rogers Clark was an authorized action of the Revolutionary War in retaliation for the attack on Ruddle's and Martin's Stations by the British Col. William Bird. Minear's services under Capt. Benjamin Wilson would also appear to have been valid, since Wilson held a commission in the Augusta County Militia dating from 17 Mar 1778.

A letter dated 17 Apr 1860 to the Pension Office from St. George VA on behalf of Enoch Minear, executor of his father David Minear, states that David Minear died in 1834, and it asks whether there was any pension payment owed to the heirs. The Pension Office replied that "his name was stricken from the rolls in 1835 for the reason that upon a review of the papers in his case it did not appear that satisfactory evidence of his service in the revolutionary war had been adduced." A typed summary states that David Minear had been paid up to 20 Oct 1834, which is incorrect if Goff interviewed him on 3 Nov 1834. The final settlement is said to have been made on 8 Feb 1861 to his children: Enoch Minear, Elizabeth Bonnifield, and Mary Miller.