

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Jacob Kinnison S16905

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia State } Towit
Pocahontas County }

On this tenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four personally appeared before me Joseph Moore a Justice of the peace for the County and State aforesaid Jacob Kinnison a resident of the said County and State aforesaid aged seventy six years on the 19th day of May last 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 in the Month of March 1777 as a volunteer for a tour of six months under the command of Captain [Mathew] Arbuckle to march to Point Pleasant a place situate on the Ohio River at the mouth of the great Kenawha [sic: Kanawha] river that he served out his tour of six months and at the expiration of which time his captain informed him that he had been drafted for another tour of three months which he readily consented to perform: that at the expiration of the said three months service he was requested to remain until General [Edward] Hand should arrive with a reinforcement from Pittsburg which was one month longer before he did arrive which he readily consented to and did perform making in the whole ten months services which he performed at that time at Point Pleasant: that at the time he volunteered to go to Point Pleasant he resided in the little levels of Greenbrier where he now resides then called West Augusta now Pocahontas County, that the Officers who commanded him were Captain Arbuckle, Lieutenant [James] Gilmer and Ensign Williams that he marched directly from the place of his residence to Point Pleasant when he first volunteered and there remained until the arrival of General and who discharged or rather dismissed him for he gave him no written discharge: that for a considerable part of the time that he was stationed at Point Pleasant there was no other soldiers there except the Company to which he belonged until a few days before he was discharged when about seven hundred soldiers came down the Ohio River from Pittsburg under the command of Colonel Dickinson [sic: John Dickenson] and Colonel Skillering [sic: George Skillern]: That the nature of his services were to guard the frontier settlements of Virginia against the hostile Indians and that he was not engaged in any skirmish or Battle during said term of service

That in the latter days of the Month of April or the first of May 1778 he entered the service as an Indian Spy and continued in said service until the first of November following making a term of six months service; the nature of his service that summer was to guard Ellis's Fort in the Little levels of Greenbrier [possibly Fort Eckley in present Academy District of Pocahontas County WV], thence traversing the mountains to a place called the Fork lick on Elk River, thence to include the waters of Stoney Creek [sic: Stony Creek], thence to the trace leading to Tygarts Valley including the Valley Mountain thence to a place called Clover Lick, thence to Drinnens Fort [sic: Fort Drenna] and thence to Ellis's Fort again; that he was generally out from three to four days in each week and that an oath was administered to him as a Spy. That he again entered the service as an Indian Spy on the first of May 1779 and was discharged on the first day of November following making another tour of six months during which summer he preformed precisely the same kind of service which he had performed in the summer of 1778 and during both summers he had for his companion as a Spy a man by the name of John Bridger who was killed by the Indians in the Spring of 1780. That again on the 15th day of April 1780 he entered the service as an Indian Spy and was discharged the first of November following, that the nature of his services this summer was mostly to guard Ellis's Fort and the settlers in the neighbourhood while planting working and gathering their corn; that again on the 15th day of April 1781 he entered the service as an Indian Spy and continued in service until the 15th of October following when he was discharged and again on the first day of May 1782 he entered the service as an Indian Spy and continued in service until the 15th of October following; that the nature of his services in each of the summers of 1781 and 1782 were the same as those

described in the summer of 1780 that the Captain to whose company he belonged during the whole time that he acted as a Spy was one Captain John Cook by whom he was ordered out or employed to spy the Indians and that he was not engaged in any civil pursuit during the time aforesaid while acting as an Indian Spy

That he received no written discharge for any of the aforesaid services; that he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person living whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his services or any part of them.

He relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity of pension except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State
[signed] Jacob Kinnison

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

Jacob Kinnison - Applicant.

I the undersigned Jacob Kinnison, being called on by W. G. Singleton agent of the Pension office for narrative of my service as a soldier in the war of the Revolution and statement of my age, give the following to Wit. — on the 19th of [illegible] next I shall be eighty years old. I was born in Shenandoah county [formed from Frederick County in 1772]. when 14 years old I moved where I now live and have lived there ever since. In the year 1777 I hired for five months to relieve the company to which I belonged from a draft. I went on under the command of Ensign John Williams to the mouth of the Big Kenhawa, and was there put under the command of Capt. Matthew Arbuckle, who had command of about one hundred men [two or three illegible words]. I remained with Capt Arbuckle & served out the five months, after my term expired, and I was about returning home, Capt. Arbuckle told myself and others that if we returned home we would immediately on our arrival be drafted for 3 months, and that we had better volunteer & remain with him for that time. We took his advice & myself and others immediately volunteered and remained at the Point under Capt. Arbuckle for 3 additional months. about the time that this last mentioned term expired, Col. Dickenson & Col Kellern [sic] came to the Point with about nine hundred men. they were on their way to the war against the Indians. on their arrival I volunteered under Capt. Arbuckle for two additional months and remained with him at the Point whilst Col Dickenson and Killern were at the Point with the 900 men before mentioned, Genl Hand came down from Fort Pitt [illegible word] the expedition. I was in the whole ten months in actual service at Point Pleasant - which is all the regular service I ever did. I did serve irregular Indian service in my neighbourhood in protecting the settlement right which I made [three illegible words]. I know of no one living by whom I can prove my services. While in service I provided my own arms and clothing and never received one cent of pay - the pay was sent to me some time after I had left the service, but in depreciated currency which I refused to have. Wm. McCord [illegible word] my Declaration. I agreed to give him the back draws [payment from 4 Mar 1831 till first regular payment; \$133.32]. In witness of all which I hereto subscribe by name. Feby 3, 1835. Jacob hisXmark Kennison A Copy W. G. Singleton

Note - by reference to the Declaration of Kinnason that the statement here given of his services differs importantly from what he is made to say by his agent William McCord - Kinnison detailed to me some irregular indian service - such as forting in the vicinity of his settlement right, working his corn &c. and guarding against the Indians as other settlers did - as the service thus detailed did not come within the Law of June 1832 in my opinion, I declined taking in in writing — I believe that Kinnison has told the truth about his services at the Point and am therefore of opinion - that he is entitled to a certificate for ten months services — If Mr. Edwards [J. L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] concurs - he will inscribe[?] to the certificate to Kinnison himself at Jordans Post office. this will defeat Mr. McCord in his fraudulent intent upon Kinnison - and the fraud upon the Department. W. G Singleton Feby 15, 183[5]

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the children of Jacob Kinnison received his last pension payment up to the date of his death, 10 Aug 1838.