

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Arthur Trader S30169

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia }

Harrison County }

On the 5 day of Decem'r. in the year 1833 personally appeared [before] me Joseph Johnson a justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Arthur Trader a resident of the County of Monongalia aged Eighty Six who being duly sworn doth on his Oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed the 7th day of June 1832

That he was born in Augusta County Virginia in the year 1747 as he is informed having no record of his age from thence he removed to what is now called hardy County thence to Monongalia County where he now resides

That in June 1776 he was drafted and placed under the command of Capt'n Zachariah Morgan [sic: Zach/Zachell/Zachwell/Zachquil Morgan] and stationed at Coburn's fort [see endnote] near the Mongalia River where he served four months & was discharged orially by his Captain

in may 1777 he was drafted again and placed under the same officer & stationed at prickets fort [see endnote] situated on the Monongalia River where he served three months & fifteen days and was discharged Orially By his Captain

in May 1778 he was again drafted at prickets Fort on the Monongalia River where he served four months and fifteen days and was orially discharged by his Captain

in June 1779 he was drafted again and placed under the Command of Captain James Neel and marched to the Ohio River opposite to the mouth of yellow Creek where he was stationed and discharged after serving five months in writing by Capt James Neel which discharge has since been lost

in June 1780 he was drafted and again placed under Captain Zachariah Morgan and was stationed at Kearnes fort [sic: Fort Kerns at present Westover in Monongalia County] and was near the place where Mr. Burke was killed by the Indians and assisted in burrying the body and was discharged after serving three months & fifteen days in writing from said Morgan which discharge is also lost. in 1781 he was drafted in April and placed under the Command of Capt. Zachariah Morgan & stationed at Coburns fort and served three months & fifteen days and was orially discharge by his Captain

in 1782 he was again drafted & placed under the Command of Capt Zac'h Morgan and stationed at Kearns fort and served three months and six days and was Orially discharged by said Morgan

In all the above tours he was employed as a Spy or Ranger in traversing the Country Between the Ohio and Monongalia Rivers that he was frequently successful in apprising the fronteer settlers of approaching danger that he was present when Morgans Indians was disinterried that theair heads was cut off & stuck upon poles and that he saw their skins in tan and saw the belts shot pouches made out of the above skins after they were tanned [See endnote] he further states that his present residence is twenty seven Miles from the Court House immediately upon the Harrison County line where he has resided for the last eight years that he is extensively acquainted in Harrison as well as Monongalia Countys that he is acquainted with Frederick Burdett Esq'r. Samuel Kemble Esq'r. of Harrison County John Newzum Esq'r. and Major Isaac Means of Monongalia to who reference may be had for his general Character for honesty and Varacity he further states that the officers under whom he served was duly commissioned and in the service of the state that he served as a private soldier and that he was not engaged in any civil persuit during the above services — he hereby relinquishes every claim to a pention or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not inscribed on the pention roll of the agency of any state he has no documentary evidence nor knows of no living witness whereby he can prove the above services

Sworn & subscribed to this day and year first above written

Arthur hisXmark Trader

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

Arthur Trader, amt of Pension \$79.

I the undersigned Arthur Trader at the requisition of the Secretary of War give the following narrative of my Revolutionary services to Wit — I am in my 89th year of age. was born in the county of Augusty Virginia. Settled in the present County of Monongalia when in my 15th or 16th year of age. the first service I done was in Dunmores War in 1774 - after that war closed there was peace and quiet in the settlements until 1776 when the war again broke out - in that year I was at Coburns Fort in Monongalia county under Capt. Zackquil Morgan, there was about fifteen or twenty men at that station under Capt Morgan, whether we were drafted soldiers or not I cant say. I remained in this service for four months and was in all that time scouting and guarding the settlement against the invasion of the Indians - my father had a Cabbin in the settlement and acquired the settlement a tomahawk right of 400 acres of Land, which disceded to my Brother and myself, - my service in the forgoing tour commenced some time in June. —

After an Interval of one year I was drafted for four months, and was stationed under Capt Zackquil Morgan at Prickets Fort in Monongalia county and was actively engaged in Scouting through and guarding the settlement for the whole four months - this service was done in the Summer season —

about two years after the last preceeding tour I was again drafted (in the Summer season) for five months (5 months) and marched from Monongalia county under Capt. James Neale to the mouth of Yellow creek, which enters into the Ohio River in the West side - Capt Neel was stationed at the Junction of the Yellow creek with about sixty or seventy men under his command I was only four months in service on this occasion - my Father took my place for the remaining month.

after an Interval of two years from the last preceeding tour I was again drafted for 3 months and was stationed at Kern's Fort in Monongalia cty. under Capt Zackquil Morgan, and was in active service for the whole of the tour guarding and Scouting —

In the succeeding spring I volunteered for 3 months and was stationed at Prickets Fort on Monongalia county under Capt Zackquil Morgan - the forgoing tours comprise all the service I done during the war of the revolution —

Col. Joseph Johnson, to whom I gave gave the same statement in substance I now give wrote my Declaration. I made no contract with him - but gave him \$10 — In witness whereof I have subscribed my name, august 2, 1834

Witness W. G Singleton

Arthur hisXmark Trader

Evan Morgan of Monongalia cty aged 81 yrs. a pensioner [application S11098] says he has known Trader ever since he Trader was a boy - he knew him well all through the Revolutionar war they resided in the same settlement — never knew or heard of Traders doing service as a soldier in the war of the Revolution. nor does he believe he ever did one particle of service - he Morgan knew almost every man in the settlement and especially everyone who participated in that glorious struggle - and he repeats that Trader never could have done one particle of service as a solder in the war of the Revolution —

Col. John Evans of Monongalia County says he has known Arthur Trader since 1777 or 1778 - he never heard of his doing service in the war of the Revolution nor does he believe he ever did - Col. Evans, Thos. P. Ray [Clerk of the Monongalia Court], Mr. Gay & Mr. Hannay all concur in saying that Trader is a man of infamous character and not to be relied on in anything thats moral or correct - Mr. T. P. Ray sticks to the epithet infamous - the other Gentlemen recall that Harsh term and supply its place with the word bad. A true copy W. G Singleton

Note. this Pensioner excludes himself from the Pension Roll by his own statement - he receives \$79 - and from his own false shewing he was in service for 18 months only [see note below] - but if his assurance had prompted him him to have "told a tale" entitling him to the full amount awarded I apprehend that the statements given by the highly respectable gentlemen would have placed him beyond the pale of the Government bounty. W. G Singleton Dec. 1 - 1834

[On the cover of the report Singleton wrote:] Fraud Black & diabolical

[The following is a separate note in Singleton's handwriting:]

Arthur Trader of Monongalia County —

these papers have been sent to me by Col. Jos. Johnson - his object being to exculpate himself from the charges of Fraud in this particular case - My opinion on that subject being fixed I handed the papers over to Mr. E. [probably Col. James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] that they may be placed with the Report

Prunty Town [Pruntytown] February 13th 1835

Dr Sir Having understood that doubts are Entertained in Relation to the clame of Arther Trader to a pension and having Been present at the time of the drawing of his declaration I deem it Due to Col. Johnson who appears the agent to state the facts as they ocured in the case

Trader whos Residence is in my neighbourhood cald to see me and told me that he thought he was Intitled to a pension & Requested me to prepare his declaration I told him that was not ingaged in the bisness and did not understand the forms - but that if he desired it I would Request Col Johnson who I knew understood the Bisness to come to do when he came my self and Capt Lewis S Muse were present the Examination - Trader stated his Services in detail designating the different towers names of his officers the dates &c - Col Johnson said if he had served as he stated he was Intitled to a pension Capt Muse was then cald on to do the writing which he did according to statement made by the old man he Trader was admonished several times to state nothing but the truth - I cannot Recollect at this time the length of time which he stated he had served but Remember several different times he was qualified by Col Johnson in my presence the above are the facts as near as I can Relate them if there was error in the case the fault was with the old man Trader & not with the agent — I am verry Respectfully yours
W. G. Singleton Esqr Abraham Smith

NOTES:

The name Arthur Trader is on the muster roll of Capt. Zachquil Morgan during Lord Dunmore's War of 1774.

“Coburn's fort” probably refers to Fort Cobun near Dorsey Knob on Cobun Creek.

“prickets fort” refers to Fort Prickett now Pricketts Fort State Park 4 mi NE of Fairmont in Marion County WV near the Monongahela River. A muster roll of Fort Prickett for 15 Apr - 12 Jun 1777, reprinted in J. T. McAllister's *Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War*, does not list Capt. Zachariah Morgan or Arthur Trader.

“Morgans Indians” refers to Indians killed and skinned by David Morgan after they had threatened his children. Withers, A. S. *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 1831.

The pension for a private was up to \$80 per year for up to two years of service, and proportionately less than \$80 for less than two years.