

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Michael Leonard S30542

f35VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

9/25/13

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Kentucky County of Grant: Sct.

On this 12th day of October 1835 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the County Court of Grant now sitting Michael Leonard a resident of Grant County and State of Kentucky aged about seventy-three 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 7th 1832.

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

That he was born sometime in the spring of the year 176_ (time not recollected) in the County of Rowan in what is now the State of North Carolina and there resided until the fall of 1779 that he then removed to what was then the district of Kentucky now the State of Kentucky at a place called Riddles Station [Ruddle's Station] near the junction of Hinston [Kingston?] and three creeks forming the South Fork of Licking River that sometime about the first of June 1780 there was great alarm about the Indians and British it being reported that a force consisting of British and Indians was expected to appear and attacked the Stations that although this declarant was not then of an age which required of him military duty he volunteered and was received under the command of Captain Riddle [probably Captain Isaac Ruddle whose name is sometimes also spelled, Riddle, Ruddell or Ruddel]] who commanded at a Stationed named Riddles Station and entered upon the duties of a private Soldier and so remained doing the duties of a private Soldier under the orders of said Captain Riddle until after the middle of said month of June 1780 say about the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, or 24th day of said June the day not now recollected when the force before expected consisting of two or three hundred English and six or seven hundred Indians under the command of Captain or Colonel Bird of the British Army made his appearance and we were prepared for resistance but after the force of the Army was ascertained and their means of attack Captain Riddle surrendered and the enemy entered the station, plundered and destroyed everything which could be conveniently removed and sent in charge of a portion of Indians all the prisoners both men, women and children to Detroit the prisoners were divided into parcels of from two or three to about twelve according as they were able to offer resistance and put under charge of as many Indians as was thought necessary to secure them. This declarant was divided out with seven others say two men, two boys, two women and two children and under the charge of eight Indians and while on our way to Detroit and somewhere in what is now the State of Ohio while at breakfast one of the Indians became angry with this declarant and struck him on the top of his head with a tom-hawk [tomahawk] and came near killing him he

however survived and traveled on until we arrived at an Indian town of the Shawnees where we were compelled to run the gauntlet we then proceeded to Detroit where we were divided out among the citizens to work and was wached [sic, watched?] so that taking into consideration the amence [immense] wilderness to be traversed the Indians and many other dangers we could not leave: Some however was sent to Quebeck [Québec] or some other place. After we had been divided out among the Indians at Riddles Station as before said we then understood that the British and a part of the Indians were to proceed to other Stations in the neighborhood which turned out to be the case for a short time after the prisoners of Riddles Station had been brought in to Detroit the British and Indians that had been left at Riddles Station came to Detroit with all of the force of Martin's Station this declarant remained a prisoner of war until the news of peace reached the constitution [sic] authorities at Detroit when we all were told that we were at liberty to go where we pleased which happened as this declarant now believes in the latter part of the year 1783 so that this declarant was in actual service of the United States while in the Station and a prisoner of war from about the beginning of June 1780 until about the fall of the year 1783 being the time he was liberated so that he has served the United States as a private Soldier not less than three years and for such service he claims a pension. He was not while in the service with any other troops than those mentioned and therefore ~~saw~~ nor knew of any others. This declarant received no discharge and he has no documentary evidence of his service and knows of no person whose evidence he can now procure who is acquainted with his service except John Zinn and Elizabeth Franks both of Grant County Kentucky there is several others but they live at too great a distance for this declarant to travel and see so as to procure their evidence. This declarant has no record of his age and only states his age from the fact that he was told that he was 14 years old at the taking of Riddles Station. This declarant was living in what is now Bourbon County Kentucky when he was called into service and when he returned from his captivity which was in the year 1784 he settled again in Bourbon County Kentucky and remained there until 1786 when he removed to Lexington Kentucky and remained there until the year 1797 when he removed to Scott County Kentucky and remained there until about 1803 when he removed to [bottom of the page damaged and it appears that at least one line of text is missing] [next page]

what is now Nicholas County Kentucky when he removed to Harrison County Kentucky and remained there until 1808 when he again removed to Scott County Kentucky and remained until 1809 when he removed to what is now Grant County Kentucky where he has remained ever since say about twenty-six years. This declarant never received a discharge from the service for there was no officer to give it to him he having remained a prisoner until the close of the Revolutionary War and returned home without the conduct of an officer. This declarant states that although there is in his neighborhood clergymen yet he could not procure any one of them to attend at this court (though had they have attended they would state all that I could have asked them to state) he therefore refers to the certificate of Travis T Daniel and Charles Secrest to whom I am known who will state their opinion in relation to my veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier and private of the Revolution. This declarant declares that his name is not on the pension Roll or the agency of any State or Territory and hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present.

Sworn to and subscribed as aforesaid

S/ Michael Leonard, X his mark

[Travis Daniel and James Secrest gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled

Your petitioner Michael Leonard will respectfully represent that he in the year 1780 about the last of the month of May or first of June in said year volunteered as a private Soldier under the command of Captain Riddle who then commanded at Riddles Station in what is now Bourbon County Kentucky that about the 20th say a few days before or after in said year 1780, Colonel Bird of the British Army and at that time commanding a force consisting of British and Indians sat down before Riddles Station and summoned said Station to surrender which Captain Riddle finally done in the whole force as well as the women and children was taken to Detroit and there retained as prisoners of war until the close of the revolution say about three years in your petitioner sharing said fate that for the above mentioned services your petitioner believes he is entitled to the benefit of the act of the 7th of June 1832 that your petitioner so believing did in the year 1835 make a declaration of his Services in the County Court of Grant County Kentucky (the County in which your petitioner resides) in due form of law and according to the directions issued from the war Department and subsequently thereto the depositions of John Zinn and Elizabeth Franks was taken in the facts set forth in said declaration completely proved. The said declaration and depositions were forwarded to the pension office through the Honorable Rh. M. Johnson and contrary to the expectation of your petitioner the said application has been rejected annual petitioner will say that he cannot imagine any cause of said rejection unless the recent frauds on the treasury half created an undue prejudice against applications for pensions. Now your petitioner believing that he is justly entitled to the benefit of the pension act praise your Honorable body to cause the aforesaid declaration and depositions to be brought before you (they are now on file in the pension office) and when before you and examined your petitioner prays that there may pass a law placing your petitioner on the pension roll under the act of the 7th of June 1832 annual petitioner will ever pray &c

S/ Michael Leonard

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Know all men by these presents that I Elizabeth Franks do hereby certify that in the year 1780 the English and Indians took Riddles Station and that I was among those that was taken to Detroit and that Michael Leonard was also of the number and that he was detained at Detroit by the enemy from the aforesaid year of 1780 say about the middle of June in said year until the fall of the year 1783 when the news of peace reached the authorities at Detroit and we were all then informed that we could depart at our leisure the said Michael Leonard does now and has for some years resided in this (Grant) County. Given under my hand this 29th day of October 1835

S/ Elizabeth Franks, X her Mark

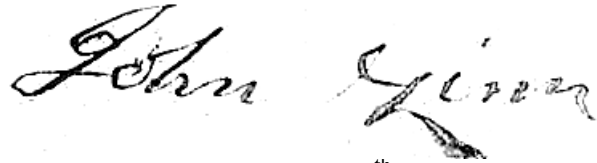
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Know all men by these presents that I John Zinn having been informed that Michael Leonard half applied for a pension and having heard read his deposition which was made before the County Court of Grant County on the 12th day of October 1835 I do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with said Michael Leonard and that I believe him to be 73 years of age, that he was as he states in his said declaration in service in the Station called Riddles Station in the year 1780 when said Station was taken say about the 22nd day of June in said year that he said Leonard together with this affiant and all others then in said Station was taken prisoners of war and conducted to Detroit as he hath stated and there detained as such until the fall of the year 1780.

That the said Leonard now resides in Grant County and has done so for some years as has this affiant.

Given under my hand this 30th day of October 1835

S/ John Zinn¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Zinn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John Zinn".

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$80 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 2 years in the Virginia militia.]

¹ [John Zinn W6379](#)