

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Ebenezer Bourn S32129

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Harrisonvill Monroe Illinois/ June 19 - 1829

Sir i have to Solicit information of you whether the Soldiers or officers that ware under John, Rogers, Clark [sic: George Rogers Clark] at the time the State of Illinois was taken from the French are in titled to pentions or not as I was one of them at that time and I am now 80 years old and Poor and if I am in titled to a pention I want it to Support me in my old age pleas inform me by the first mail wheather or not I am in titled to it and oblige yours — Ebenezer Bourn

30 August 1828.

Ebenezer Bourn of Harrisonville in the County of Monroe, in the State of Illinois has applied to the Secretary of the Treasury for the benefits of the act, entitled "An Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution," approved the 15th of May, 1828. He states that he enlisted in the Continental line of the army of the Revolution, for and during the war, and continued until its termination, at which period he was a Private in captain Williams's company, in Col [John] Montgomery regiment of the Virginia line; and that he did not received a certificate for the reward of eighty dollars, provided by the resolve of the 15th of May, 1778; and further, that he was not on the 15th day of May, 1828, on the pension list of the United States, and that he has received as a pensioner since the 3d of March, 1826, nothing

Before me John Scott a Justice of the peace in Monroe County and State of Illinois personally appeared this day, Robert Kidd [pension application S32367], of said County and made Oath, that Ebenezer Bourn was an Enlisted Soldier, in the Company commanded by Captain John Williams. – to whose company he this affiant belonged that he served in the same company for 12 months with him. that he was with him at the taking of Post Vincenns [sic: Vincennes; first surrender 20 Jul 1778, second 25 Feb 1779], Kaskaskia [4 Jul 1778] and at Fort Charter [probably Fort de Chartres], and in several skirmshes with the Indians, and believes he was regularly discharged. Witness my hand July 25th AD 1828.

State of Illinois } SS

Monroe County } On this fourth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty three personally appeared before Edward T Morgan and Felix Clark Judges of the County Commissioners Court of Monroe County State of Illinois now sitting, Ebenezer Bourn a resident of said County and State aged Eighty 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 enlisted in Captain William Harrods Company of State Troops of Virginia as a private for six months – in the latter part of June or forepart of July in the year 1778 in Colonel George Rogers Clarks Regiment of the Virginia line, under the following named officers, Colo. Clark, Captain Harrod. the Names of the subaltern Officers he does not recollect. I afterwards served in Captain John Williams Company in which Richard Barshiers [sic: Richard Brashear] was first Lieutenant. Jouhn Bailey [sic: John Baily, pension application R19354] 2nd Lieutenant William Montgomery Ensign. & during the time I was in service Colo. Clark was promoted to a Brigadier General [early 1781] and Captain Borman to a Major [sic: Joseph Bowman, 17 Dec 1778]. Messrs Chapman and Keller [sic: Capt. Abraham Kellar] were officers in the same Regiment but I do not recollect their grade. he was exploring the Country & hunting at the mouth of Tennessee River when he first enlisted & proceeded in Keel Boats to the Town of Kaskaskia – from thence to Post Vincenns – where was a small British Fort which was surrendered to our Troops in March 1779. –

we remained at Post Vincenns untill some time in August of that year (1779) when we returned to Kaskaskia. and in September 1779, he received an honorable discharge.

Questions by the Court.

1st. Where & in what year were you born?

Answer – I was born in Windham County Town of Lebanon in the State of Connecticut in the year 1753.

2nd. Have you any record of your age and if so where is it. Answer. I have none that I know of

3 Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live. I was Exploring the Country and hunting on the Ohio River. since the revolutionary war I lived in Kentucky untill the year 1797 – since which time I have lived in the Territory & State of Illinois and most of the time in this County.

4th. How were you called into service, were you drafted, did you Volunteer or was you a substitute & if a substitute for whom. Answer by Voluntary Enlistment.

5th. question. State the names of some of the Regular Officers, who were with the Troops where you served, such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can recollect, and the general Circumstances of your services. – George Rogers Clark col. then commanding & afterwards promoted to a Brigadier General, Colo. [William] Lynn was in the regiment untill we reached Kaskaskia, Captain Montgomery, afterwards promoted to Colonel, Captains Leonard Helms [sic: Leonard Helm], Wm Harrod Bowman, afterwards Major Boman. Captain John William in whose company I served the last 14 months. I enlisted as before stated & proceeded to Kaskaskia where was a picket fort there remained untill March of the following year – from there marched to Post Vincenns where was a small British Fort with about 80 men besides officers which surrendered after about 24 hours constant fireing – which the colonel took possession of – where we remained in station untill the latter part of August – when we returned to Kaskaskia – where I was discharged in September 1779, (His second time he enlisted in Captain Williams Company)

6th. did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it. Answer I received a discharge signed by Colonel Montgomery, which is lost or mislaid so that I cannot find it

7th. State the names of Persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can tistify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the Revolution. Answer. Gen'l. James B. Moon. Sylvanus Harlow. Governor [John] Reynolds Judy McRoberts[?]. Elias K. Kane, (Senator in Congress).

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid
[signed] Ebenezer Bourn

NOTE: A Treasury-Department document states that the administrator of Bourn's estate received the final pension payment up to the date of his death, 29 Aug 1839.