

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of George Bryan S32142

fn43NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/12/10

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber—besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading fails to catch all misinterpretations. I welcome and encourage folks to call those and any other errors to my attention.]

State of Kentucky Nicholas County: SS

On this day, February 24th in the year of our Lord 1834 Personally appeared before the Justices of the peace for the County & State aforesaid in Open Court, George Bryan, who saith that he was born in North Carolina, Rowan County, by the Family register on the 15th day of February in the year 1758, who being 1st 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 the 7th of June 1832.

First. That he was placed on the muster roll at the usual age in the company of Captain John Johnson [sic, John Johnston]. And that in the spring of 1776 came to Kentucky and made corn and at the place where Bryan's Station was erected. And in the last of July of the same year returned home, & found the people of the frontier flying before the Indians, the Cherokee Indians having broke out into open war on the frontiers of Virginia North Carolina South Carolina & Georgia, Government before my return home having ordered out the Militia Campaign, and the Drafted being over, against said Indians I George Bryan volunteered my services under the command of Colonel Joseph Williams & in a company of Captain Samuel Moseby both of Surry County NC marched & joined the Virginia Army, under the command of Colonel Christian and [William Christian] which joined at the Long Island of Holston River at which place the Army remained some days in order to make necessary arrangements to march, as the baggage wagons went no further, at the same time I George with others was sent across the River as spies, & traveled the best part of the night in search of Indian camps & signs, & meeting with a white man that had been taken prisoner by the Indians and made his escape from them he informed us there was none in that quarter having left there several days; the next day we returned to the Army; on our return the Army struck her march, crossing the River marched until we came to French Broad [River], where we were informed the Indians were embodied on the opposite bank in the number of 700 the Army encamped & in the night a sufficient number of others volunteered our services & crossed the River about 2 miles below the ford, & marched to surround them but in the morning found they had dispersed & slid before we arrived. The Army then crossed & struck a march for the Towns, and when we arrived there they had evacuated their Towns & gone off. We then laid waste to their corn and burnt fourteen towns we spread desolation among them; while the Army remained there I George with others were out spying & bringing in cattle and

horses which horses were sold publicly for the benefit of the country. The Army then returned home it being the last of November or the 1st of December making a tower [tour] of 3 months & Sundays at which time we were dismissed the above statement prove by Joseph Mosby.¹

Secondly. Sometime in the summer of 1778 I George Bryan being drafted in the company of Captain John Johnson under the command of General Griffith Rutherford he then commanding General of the Militia of Rowan County North Carolina I George Bryan hired a substitute for eighteen months in the Continental service.

Thirdly That in the Spring of the year 1779 came to Kentucky settled where Bryan's Station was afterwards erected raised some corn that summer built a small Fort then returned to North Carolina to assist my Father's Family in moving to Kentucky who landed at the place where Bryan's Station now is sometime in the month of December following I George was shortly after enrolled in the company of Captain William Hogan; we then commenced erecting and enlarging the Fort to fortify us from the British & Indians. The above statement prove by Daniel Bryan.²

Fourthly. We were numbered in three classes I George being appointed to the command of the first-class being a good woodsman, & Hunter in spying & hunting, held myself in readiness at a minute's warning; at one time going up the Kentucky [River] three days alone in pursuit of Indians signs & horses got one horse at another time got two horses; sometime in the month of March 1780 I George with five others went on a tower as far as Laurel River about ninety miles from Bryan's Station in the Wilderness near the War trace in pursuit of Indians signs & horses, got one horse and discovered a great many Indians signs making towards the settlement of Kentucky. We traveled day & night to get in, when we arrived at Boonesborough on the Kentucky River, some of the Indians having got there before we had killed Colonel Callaway & taken one Negro prisoner. We then proceeded to Bryans Station by traveling the quarter part of the night a small party of Indians were within a few miles of the station had killed one man (William Bryan jr) and carried off some horses making a tower of eight days. On the next day I George with my brother Joseph Bryant set out in search of Indians signs, found they had taken some horses, we pursued the trail of one Indian, the ground being covered with snow until we got so near to him that he discovered us, he made his escape and the cane being on foot, we returned to the Fort in the evening giving information that Indians were still in the neighborhood some days after Captain Hogan with a small party which I, George Bryan joined to scour the woods for Indians setting made before as a pilot being better acquainted with woods;; (as was my custom whenever I was with him, which was on every occasion when I was present) we were gone two days & returned to the Fort, we continued these scouting parties from time to time until sometime in the month of May the Indians stole seven horses and made off with them. That I George with others took their trail, pursued them, retook the horses the Indians hid in the cane. That on the 23rd of the same month May I George with a party of others fell in with a party of Indians near the great crossing at Elkhorn Creek we killed four of their party one of them by a ball from my rifle so soon as I fired they treed and commenced the engagement (being double our number) which was very warm for 15 or 20 minutes when both sides gave way except their commander & myself we remained until both parties were out of sight carrying off the dead & wounded he fired at me & ran I pursued him, he halted, I fired and he fell, I took his scalp, gun, ammunition, armbands, breastplates etc. I then returned to my company where they were fixing up the wounded we lost one man killed & 2 wounded, they lost 4 killed & 6 wounded. The same

¹ [Joseph Mosby S15539](#)

² FPA S1172

party of Indians had on that day wounded 3 of our hunters before we made the attack on them, one of which died of his wounds after a short time, we then returned to the Fort bringing in the dead & wounded being out 2 days & one night without eating or sleeping. In the month of June following a party of Indians about sixty in number attacked Grants Station upon information about forty in number myself among them mounted our horses & went to their relief, we found a line made into the Fort & dispersed them, finding two men & one woman killed the Indians made off we pursued them & took one that was wounded at the Fort, that died, the rest dispersed among the cane, except a few that were on horses, which took the Buffalo trace, to the lower Blue Licks, 16 of [us] pursued them coming close upon them near the River they took into the Licking Hills, we got 3 of their horses and returned home to the Station the second day.

In the month of July he states that the British with a number of Indians invaded Kentucky took Ruddles & Martin's Station with all the Inhabitants Prisoners & carried them off, some to Canada and some to the different Indian Towns, that shortly after General George Rogers Clark Commander of the Regular Troops then at Louisville, ordered Colonel Benjamin Logan, to call out the Militia by a general draft or volunteering, & meet said Clark at the mouth of Licking River, to go a campaign against the Indians, which the said Logan did; previous to the draft I George Bryan with two others were sent out in search of horses supposed to have been taken by the Indians, we found 21 in the Cliffs of Kentucky which we brought in for the use of the Station being out 3 days. Shortly after Logan started from the South side of Kentucky & when passing through Bryans Station, I George volunteered & marched to where they camped the first night, where I the said George was appointed by Colonel Logan, to guard the Fort, & hunt meat for the families of the men who were called out on the campaign; as meat was the only subsistence at that time, which I said George Bryan did serve as a Hunter during the Campaign, which time was 16 days, During the time of service in 1779 & 1780 I George Bryan brought in horses to the number of 34, which was lost from the Station supposed to have been taken by Indians.

Fifthly In the month of August 1780, I George Bryan being under the necessity of having horses, horses ours all being stolen, and our cattle killed, I purchased two horses for which I gave 875 acres of land near where Lexington now stands, for the support of men women & children, which must have suffered without them. Thus ending my service in Kentucky, having served 3 months in the spring of 1779 in erecting and enlarging the Station and from the 18th of December following until the 20th of September 1780 served as a volunteer under Captain William Hogan, in hunting and spying, killing 3 Indians & bringing in 34 horses, making a tower of 12 months & 2 days in Kentucky, Having never received any compensation from Government or from any person whatever for no part of my Service in Kentucky. And in the last of the month of September having disposed of all the property I had in Kentucky I returned to North Carolina and sold their a parcel of land to enable me to commence a support again in Kentucky.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present; and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans. In Rowan County & State of North Carolina on the 15th day of February 1758

Quest. 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans. I have a Record of my age at home copied into my Bible taken from my Father's Family Record

Quest. 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans. In Rowan County in North Carolina, part of my time, and balance of my time in

Fayette, Bourbon and Nicholas Counties State of Kentucky where I now live

Quest. 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans. I was once drafted, but furnished a substitute 18 months in the Continental Army; – And served my country twice a volunteer, I never was a Substitute for any man

Quest. 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans. General Christian, Colonel Joseph Williams, Captain Samuel Mosby under whom I served as a volunteer and marched to the Northerly Cherokee Indian Towns, my 1st business was across the Holston in search of the Indian camps & signs, and bringing in one white man who had been taken prisoner by the Indians.

Secondly. In searching to French Broad in crossing the River in the night to surround the Ford where the Indians had embodied themselves as before stated, they had fled from the Ford, and gone, we pursued them to their Towns, burnt their towns, destroyed their corn, brought in some cattle & some horses.

Thirdly. I served as a volunteer under Captain William Hogan in Kentucky in hunting, spying, bringing in horses, and by assisting in pursuing the Indians at various times, & killing an Indian with my rifle, & 2 others that I saw fall at the fire of my rifle which I have no doubt I killed that were carried off by their party. In scouring the country at various times & places

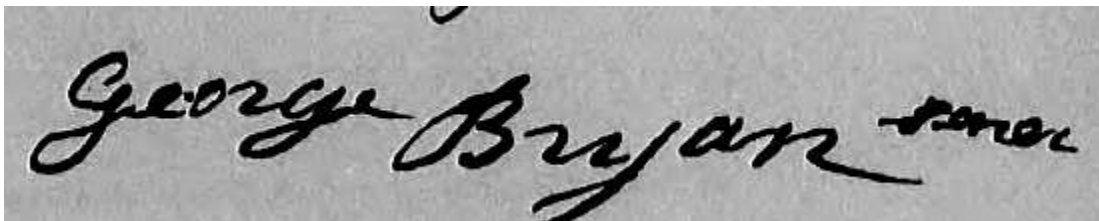
Quest. 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans. He said George Bryan had one receipt for a substitute from Colonel Locke who was Brigade Inspector under General Rutherford, which receipt I have lost. And one verbal discharge from Captain Samuel Mosby under the command of Colonel Joseph Williams.

Quest. 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans. Colonel William Hamilton, John Rogers, and Thomas P Pettis & Robert C Hall Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ George Bryan sener

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "George Bryan sener" in a cursive script. The word "sener" is written in a smaller, more compact cursive style at the end of the line.

[John Rogers, a clergyman, William Hamilton, Thomas P Pettis & Robert C Hall gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[fn p. 23]

Kentucky Fayette County

Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid, Joseph Mosby of said County, and made oath that George Bryan now a resident of Nicholas County Kentucky joined the company of Captain Samuel Mosby of Surry County State of North Carolina in August 1776, which company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel

Joseph Williams, and United with the Virginia troops commanded by Colonel Christy [sic, William Christian] at the long Islands [sic, Long Island] of Holston River, and continued in service for 3 months and some days in a campaign against the Cherokee Indians.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 1st day of February 1834

S/ Thomas M Allen, JP

S/ Joseph Mosby

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph Mosby". The ink is dark and the paper is light-colored. The signature is written in a fluid, connected style typical of the early 19th century.

[fn p. 24]

The deposition of Daniel Bryant taken at ~~my~~ the office of George T. Chrisman in the Town of Nicholasville on the 4th day of February 1834 to be read as evidence to show that George Bryant is entitled to a pension for his service in the Revolution and also in the settlement of Kentucky this deponent being of lawful age and being first duly sworn deposes and

saith that George Bryan of Nicholas County Kentucky is a full cousin of his and was born in North Carolina Rowan County on the 15th day of February 1758 according to the statement of our Parents and but five days younger than this deponent, and that they were both enrolled on the muster list of Captain John Johnston's Company at the usual page and further states that the said George Bryan being called on to go a campaign against the Cherokee Indians in the latter part of the summer & fall of the year 1776 started with the troops in the company of Captain Samuel Mosby commanded by Colonel Joseph Williams and was out with others of our neighbors the term of a tower of duty which was 3 months & returned with the other soldiers, this Deponent saith that he was informed that the said George served as a private soldier during the time of the Campaign.

2ndly This Deponent states that some time after the return of said George but he cannot say precisely how long the said George Bryan was drafted to serve 18 months in the Continental service & the George hired a substitute in his place for which he said George was exempted from Militia Duty for 3 years by the act of North Carolina –

3rdly This Deponent saith that the said George (with himself Daniel Bryant and others) in the spring of the year 1779 came to Kentucky, erected a small Fort called Bryans Station, raise some corn & return to Carolina in the summer & same fall assisted his father in moving the family to Kentucky to Bryans Station where they assisted to enlarge the Fort & strengthen the fortification etc. and early in the winter 1780 the said George enrolled himself as a soldier and Captain William Hogan's Company and was out on several scouts & in several skirmishes with this Deponent during the summer of 1780.

S/ Danl. Bryan

[fn p. 28: George Bryan, applied on April 15, 1845 in Jefferson County Kentucky for a transfer of his pension benefit to the state of Illinois where he has recently moved to be more convenient to his children.]

[facts in file: veteran died in Woodside, Sangamon County Illinois on November 22, 1845.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]