

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Piles S32447

f13VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

10/24/12

[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. 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 fails 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 errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Indiana Decatur County: Sc. On this 29th day of October in the year of our Lord 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable the Judges of the Decatur Circuit Court now sitting Elijah Piles a resident of the said County of Decatur and State of Indiana aged eighty-seven years the 13th day of March next 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 the 7th 1832. = That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In the month of May A.D. 1776 he volunteered in the service of the United States and served for one year as an Indian Spy under Colonel Gibson [probably George Gibson] and Captain Thomas Freeman in the Monongahela Country in New Virginia in what is now called Monongahela County. He left the service in the month of May or June in the year 1777 after serving for one year at least in the capacity of an Indian Spy. He then immediately in the month of June same year that he quit the service as an Indian Spy volunteered a 2nd time and served for five months under Colonel Gibson in Captain Thomas Freeman at Dew's [?] Station. He left the service this second tour in the month of October after serving faithfully for five months. He was there discharged by Captain Thomas Freeman and he returned to his residence, and continued there until the May following (to wit) 1778 when he volunteered a third time to serve at Dew's Station. He this tour served under the same officers as before (to wit) Colonel Gibson and Captain Thomas Freeman he left the service in the beginning of October same year after being first duly discharged by Captain Freeman when he returned home. He then in the month of May 1779 volunteered a fourth time and served at Dew's Station under the same officers as before, and left the service the last of September or the first of October same year, after serving faithfully for five months more, this fourth tour added to his other tours makes two years and 3 months. He then in the month of April he thinks in 1780 volunteered of fifth time and served for one month at Logstown Station 12 miles from Fort Pitt on the Ohio River for the purpose of guarding the magazine which contained ammunition of the United States which was deposited they are at that time. He left the service this fifth time he thinks the last of May or the first of June same year after being first discharged by his officers. This term makes two years and 4 months. He then immediately (to wit) in the month of June 1780 he thinks volunteered to go to the Fort on the waters of the Muskingum [River] 65 miles back from the Ohio River where 118 Regulars were stationed under Lieutenant Evins and who were in danger of being entirely cut off by the Indians. He crossed the Ohio at Big Beaver under the command of Captain Freeman and by forced marches reached the Fort (the name he has now forgotten) in time to give relief to the besieged Fort. However 18 of the men in the Fort had been killed by the Indians from there he was marched back with the Regulars to the settlements across the Ohio where he was discharged, the precise length of this tour he cannot state but it was not

less than a month. At all events he returned home sometime in July same year. This tour added to the five tours would make two years and 5 months. The Regulars just spoken of under Lieutenant Evins (or Ivins) were set out to the nation of Muskingum for the purpose of constructing a line of forts to extend to the Indian village on the said waters high up, but were under the necessity of abandoning that place. He then in the month of April he thinks 1781 volunteered a 7th time and served under Captain Thomas Freeman at Henry's Station about 7 miles from where Morgantown now stands. He thinks that probably Colonel Ivins at this time commanded at that station but as to this he is not positive it was either Colonel Ivins or Colonel Gibson he left the service this 7th and last tour in the month of July 1781 after serving for three months which added to his other six tours makes two years and 8 months for which he claims a pension. At the time that he entered the service he resided in the region of Country which at this time composes Monongahela County Virginia and continued to reside there until the war was over. He was in no engagements which can properly be called Battles, During his service as an Indian Spy he marched from near where Morgantown now stands to what was called old Fort where Brownsville now stands, from thence to Fort Pitt, from thence to the waters of Dunkard's Creek, from thence to Fishing Creek, from thence to Wheeling – from thence to Buffalo Creek, from thence to Pampan [?] Creek from thence to the Big Meadows, from thence to Indian Creek and so as alternately from one place to the other through the region roundabout – the places and warders above. During his 2nd, 3rd and 4th tours he served principally in Dew's Station except some time occasionally he was out as a scout not far distant however from the Fort. During his 5th tour he served in the station at Logstown. During his 6th tour he marched from near Morgantown to the Ohio River where he crossed at Big Beaver and marched out 65 miles back on the waters of the Muskingum to a Fort (the name of which he has forgotten) where the 118 Regulars before mentioned were stationed, from thence he marched back to the Ohio River, crossed the same, and returned to the frontiers settlement where he was discharged. During his 7th and last tour he served principally in Henry's Station except occasionally he was out on the alert for the Indians – so that the inhabitants could plant and hoe their corn, all of this time he was commanded by Captain Thomas Freeman who was subject to the orders of Colonel Gibson, and some part of the time he thinks to the orders of Colonel Evins (or Ivins). He was acquainted with General Lee, Colonel Evins (or Ivins) Captain David Scott & Lieutenant Evins (or Ivins) . He does not remember that he served with any Continental or militia companies or regiments except the short tour with Lieutenant Evins. He has no documentary or written Evidence and he knows of no person living who can testify to his service. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.
S/ Henry H Talbott, Ck. D. C.C. S/ Elijah Piles, X his mark
[John Ford, a clergyman, and John Evans gave the standard supporting affidavit

Answers to the 7 Questions prescribed by the War Department

Answer 1st I was born in Loudoun County Virginia the 13th of March 1746. Answer to 2nd Question. I have no record of my age here it was set down in the Big Bible which belong to my Father and that is in old Virginia. I well remember however that that is my age. 3rd. I was residing in what is now called Monongahela County Virginia when I entered the service and I continued to reside there until about twenty years sense when I removed to Dearborn County in the State I now reside in Decatur County Indiana. 4th. Answer I was a volunteer – 5th Answer. I recollect General Lee, Colonel Evans, Captain David Scott and Lieutenant Evins. I do not

remember any companies or regiments who were with the troops where I served except the 118 Regulars under Lieutenant Evins, the general circumstances of my service are stated within, Answer 6th. I never received any written discharge but was told by my officers that I was dismissed for the present. Answer 7th. Esquire or Doctor John [illegible name, probably "Ford"], Colonel Hendricks, Judge Atkins and all who know me.

S/ Elijah Piles, X his mark

State of Indiana Decatur County: Sc. On this 10th day of December 1833 personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the aforesaid County of Decatur Elijah Pyles the aforesaid applicant for a pension under the act of June 7 1832 – who having first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Amendment to his former Declaration for a pension (see declaration herewith sent) (to wit) In the month of May 1776 he volunteered in the service of the United States and served on the Frontiers in what was then called the Monongahela Country against the Indians under Colonel Gibson Captain Freeman &c &c as he is stated within (see declaration). He left the service in the month of May in the year 1777 after serving faithfully for one year. Owing to the practical knowledge which the applicant possessed of the Indian Character he was appointed by Colonel Gibson and Captain Freeman to serve as an "Indian Spy" when it was thought expedient to send out Scouts to watch the movements of the Enemy and for some considerable portion of his time for the first year (to wit), from the month of May 1776 to the month of May 1777 – he was engaged as an "Indian Spy" agreeably to the orders of his officers and if he had not went out as such Spy, would have been unduly reprimanded by his officers for disobedience: When this applicant was not out as such "Spy" he was doing military duty at Dewses Station, and had his regular tour of service, such as "Centry" [sic sentry] "guard" &c &c to perform; applicant does not now remember of having one single day either during his first tour of one year or during any of his other tours of duty mentioned within (see declaration) Applicant served also the 6th other tours as he has stated in his former Declaration to which the Department is referred to particularly (see Declaration). And further deponent saith not.

S/Elijah Piles, X his mark

State of Indiana Decatur County: Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Decatur and State aforesaid Elijah Piles the applicant aforesaid for a pension under the law of June 7 1832, who being first duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his Service but to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades (to wit) for two years and eight months at least I served as a private Soldier in the Army of the revolution in the service of the United States and for such service I claim a pension.

S/ Elijah Piles, X his mark

[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 service.]