

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of Michael Ripple S32479

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Illinois } Ss

Edgar County }

On the fourth day of June 1833 personally appeared in open court being a court of record to wit the county Commissioners court for Edgar County & State aforesaid Michael Ripple a resident of said County & State aged 81 years the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1832 who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7 1832 He states that he was born in Northampton county in the State of Pennsylvania on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1751 he gives this his age of 81 years from the register in his fathers family Bible He states that in the first of March or last of February 1776 he volunteered as a private for six moths under Captain John Ornett[?] in Major John Nelsons battalion in Col. Peter Keithlands Regiment in the Pennsylvania line on continental establishment called into service by competent authority. It was attached to Gen'. Benedict Arnolds Brigade and was marched into the State of New York & continued in said State & about New York city, Long Island, Brooklyn, Gravesend &c untill the battle of Long Island [27 Aug 1776]. that he was in the engagement under the officers above stated as well as he recollects, he thinks Gen'l. [John] Sullivan commanded a brigade in said battle. that just about the time of said battle or in two or three days after his 6 months tour expired (the said battle he thinks was in the last of August 1776) that his served out the full term of 6 months aforesaid in the field (formerly thought three months) during which time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit for which service he received a written discharge which his lost

That in about 10 days after being discharged as aforesaid he enlisted as a private soldier as a light horseman for two years on continental establishment under a certain recruiting Captain whose name is now forgotten and entered into the service as one (or among) General George Washingtons life guard and was placed occasionally under the command of an orderly sergeant by the name of John Cary. the names of the other officers are all forgotten. Gen'l Washington frequently commanded his life guard himself. that in the capacity of a private soldier & light horseman as aforesaid in the field he served out his full term of two years enlistment as aforesaid & was not during said term engaged in any civil pursuit for which service he received a written discharge which is lost He states that during said last named service of two years he was with Gen'l. George Washington as one of his life guard aforesaid at the Battle of Brandywine [11 Sep 1777] Germantown [4 Oct 1777] at the former he believes LaFayette & count Pulasky [Kazimierz Pulaski] commanded & was engaged in the battle in the latter he believes generals Sullivan & Stephens [sic: Adam Stephen] commanded and was in the battle but other general or particular transactions and circumstances relative to said two years service has now escaped his memory

He states that he then started home to pennsylvania, and having arrived at East Town [Easton] in said State he enlisted again for two years as a lighthorseman & private under Captain Shultz [Schultz] a recruiting officer and entered the service on Continental establishment and joined a corps called into service by competent authority and was put & placed in Captain Shelaskeys [sic: Jan Zielinski] company in Major Hinds Battalian in Colonel Cohatch (or Cowatch) [sic: Michael de Kowatch] regiment in Count Pulaskeys Brigade and marched up the Delaware river & had a battle with the Delaware Indians at Mennising [sic: Minisink Valley], killed a number of them & took some prisoners Marched to Egg harbour in Maryland and there had a skirmish with some Brittish [sic: Little Egg Harbor NJ, 15 Oct 1778; see endnote] who fled (leaving their guns knapsacks &c) into a swamp impassable for our horses. We endeavoured to prevent their escape to the Brittish fleet lying in the bay but they got to the bridge first & having passed over took up the plank & prevented our pursuit we took 30 or 40 prisoners among who was two tories who were sent to Trentown [Trenton] & hung. We then marched into Virginia & took up winter quarters at a place called Horiniltown[?] he thinks in March following Marched through the Carolinas & into the State of Georgia where in the fall of the year (perhaps September) we the Americans &c had a

Battle in Savannah in the said State of Georgia [siege of Savannah, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779]. Count D'Estaing, Gen'l Lincolnd [sic: Benjamin Lincoln] & Count Pulasky Commanded and we had to retreat with much loss. Count Pulasky & Col Cowatch (or Cohatch and many more were killed this applicant had his horse shot down under him & several bullet holes made in his own cloathes he then received a written discharge (among the few that escaped) & is lost & that during the said last mentioned term of service in the field he was not engaged in any civil pursuit He then returned home to East town in Pennsylvania He states that to the best of his recollection that Daniel Morgan Henry Lee, Joseph Reed James Clinton & Israel Putnam all commander as Generals in Washingtons army and Peter Harry [sic: Peter Horry] & Isaac Hayne as Colonels in said Army during the revolution

He states that after the revolution he lived with his brother Hervy Ripple 6 or 7 years; then married & settled near his said brother resided there 12 or 15 years the moved to Mughlenburg county [sic: Muhlenberg County] in the state of Kentucky & after about 7 years moved to Edgar county in the state of Illinois where he still resides. He states that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his service. He states that William J Mays Clergyman & Thomas Rodes labourer of said county of Edgar & State of Illinois are persons to whom he is known in his neighbourhood who can testify to his veracity & their belief of his service as a soldier in the revolution

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 any agency in any state. Michael hisXmark Ripple

State of Illinois } Ss  
Edgar County }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the said County of Edgar; Michael Ripple who being duly sworn deposeseth 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 according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below and in the following grades; – For six months he served as a private under Col. P. Keithland. In Maj'r John Nelsons Battalion in Cap. John Ornl's Company. For two years he served as a light horsman & private in Gen Washingtons life guard For two years he served as a light horseman & private in Col. Cohatch or Cowatch Regiment, Maj'r Hinds Battalian, Count Pulaskies Brigade as set forth in his 2<sup>nd</sup> declaration for a pension to which this is appended by me the undersigned And for such services he claims a pension

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1833. Michael hisXmark Ripple  
G. B. Shelledy J.P.

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I Nicholas Bean of the county of Clark and State of Illinois do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with the applicant for a Pension Michael Ripple I have known said Ripple ever since he was a boy of fourteen or fifteen years of age he was born within about thirteen miles of where I was born in Pennsylvania & I have been at his fathers home often I last saw Michael Ripple a few days ago & there is no mistake about him – he is the same man that I have spoken of as a boy To my certan knowledge said Ripple was a Soldier of the Revolution. He was drafted from the Militia of Bucks county Pennsylvania at the same time that I was. He was not in my Company but we were both under Col. Keithline or Keithlin Said Ripple was drafted a aforesaid for six months and he to my knowledge served out his time. We were both while in the militia in the fifth Pennsylvania Regiment as to his having served at any time afterward I can not say positively because I did not see him all the time in the service that he says he performed after he left the militia. But this I know that it was generally said & understood that he Enlisted in the Light Dragoon or mounted horse men for three years he was not in my company when in the Light horse troops I saw him at Morristown in New Jersey while he was a Light Dragoon as aforesaid. I and my Company wintered two winters at Morristown but I only saw him there one winter Gen. Washington wintered here at what was called the “white House” I think his commander's name was Gillispie (his captain) and

Ripple went in the troop to the South. I saw said Ripple at different time after he enlisted and while he was in the Service as a mounted Dragoon I saw & talked with after he enlisted & before we went to the South and I saw him in South Carolina after he enlisted & while he was a soldier it was at Ninety Six particularly that I saw said Ripple. Mr Ripple is quite and old man – not less I think than Seventy – he is a Duchman [i.e. German] and appears to be somewhat deficient in his recollection & from his pronunciation of words and particularly the Names of Persons that is almost impossible to understand him. I think him an honest man & a man of truth and have not one Solitary Doubt of his having Served in the Light Dragoons for the time & in the manner as I have stated. I have no more doubt of his service than I have about the service of any man of the Army who I did not see daily I saw him oftener than I should any other man not belonging to the troop that I did for I had been raised near him from a boy. I think he was in count Pulaskis Corps. I have not seen or heard said Ripples Declaration read. Said Ripple was on Long Island a part of the time while he was in the militia – he is reputed in the Neighborhood to have been a Soldier of the Revolution. I cannot state the year that he enlisted in.

Nicholas hisXmark Bean

NOTES:

At Little Egg Harbor Pulaski's men were actually surprised while sleeping and were soundly defeated. Pulaski was then (rather than earlier) sent to patrol the Minisink Valley on the upper Delaware River, where he had no recorded engagement with Indians. He spent the winter of 1778-1779 in Minisink Valley, not in Virginia.

Michael Ripple gave the following account of his service in a statement supporting the pension application of Nicholas Bean.

"I Michael Ripple of the county of Edgar and State of Illinois do hereby Certify that to the best of my belief and recollection I am eighty three years of age I was a private soldier in the Revolutionary Army. I served Two years and six months in it under Colonel Lee as a private mounted Dragoon [Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion]. I knew one Major Rose in said Service under Col. Lee. I have often been at Elizabeth Town in New Jersey. During the whole two years and six months aforesaid which I served under Col. Lee I was well acquainted with the Declarant, Nicholas Bean, who was also a Private mounted Dragoon under Col. Lee. I cannot say at what time Bean enlisted or went into the Service but I knew him during two years and six months as aforesaid and I left him in the Service when I was Discharged. I think said Bean was in the Battles of Bunker's Hill, Long Island, King's bridge, Black River, Brandywine & others.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 16<sup>h</sup> day of April AD 1834 Michael hisXmark Ripple"