

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Nicholas N. Ryland S38346

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

Virginia SS. Lewis County Court July Term 1818

On this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1818 before the said Court now sitting personally appeared Nicholas N Ryland aged seventy one years resident in Lewis County who being first duly sworn according to Law Doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the late act of Congress Entitled an act to provide for certain persons eng[aged] in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary war. that he the said Nicholas N Ryland enlisted in the City of Baltimore [probably spring 1778; see note below] in the Troops Commanded by Captain Segun or Legur [sic: Jacques de Segon de Sederon, anglicized as James Segond] in the Legion commanded by Count Pulaski that he continued in that corps untill dismissed at Savannah in Georgia

That he was afterwards commissioned a Cornet in Captain Leakes [sic: probably Jacob Stake's or Stakes's] Troop of Horse of the Pennsylvania line that he served in said troop untill he was promoted to a Lieutenant in said troop. That he continued to serve in the said troop or Corps or in the service of the United States and his corps was discharged from service by General Orders (that he was in the battles of Little Eggharbour in New Jersey [Little Egg Harbor, 14 Oct 1778] at the battle of Monmouth in the said state [28 Jun 1778] that he was at the attack of Savannah in Georgia [9 Oct 1779] and at the Capture of Cornwallis in Virginia [19 Oct 1781] and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power of his said services (having lost his commissions)

Virginia Lewis County S.S.

Lewis County Court June term 1820

On this day 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1820 Nicholas N Ryland personally appeared in open court being a court of record for said County who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath declare that he Entered in April 1777 [sic] in Baltimore and served in the revolutionary war as follows

That he served in the Legion Commanded by Count Poluski for three years or thereabouts untill discharged at Savannah in Georgia that he was aftewards about the first of the year 1780 commissioned a Cornet in Captain Stake Company or troop of horse of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regiment of the pensylvania line Commanded by Colonel Butler. That he served in said troop untill he was promoted to a lieutenant in said troop or Corps for the term of three years or thereabouts until his corps was discharged by General orders about the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov 1783 that he was in the battles of little Eggharbour in Newjersey at the battles of Monmouth in said State that he was at the attack of Savannah in Georgia and the capture of Cornwallis in Virginia as set forth in his original declaration before Lewis County Court at July term 1818 that his family consists of himself and an aged wife that he is a cripple wholly inabled by old age and an inveterate sore upon his leg that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support And that he is unable to procure any other evidence of his said services than the accompanying affidavits of Patrick Handlin [pension application W10077] John Handlin and Paul Bentalou having lost his commission

Virginia Lewis County S.S.

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of Aug't. 1820 Nicholas N. Ryland aged 74 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for said County who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath declare that he enlisted in Baltimore on or about the first day of April 1777 and served as setforth in his declaration before Lewis County Court on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 1818 untill his discharge in Georgia as mentioned in said declaration that he then returned to Baltimore immediately and in a few weeks thereafter repaired to York in Pennsylvania and there joined Captain Stakes Company of horse as a Cornet. And proceeded with said Company to join the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Regiment of the Pennsylvania line commanded by Colonel Butler. That being about the last of the year 1779 or the first of the year 1780 - that in about 18 months thereafter when a Lieutenant Brashear was killed in a duel whereupon he said Ryland was promoted to a Lieutenant in said troop and continued his services as setforth in his former declaration of 6<sup>th</sup> July 1818 and 12<sup>th</sup> June 1820 Until the capture of Cornwallis in Virginia from thence he went to guard prisoners to Lancaster in Pennsylvania at which place he continued untill he was discharged about the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1783 [sic: see note below].

Baltimore 16<sup>th</sup> August 1819

Sir/ I have received your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> Ult'o. calling on me for a certificate of your services as a revolutionary soldier in late count Pulaski's legion, and altho' the facts you have related leave no doubt in my mind that you must, as asserted, have been enrolled in the Legion from the first creation, I nevertheless fear I am not able to give you such ample certificate as required by law to entitle you to be placed on the pension list; indeed had you even belonged to my troop it would be impossible I could have retained any recollection of either your person or name, and however desirous of assisting the aged and needy and more particularly a revolutionary soldier, yet I can not with propriety and consistently with truth give any other certificate than the one hereto annexed, and if found sufficient to enroll you to obtain the several[?] pension granted by law, it will afford me great pleasure that my agency may have been instrumental in procuring it, to make your situation more comfortable, for I sincerely wish you every possible happiness you can reasonably expect at your advanced time of life.

[signed] Paul Bentalou

I Paul Bentalou late a captain of Dragoons in the United States Legion commanded by brigadier general count Pulaski, do hereby Testify that I have received a letter from Nicholas Ryland, dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1819, and bearing the post office mark of Clarksburg Virg's. the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, in which it is stated by said Ryland, that he inlisted in said Legion at Baltimore in the Spring of 1778, and served faithfully and honestly for upwards of three years, and altho' I have not, nor can I properly, at this time, have any recollection of his name or even of his person were I to see him, particularly, as he says, that he served in the infantry of the legion, and that my command was in the cavalry; nevertheless he is so very correctly minute in all the particulars he relates, as to the marches, sojournings, engagements, the names of officers slain in action and so many other circumstances, that I have no hesitation in declaring positively, that he must have been what he says a soldier in Brigadier count Pulaski's legion during the revolutionary war, or it would have been impossible for him, to relate so many facts and so correctly, had he not been an eyewitness thereto, and therefore I do believe on my conscience that he is entitled to all the emoluments granted by law to the surviving soldiers of the late revolutionary army of the United States

In Testimony whereof I hereto sign my name at Baltimore, State of Maryland this sixteenth day of August Eighteen hundred and nineteen

[signed] Paul Bentalou

In pursuance of the act of of 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1820 I Nicholas N Ryland do Solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the Eighteenth day of March One thousand Eight hundred and Eighteen and that I have not since that time by gift sale or in any manner whatsoever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war" passed the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818. And that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property or securities contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. Nicholas N. hisXmark Ryland  
The following is a correct Schedule of my whole property (my beds and cloathes excepted) Viz.  
One Small Cabbin and half acre of ground adjoining leased to me for three years on Adam Alkins farm in Lewis County worth ten dollars per Annum & one sett of Hatters tools worth \$50. or \$60— dollars altogether —  
Lewis County Court June term 1820

Nicholas N. hisXmark Ryland

Virginia Tyler County

I Patrick Handlin of Tyler County aforesaid do certify that I am and was personally acquainted with Nicholas N. Rylands having served a tour in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line Commanded by Colonel Butler that I knew him from the year 1781 at Yorktown in Va. to about the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year 1783 at Lancaster and that he was a Lieutenant in Captain Stakes troop of Cavalry And did continue in said troop as a Lieutenant during my whole acquaintance with him in the army of the revolutionary war which was about 12 or 15 months in continuance and that he was then and still is considered a creditable man Given under my hand this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 1820.  
Patrick hisXmark Handlin [see note below]

Kingwood 18<sup>th</sup> Nov'r. 1820

Dear Sir

Enclosed I send you Capt'n. N. N Rylands papers. You required Paul Bentlow certificate to be verified. You will perceive Sir that Bentalou's certificate was made in Baltimore where he lives he being the Marshall of the U. S. Court holden at that place. the certificate was sent in the Mail to the Honorable James Pindalls[?] then a member of Congress. The examination of Patrick Handlin taken again is in my humble opinion conclusive as to his (Rylands) services and will doubtless enable you to inscribe him on the Pension roll. I am certain his great age and infirm state of body renders it impossible for him to travel and procure other testimony.

It will not escape your notice that Patrick Handlin, who proves affiants services as a Lieutenant has Identified himself and is a pensioner unless discontinued by the act of May [requiring proof of financial need]. I generally know of several cases during the late war where officers as well as private soldiers were omitted on the rolls of their companies. I will mention the case of William Bennett a Lieutenant in my company of Va. M[ilitia] who was refused his pay for transportation of baggage untill I sent my duplicate rolls to your Department in that case there was one omission on the rolls returned to the war Dept. while he appeared properly on the rolls retained by his officer may not something of the same kind exist in Rylands When it is considered that the revolutionary army was something like the 10,000 Greeks commanded by Zenophon [sic: Xenophon] it will not appear strange that Ryland a Leut should have been omitted on the rolls - rather is it Strange that a roll should have been forwarded at all -

Should Ryland be inscribed in the Pension roll please to forward me the certificate to Richmond where I am going I shall be there against the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst. and continue there a few days I am authorised to draw his money. Very respectfully Your ob't. Ser't.

Jonathan Wamsley [see note below]

#### Revolutionary Claims.

Form of a Declaration to be made by the Officers.

For the purpose of obtaining the benefits of an act, entitled "An act for the relief of certain surviving Officers and Soldiers of the Army of the Revolution," approved on the 15th of May, 1828, I, Nicholas N. Ryland of Millford, in the county of Harrison, in the State of Virginia do hereby declare that I was an officer in the Continental Line of the Army of the Revolution, and served as such to the end of the War. at which period I was a Lieutenant in the third regiment of the Pennsylvania line.

And I also declare, that I afterwards received certificates (commonly called commutation certificates) for a sum equal to the amount of five years' full pay; which sum was offered by the resolve of Congress, of the 22d of March, 1783, instead of the half pay for life, to which I was entitled under the resolve of the 21st of October, 1780.

And I do further declare, that I have received of the United States as a pensioner since the 3d day of march, 1826, The sum of four hundred and eighty dollars paid me by the Agent for paying pensions in the State of Virginia

Witness my hand, this fourth day of September, in the year A.D. 1828

N N hisXmark Ryland

Millford Harrison Co. Va Jy 19<sup>th</sup> 1829

Sir In your letter of 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Came to hand Explaining the reason why my Claim under the

act of may 15<sup>th</sup> was not allowed also requesting such additional Light as within my power to give on the subject - that is to explain the reason why I claim as belonging to the Pensylvnia line on Continental Establishment I hope to be able to give you the nessary information required in the [illegible word] early in April 1777 I enlisted in Capt Segans Company attached to Count Pulaskies Legion in which I served untill the memmorable Charge against the walls of Savanah at which time Pulasky was defeated and slain. I then returned to the North was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant as my Certificate will shew on file in the pension office I then joined Captain Stakes Company of Cavalry attached to the third Pensylvania Rigiment then forming at Little York in which I served until peace was made we was then discharged at old Lancaster Pa this Sir accounts for my claiming to belong to the third Pa Regiment after the close of the revolution I served under General [Anthony] Wayne against the North western Indians in all I served my Country ten years I was wounded twice while under Pulasky i also received two wounds while under Wayne at the battle of the Maume [probably Battle of the Fallen Timbers against Miami Indians, 30 Jun 1794] I have been Identified by Paul Bentloe Late mayor of Baltimore and Patrick O'handlon which proves beyond a doubt my services in the revolution as my pension Certificate will shew - I Believe my self entitled to the Benefits of the Act of May 15<sup>th</sup> 1828. I now Receive at the rate of twenty dollars per month I think proper to give you a correct statement of all my services Beginning with Pulasky and Ending at the close of the war as Lieutenant in the third Rigiment of the Pensylvania Line Comanded by Col Butler - the above facts are all true to the best of my knowledge I hope you will cause a Reexamination to be made and transmit the result to me at Millford P. Office Harrison County Virginia  
Hon Richard Burk Sec'ty Treasury Dept I am your ob't Sert Nicholas N Ryland

NOTES:

On 28 Mar 1778 Congress authorized Gen. Count Kazimierz Pulaski to raise a legion. Soon afterward Pulaski started recruiting in Baltimore, and on 15 Sep he reported to Gen. Washington that the Legion was ready. Pulaski was wounded in the assault on Spring Hill Redoubt during the siege of Savannah, 24 Sep - 19 Oct 1779, and he died after two days on 11 Oct 1779. Most of Pulaski's Legion then joined Col. Charles Armand's Legion of Horse and Foot.

Prisoners surrendered at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781 were marched almost immediately to Winchester and then farther north. Patrick Handlin did not mention being at Yorktown in his own pension application.

In 1834 Jonathan Wamsley was investigated for submitting several fraudulent claims and keeping a large portion of the pensions. See notes in the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111) for details.

On 18 Apr 1829 John Handlin deposed that he had seen Ryland's commission. On 13 June 1829 Thomas McKinley deposed in Harrison County that he had kept Ryland's commission as lieutenant for several years. On 20 June 1829 Anderson Corbin of Harrison County (pension application W6739) deposed that 25 or 30 years previously he had seen Ryland's discharge and his commission as lieutenant.

In a letter dated 27 June 1829 from Clarksburg, Edwin S. Duncan stated that Ryland "has been long Bed ridden and paralytic to a degree that has almost deprived him of speech so that he is in fact incapable of attending to his business or of furnishing the necessary information to others" in order to amend his previous pension application or apply under the 1828 act.