

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elliot Rucker ¹ S46408

f77VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

8/11/12 rev'd 11/4/14 supp'd 5/5/15

[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. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. 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 skills fail 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 material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 12]

Revolutionary Claims of Elliot Rucker for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the act entitled an Act for the relief of certain surviving officers and Soldiers of the Revolution approved on the 15th of May 1828 I Elliott Rucker of and in the County of Shelby and State of Kentucky, did enlist under Captain John Green of Culpeper, afterwards Colonel Green of the Continental Virginia line, as a private soldier for one-year, In which capacity I served through said term of enlistment. After which I was appointed an Ensign in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment raised by quota of men as such and marched them to Williamsburg, where so soon as said Regiment was organized marched and joined the grand Continental Army to the North under the command of Washington which Regiment was transferred to the Continental line 1777 or 78 in the place of the 9th Virginia Regiment taken in the battle of Germantown [October 4, 1777]. – Was after that appointed to the rank of Lieutenant in said Regiment and marched with it to Virginia in the year 1780 – In the year 1781 after the reduction of the regular forces, was called on by General Muhlenberg to take the command of other troops as Major – Was in the battle of Jamestown, under General Anthony Wayne & served through the siege of York in the said capacity and continued to hold my said regular Commission as Lieutenant to the end of the war. In the year 1826 the Assembly of Virginia allowed me commutation for my services as Lieutenant aforesaid having previously received a Lieutenant's bounty of land as a satisfactory testimonial of such services.

All which facts and evidences are herewith submitted to the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

S/ Elliot Rucker

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliot Rucker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a thick black line.

[p 48]

I Joseph Carpenter of the County of Madison and State of Virginia do hereby Certify that I served under Major Elliott Rucker formerly of said County as a Soldier he commanded the Rifle Company at the battle of Jamestown Virginia in 1781 and brought home the engagement which continued for 2 or 3 hours when the Rifles began to play he was on the right of me. General Wayne rode up in five steps of me and said ["]my brave boys give them one more fire

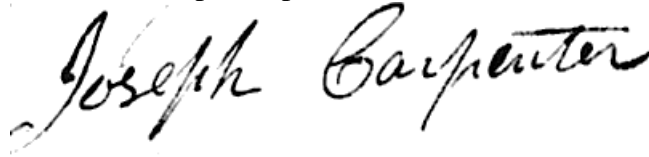
¹ BLWt1702=200

Va. Half Pay

and I will take it of [off] your hands ["] which we did. I further state I was in another engagement with Major Rucker and he was a brave officer.

That given under my hand this 22nd day of July 1830

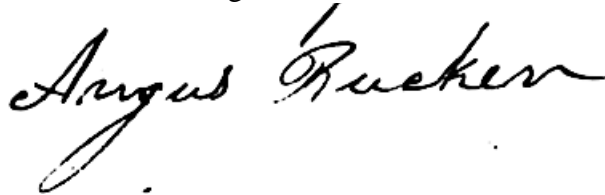
S/ Joseph Carpenter



[p 53]

I do hereby certify that Major Eliot Rucker of Shelby County Kentucky did enlist as a soldier under Captain Green of Culpeper County State of Virginia for one-year and served until his time expired and in the winter '76-'77 was appointed Ensign in Colonel George Gibson's Regiment raised his cota [quota] of men and join Gibson's Regiment at Williamsburg Virginia and as soon as the Regiment was Organized that Gibson was ordered with his Regiment to the North to join the grand Army commanded by General Washington and that he the said Rucker marched with Gibson's Regiment and joined the grand Army and at the North took rise to the command of Lieutenant after Gibson's Regiment was transferred to the Continental line and there commanded as Lieutenant and in the winter '79-'80 the Regiment was ordered to Virginia and got to Alexandria in Virginia in January 1780 there Colonel Gibson gave his Regiment furloughs to go to see their parents for three months after the expiration of the three months they were to join the Regiment again and he Lieutenant Rucker join Gibson's Regiment at Petersburg and took command as Lieutenant in the said Gibson's Regiment and so continued him 1781, General Muhlenberg who commanded the brigade that Gibson's Regiment belonged to sent his aid for the said Lieutenant Rucker to come to the siege of York and take command as brevet Major while at the siege of York and the said Lieutenant Rucker obeyed his General's orders. Further the deponent sayeth not.

S/ Angus Rucker²



[The above affidavit is attested July 27, 1830.]

[p 55]

I Churchill Gibbs³ of the County of Madison and State of Virginia do hereby certify that Major Elliott Rucker formerly of the said County enlisted as a Soldier under Captain John Green of Culpeper County and State of Virginia in the year 1775 for one-year and served the time out. I further certify in the latter part of 1776 or the 1st of 1777 he was appointed an Ensign in and for George Gibson's Regiment and raised his man and marched them to Williams, Joined the said Colonel Gibson's Regiment marched with said Regiment to the North and joined the Continental Army commanded by General Washington; and while at the North took rise to the command as a

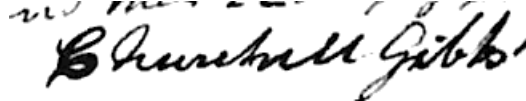
² [Angus Rucker S19068](#)

³ [Churchill Gibbs S46002](#)

Lieutenant and continued in the north in the Army until 1780 & when the Army marched to Virginia where the said rocker commanded in said Gibson's Regiment Lieutenant, being taken prisoner in 1781 and not being in said Regiment after that time but from everything I have heard and believes he served to the end of the war.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of July 1830

S/ Churchill Gibbs



[p 44]

State of Kentucky Shelby County Sct.

Jesse Alvis⁴ this day personally appeared before me George P Miller a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and Commonwealth aforesaid and made oath that he was in the Army of the Revolution, that during the year 1781 he is certain that Major Elliott Rucker commanded a Battalion in the Virginia line attached to General Wayne's Brigade, and that he the said rocker commanded in the capacity of a major at the Siege of York and that he the said Alvis was under the command of the said Rucker on his march thither, but was ordered to Winchester, and was not at the siege with said Rucker. He further states that he was with said Rucker in the battles at Hot water [June 26, 1781 also known as the Battle of Spencer's Tavern or the battle of Hot Water Plantation] and Jamestown [July 6, 1781.

Given under my hand as a Justice of the peace in and for said County this 5th day of October 1830

S/ Geo. P. Miller, JP

[p 32]

Shelby County Kentucky October 18 1830

I certify that I served through a campaign of nine months in 1781 under the command of Major Elliott Rucker of the Revolutionary Army, & from the State of Virginia; He commanded a Battalion which at that period of the campaign General Wayne requested the commanding Officers to place [themselves and their men] under his Wayne's control, which request was readily complied with & in that situation Major Rucker acted until the capture of Cornwallis at York [October 19, 1781] when he was given the charge of the Prisoners to conduct them to Lancaster Pennsylvania unless released by a sufficient force on the route to take them safe to that point.

Major Rucker was ever considered as standing amongst the most enterprising of our Officers, he had less rest or gave himself less than any officer of my whole acquaintance; He was ever on the scout unless we were likely for an engagement. I fought under his command at Hot water, where we had to cross the Cyprus Knee Mill dam near where the British were, and after crossing the same the troops were halted, when Generals Wayne & Lafayette had a short consultation & Wayne remarked that if the British line of cavalry could be broken or thrown in confusion, that they the Americans could sustain the conflict; Major Rucker advancing towards him replied General give me the command of our Cavalry and I will do it or die in the attempt, a few words then passed between the Generals, when Wayne replied, "Rucker you have it," whereupon Rucker took command of our Cavalry, and succeeded to the satisfaction of his

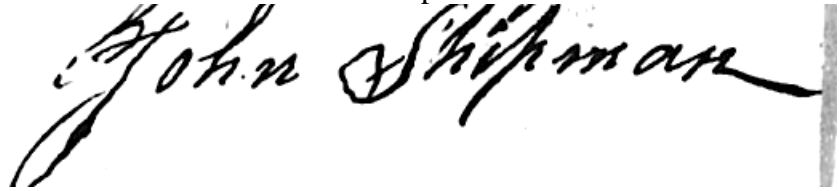
⁴ [Jesse Alvis S35765](#)

commanding Officers. I was commanded by said Rucker also at James Town & at the siege of York, in all of which cases he moved in front of his troops when going into action, and in cases of retreat he was always found covering our rear.

I will further state that Major Rucker continued in the service until the close of the War, which secured to us our independence.

Given under my hand the day & date aforesaid

S/ John Shipman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Shipman". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

[p 42]

I was in Loueasay [Louisa] County on Mechunk Creek in the year 1781 when General Lafayette marched through Virginia and Elliott Rucker was then commanding as a Major in Lafayette's Division and I have always understood that Major Rucker subbed until the close of the war and I have every right to believe that he was a gallant and distinguished officer: having always heard him spoken of under that character.

James Rowe this day personally appeared before me Robert T. Robb a Justice of the peace in and for the County of Shelby and made oath to the truth of the above statements given under my hand as a Justice of the peace in him for the above named County this 8th day of November 1830

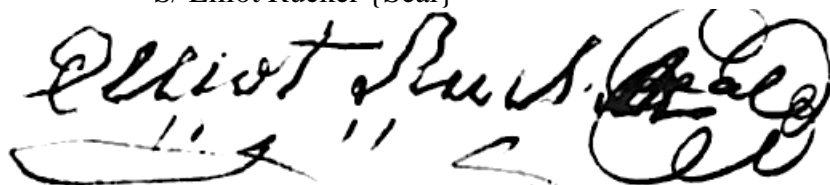
S/ Robert T. Robb, JP

[p 4]

Commonwealth of Kentucky Shelby County Sct.

Whereas I Elliot Rucker of the County of Shelby in the Commonwealth of Kentucky was an officer in the Revolutionary War which secured the United States it's Independence and am entitled to compensation for my services, and I have in him about applying therefore, and to the effect that object I did heretofore appoint Henry Norfolk my attorney-in-fact, Now I do hereby revoke all former powers of attorney by me made and executed and declare the same to be null and void, and I do hereby authorize constitute and appoint my son Legrand F. Rucker, of this place, my true and duly lawful attorney in fact, for me and in my name to do all acts, and execute all deeds in relation to my claims for money and lands to which I am entitled from the Government of the United States as a revolutionary officer – to receive all patents or grants for land, or script or money from the proper officer war Department which I could or might hereafter in my own proper person receive or apply for, and whatever the said Legrand F. Rucker shall do, or authorized to be done touching the premises, shall be as good and valid as I myself could do or make the same. In witness whereof I hereto subscribe my name and affixed my seal this 18th day of November 1830.

S/ Elliot Rucker {Seal}

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elliot Rucker". To the right of the signature is a circular seal impression, which appears to be a wax seal. The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

[p 62]

Pension Office
April 20, 1844

It is hereby certified that I have examined the claim of Lewis H Bascom, administrator with the will annexed of the estate of Elliott Rucker, deceased, who was a Lieutenant in the Virginia State Troops and I find that in addition to the amount heretofore paid on account of said Rucker's revolutionary service, there is still due the estate of said deceased, half-pay under the act of July 5, 1832, entitled "An act to provide for liquidating and paying certain claims of the State of Virginia at the rate of \$160 per annum, from the 6th of February 1782 to the 3rd of September 1783, and from the 3rd of March 1726 to the 19th of March 1832 when he died at the same rate per annum; and that the same is payable to Francis A. Dickens, of Washington City, attorney of Lewis H Bascom, administrator of Elliott Rucker deceased.

Commissioner of Pensions

Approved
Secretary of War

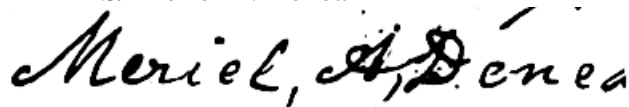
[p 8]

State of Kentucky Shelby County: Sct.

On this 12th day of July 1844 came in person in open court Mrs. Merial De Neal who on her oath makes the following declaration to obtain the provisions of the Act of Congress passed the 7th of June 1832.

Affiant states that she is the only Surviving Child of Major Elliot Rucker deceased that She is informed and believes, that her deceased father was a Lieutenant of the Virginia State line during the Revolutionary war and has been recognized as such by the several departments at Washington City, he having received a half pay as such from the month of November 1783 to the ___ day of ___ when he was inscribed on the pension roll under the Act of Congress of the 15th of May 1828 at \$320 per annum which pension said Elliott Rucker continued to receive to the day of his death that she is informed & believes that in the year 1779 or 1780 the said Elliott Rucker retired as a supernumerary officer that as to the time he retired she begs leave to refer to the records of the war Department at Washington City & the State of Virginia, that immediately after the time he left the Service as a Supernumerary officer of the Virginia State line of Regular Officers. He said Rucker received a Commission from the proper authorities of the State of Virginia, as a Major of Militia of said State, that he continued to hold the command of a Battalion of militia until the close of the war, as she is informed and believes, She states that said Elliott Rucker made application for a pension while he lived in Shelby County Kentucky, that he died in said County on the 19th day of March 1832, that his widow survived him, a few years and then died, leaving this affiant her only child, She therefore most respectfully prays to be allowed the difference between the pension which her deceased father received in his lifetime and that to which he was entitled from March 1831 to the day of his death further saith not, Sworn to & subscribed the day & date above written.

S/ Meriel A. Deneal



[From [rejected pension records in the Library of Virginia](#)]

Petition for bounty land (additional)

The Heirs of Lieutenant Elliott Rucker –S. Line

Elliott Rucker has received the land, for a service of three years, as a subaltern. His commission of Ensign bore date in 1777. His commission of 1st Lieutenant bore date January 11th 1779. He was not on the list of officers of the 1st State Regiment entitled to half pay in 1782. He was, by the Board of Officers, who sat in Richmond in 1782 discriminated, as not entitled to half pay. It does not appear that he was ever reinstated in his rank &c in the Army. He probably commanded militia, after he was discriminated; if he was in service at all: and his heirs are not entitled to more land, for his services.

Respectfully submitted

John H. Smith, Comr. etc.

To his Excellency
Governor Tazewell

April 28, 1834

[Note: The following was transcribed by COL (Ret.) William Schneck and submitted for inclusion in this database 11/4/14. The original was found at Virginia Governor Patrick Henry, Executive Papers, 1784-1786. Accession 39700, State Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.]

From the Patrick Henry Papers at the Virginia State Library⁵

The Honourable Patrick Henry Esquire,

The petition of Elliot Rucker Humbly sheweth that the Regiment he belonged to being reduced by Discharges, Colo George Gibson who had the command of the Regiment, address'd himself to me as well as others, early in the year 1781; and informed me, that I was at liberty to retire from the army, as there was no command for me; untill further orders from him; However I being desirous to distinguish myself as well as to serve my Country I entered into a Volunteer Company of Horse, and served for some considerable time; from which service by the Influence of Genl Wayne, I met with the command of a Batalion of Militia; which command I continued for several months, when I was taken sick, and Obliged to retire from the army a few days; and as soon as I thought myself able to Ride I set out to Camp; the Army then lay at York; on my way down I heard that Colo Charles Dabney, had orders to assemble the Officers of the state line; he then lay at Goochland Courthouse; I called on him, and informed him that I could not command as a Foot Officer as I was unable to March; and that I held a command in the Militia, which would previledge me to ride, which command, I expected he would indulge me to continue, untill I recovered my Health; he reply'd that he had no Objection: but did not know that it was in his power to give me leave; as much would depend upon his future orders or the disposition of Inferior Officers; I then desired him to write me, if there should be a likelihood of any Steps being taken against me, and I would avert such Malignant Proceedings by a Resignation. his answer was that he would. However I never received any such information; but was Superceded, after serving from a very Early period of the War; and I must do myself the Justice to say, that my services were equal to any Officer of my Rank, what I pray at your hands,

⁵ Patrick Henry served as Governor of Virginia from December 1, 1784 to December 1, 1786. This petition dates sometime during his tenure in office but the precise date is not given.

is that the proceedings may be enquired into; and that I have Justice done me. I also in settling my accounts, with the Auditors of Public accounts; not immediately knowing the time Prescribed by law; only settled them up to the 6th of February 1784 and have since learn'd that I am Intitled to settle my Wages and Depreciation, as a Lieutenant in the first Virginia state Regiment, untill sometime in December. (whether the above proceeding stands Effectual or not) which Settlement, I hope your goodness will if possible place in my power to make.

And your petitioner will ever pray &c

Elliot Rucker

[Transcribed by Will Graves]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Kentucky Counties Legislative Petitions

To the legislature of Virginia

The undersigned now a resident of the County of Shelby and State of Kentucky formerly a resident and native Citizen of Virginia, begs leave most respectfully to represent to your Hon. body, that in the year 1775 he enlisted as a private in the first regular company raised in the State of Virginia, and march[ed] to Williamsburg in defense of the Metropolis of the State, where he remained until his term of service expired; In the month of January 1777 he was appointed Ensign in the First Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson. Soon after the organization of said Regiment they march[ed] to the North and Joined Washington['s] Army, where he continued in active service for three years during which time he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant; in the year 1780, he returned to the State of Virginia with the said Regiment that he among other officers became supernumerary, he held his commission to the end of the war and acted as Major by brevet in several engagements, he was at the capture of Lord Corn Wallace [Cornwallis] [Yorktown, October 19, 1781] at the siege of York, and march[ed] with the prisoners to the North by the order of General Washington. Your Memorialist begs leave further to represent, that his claim to remuneration for revolutionary services stand upon the same footing as those of Ewel, Broadus, Nicholas & Campbell whose claims have been fully paid by the Legislature of Virginia. Your Memorialist cannot believe that his native state will refuse to extend to him that Justice to which he is entitled in common with his co-patriots in that eventful Struggle which terminated in achieving the independence of the American people. Your Memorialist is now old, poor and infirm and he feels confident that his appeal to the Justice of his Country will not be in vain; That he is entitled to his commutation pay which is five years full pay as a Lieut., instead of half pay for life, the accompanying documents fully prove he relies upon the Justice and magnanimity of his Native State to do him that Justice to which he may be entitled, and as in duty bound he will ever pray &c

S/ Elliot Rucker

[Reverse]

William Finks

Elliott Rucker

Referred to Claims

December 17th 1825

Lieut. in the Revolution praying to be allowed his commutation pay instead of half pay for life
1826

January 9 Reasonable as a lieutenant
11 Reported
26 Bill drawn

Shelby County Kentucky August 30th 1825

I do hereby Certify that I served in the Campaign of 1781 under the command of Major Elliott Rucker of Virginia he commanded a Battalion of men who were styled the White Squad, they were drafts their time of service nine months & as I understood to be succeeded as occasion might require he was ever considered as a cool, Brave and an intrepid officer. I fought under him at the Battles of Hot Water, Jamestown & at the siege of York in all of which cases he fronted our troops in Battle; he appeared never to be idle, I have often wondered how any man could bear so much & live. He was attached to General Wayne's Brigade & acted under his control, as he told me by the Authority of a Brevet, He belonged to the regular Army Gibson's Regiment Virginia state line but what commission he bore I know not. Given under my hand the day and date above.

S/ John Shipman

I do hereby certify that in May 1775 Gentlemen to what amount I cannot say at this length of time but a full company met at Culpeper Court House & pledged themselves to each other & composed a company that should equip and hold themselves at all times ready to act under the authority of the committee of safety who received and gave an order for their organization we chose Col. William Champ as our Capt. & I further certify that Major Elliott Rucker at present a resident of Kentucky then a resident of Virginia Culpeper County to have been & served as a minute man as the committee of safety called them the company was trained at or near Culpeper Court House and when Col. Henry moved towards Williamsburg to meet our enemy the company was moved and the said Rucker was one of them, and marched until they met a messenger to stop them for further orders where they remained for about 10 days & were remanded back and at our August term John Green was appointed Capt. and authorized to raise a company to serve for twelve months and the said Rucker enlisted as a soldier under the said Green & served his time and as a soldier and I further certify that in January 1777 that said Elliott Rucker was appointed an Ensign in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson and raised his cota [quota] of men and marched them to Williamsburg & joined the Regiment & as soon as the Regiment was complete that it was ordered to the North to join the main Army commanded by General Washington and that the said Ensign Rucker marched to the North and served with the main Army about three years and while at the North the said Rucker took rise to the command of Lieut. and at the close of the Campaign 1779 the Regiment was ordered to Virginia & got to Virginia in January 1780 – in May of the same year we were ordered to Williamsburg, and met there and was furnished with money for the purpose of enlisting soldiers he afterwards kept with the Regiment and in the neighborhood of it and held himself in readiness to take command as Lieut. if called on by his Col. & when the British troops marched to York and General Lafayette marched after them the said Rucker followed on and accepted a Brevet as Major to command militia while at the siege & said he was ready to take command if called on by his Col. in his Regiment as Lieut. he is in the same standing that captains Campbell, Ewell & Lieut. Broddus was, given under my hand this ___ day of November 1825

S/ Angus Rucker

in said Regiment
formerly Capt.

[Attested in Madison County, VA]

I do hereby Certify that Major Elliott Rucker enlisted under Capt. John Green of Culpepper County about the 20 of September 1775 the first regular company raised in Virginia for the Term of twelve months and marched to Williamsburg as a guard to the Seat of government and remained there until his term of service expired he was in the month of January 1777 appointed an ensign in the first Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson and as soon as they were organized was marched to the North and joined Washington's Army – and remained under his command until the term of service for which our men had enlisted had expired and returned to Virginia – in the winter of 1780 in May of the same year we were ordered to Williamsburg and met there and was furnished with money for the purpose of enlisting soldiers he afterwards had command as a major and was in the Action of Hot Water or Green Spring, was at the capture of Wallace at York and marched to the North with the Prisoners, was in the same Regiment with Major Charles Ewell and Major Broaddus and stands on the same footing – While at the North under the command of General Washington he was promoted to the Rank of Lieut. Given under my hand this for day of November 1825

S/ Churchill Gibbs

I do Certify that Elliott Rucker was a Lieut. in the 1st Virginia State Regiment commanded by Col. George Gibson that he marched in the Regiment in 1777 from Williamsburg Virginia to the North where he continued until 1779 or 1780 when the Regiment marched to the South & in Virginia 1781 at the Siege of York. He with other officers of the 1st & 2nd Regiments were made supernumeraries there being but Men Enough to form a small command that was commanded by Lieut. Dabney

S/ Chs Ewell [Charles Ewell]⁶



[Attested November 17, 1825.]

Madison County Virginia in November 23, 1825

I do hereby certify that I served under Major Elliot Rucker in the battle of old James Town in the year 1781 he then commanded militia man as Major but as I understood he was Lieut. and Col. George Gibson's Regiment he was a brave officer. I was in battle with him and he led his men on well & encouraged them to fight for their Country he was beloved by his men and was both a soldier & officer. Given under my hand the day and year above written

S/ Joseph Carpenter



⁶ [Charles Ewell W9432](#)