

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Abraham Rodgers S6026

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } SS.

County of Brooke }

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833, personally appeared in open court, before the Justices of court of Brooke county, Virginia, now sitting, Abraham Rodgers, a resident in the same county and state, aged seventy two years past; 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 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

In the month of october in the year 1776, Declarant being then about sixteen years of age, was drafted to serve a tour of one month militia duty, and did serve the same, under the command of Captain Isaac Cox, Lieut. Campbell, and a well as declarant can recollect George Cox [pension application S9203] was Ensign; this service was performed at Holidays cove [Fort Holliday at Hollidays Cove in present Hancock County WV], on the Ohio frontier, and in protecting the inhabitants from Indian depredations, and was discharged by Captain Cox in the month of November, but did not receive a written discharge.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1777 Declarant volunteered to serve six months, as a private militia man, under the command of Captain Joseph Ogle and Lieutenant John Biggs, and served nearly seven months, at the Beech bottom fort, on the Ohio river, twelve miles above Wheeling, and was discharged by Captain Ogle near the last of november, in the same year.

On the last day of August, Captain Ogle and five of our command (including declarant) went from the Beech bottom to Wheeling fort to draw Ammunition, in the evening as we approached within about four miles of Wheeling, we observed below that fort, a considerable smoke - it was late when we arrived at the fort - to the commander of which, Captain Ogle reported the appearance of smoke, and our belief that it was caused by hostile Indians - and very early the next morning, Col. David Shephard (the County Lieutenant), who was then there, and Captain Samuel Mason, who commanded in the fort, sent two men in a canoe to ascertain the cause of the smoke, and whether any Indians were in the neighbourhood - who on their return, and on entering the mouth of Wheeling creek, were met by Indians and tomahawked. The smoke was caused by the Indians burning an old fort at the mouth of Grave creek, twelve miles below Wheeling. Doct'r. McMahan, then in the fort, sent an Irish servant man, and a Negro man, to reconnoiter - the Indians seized the white man, and killed him, but permitted the negro to return to the fort - who alarmed those with it, by the cry of Indians - at this Capt'n. Ogle and a number of others were drawn from the fort to the mouth of Wheeling creek - the Indians met them, and sixteen of our men were killed. In the meantime, Declarant, Joseph Biggs [pension application R831], and Robert Lemmon left the fort to see and to assist their comrades in fighting the Indians at the creek; but in a few moments afterwards, the Indians fired at us, when a bullet knocked off Joseph Biggs' cap, and we retreated to the fort. The sun was then about half an hour high, in the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> September. At this time the whole body of the Indians, five hundred in number, and commanded by Simon Girty, attacked the fort, on the East, or land side, and continued the attack the whole day - during which, they brought up a maple log, bored in the shape of a canon, and in firing, it burnt, and was supposed had injured a number of the Indians. The fort was defended by about 12 or fifteen persons, none of whom were killed - and we could not ascertain the loss the Indians sustained, as they sank all their killed in the river. [See endnote.]

At the expiration of the last mentioned service, being within a few days, say one week, of seven moths, declarant was discharged at the Beech bottom station, by Captain Ogle, but did not receive a written discharge.

On the first day of May 1778, Declarant, together with Joseph Biggs, Thomas Biggs, and John Rigdon, was ordered out by Captain Ogle - as a draft - to serve three months as spies - and did serve and spy that length of time, on the Ohio frontier, from the Mingo bottom to Wheeling -

a distance of twenty miles. Capt. Ogle was under the command of Col. David Shephard, then Lieutenant of Ohio county Virginia. This service was performed to give notice to the frontier inhabitants, and the Stations on the Ohio river, of the approach of Indians. No written discharge received.

In the month of July 1779 Declarant was drafted out of Capt. Ogle's Company to serve one month as a private, under the command of Captain Samuel Mason, at Wheeling fort; and did serve the same. During the time of this service Major Spriggs' negro man was killed, and Spriggs' wife's cousin, James Stevenson, was afterwards, having escaped from the Indians, returned.

Immediately after the expiration of the last mentioned one months tour of duty - a requisition for volunteers was made by Col. Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead] to go against the Muncey [Munsee] Indians - when Declarant volunteered to serve during that campaign, which lasted two months and two weeks, and returned in the middle of November. The above named Captain Samuel Mason commanded the company of Militia to which Declarant belonged. Col. Broadhead commanded the whole, assisted by Col. John Gibson. The Army started from Fort Pitt [11 Aug 1779], and marched up the Allegeney [sic: Allegheny] River some distance above Shenango, where we crossed the river, and marched up the west side of it about four days when a fight was had with some Indians. We were approaching the Muncey towns and a British Officer with about fifty Indians were on their way to the back settlements in Pennsylvania, when Captain Samuel Brady, with about one hundred Spies in our front, attacked these Indians and defeated them. A number of the Indians were killed. The Army then advanced to the Muncey towns about three days march above the battle ground. They were deserted on our arrival, and we destroyed the town, corn &c and thence returned and was discharged at Fort Pitt, by order of Col. Broadhead - but no written discharge was received.

In the month of March [7-8] 1782, Declarant again volunteered his services as a private, on an expedition against Indians on the west side of the Ohio [Moravian Masacre], in Capt. Thomas Bay Company, and under the command of Col. David Williamson. On this expedition Declarant served one month.

That he has no documentary evidence to testify to his service, and submits the annexed depositions of George Cox and William Baxter [S6591] who testifies to declarant being in the service of the united states a part of the time above stated. The whole time claimed by declarant is fifteen months and on week, a private.

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 and subscribed the day and year aforesaid. [signed] Abraham Rodgers

[31 May] 1833 personally appeared before the subscriber [John Gardner] one of the Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, George Cox Esquire, aged Eighty four years, a resident of the same county and state, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith that he is well and personally acquainted with Abraham Rodgers of the same place, and has been so acquainted since the fall of the year 1776. Deponent further saith that in the month of October 1776 the said Abraham Rodgers commenced a tour of one month of Militia duty, as a drafted Militia man, in the company commanded by Captain Isaac Cox, at a station on the Ohio frontier, called Holidays cove, now in the said county of Brooke of which company this deponent was Ensign - and that the said Abraham Rodgers performed the full time of said draft of one month, and was discharged by the said Capt. Isaac Cox - and as deponent believes no written discharge was given, as it was not customary then to give written discharges.

And further this deponent saith not. [signed] George Cox

On the same day and at the same place, also appeared William Baxter, of the same county and state, aged seventy five years, and at present a United States pensioner, who after being duly sworn according to law, deposes and saith, that he is well and personally acquainted with the above named Abraham Rodgers, and has been so acquainted since the year 1782. That in the month of March 1782 deponent performed a tour of one month militia duty, on the west side of the Ohio river, under the command of Col. David Williamson, and he well recollects that the said

Abraham Rodgers performed service at the said time, as a volunteer.

Further this deponent saith not.

[signed] William Baxter

State of Virginia } SS:  
County of Brooke }

Be it known that on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 1833 personally appeared, before the subscriber [Moses Congleton]; one of the Justices of the peace in and for the county aforesaid, Abraham Rodgers, a resident in said county and state, and who on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the present year, made a declaration before the court of the said county in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832; and who after being duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, depose and say.

That he has observed the objections made by the commissioner of pensions to his said Declaration, and he now states, that where in the said Declaration he says that he served within a few days, say, one week of seven months, he meant to say that he served on that tour of duty six months and three weeks and so he now says. His whole time of service, as a private, volunteer and drafted militia man, was Twelve months and one week and three months as a Spy; making fifteen months and one week, in the whole.

The several interrogatories required by the War Department were put by the court and satisfactorily answered, and the clerk has so certified. It was not then known that the answers were to accompany the Declaration. Declarant however now answers those marked in the received additions instructions a being required.

To the 1<sup>st</sup>. Declarant was born in Queen Ann [sic: Queen Annes] County, in the then colony, now State of Maryland, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 1760.

2<sup>nd</sup>. The record of his age is in his late fathers prayer book, which is in possession of his sister Elizabeth Stackhouse, who lives on Stillwater in the State of Ohio.

3<sup>d</sup>. Declarant was first called into service in the year 1776 whilst living with his father, on the Ohio river hill, and within about one mile from the present scite of Wellsburgh [Wellsburg], and has continued to reside in the same neighbourhood ever since.

5<sup>th</sup>. The only time declarant had an opportunity of being with regular troops, during his service, was when he served in Col. Broadhead's campaign up the Allegheny; and he now recollects Col. Broadhead, Col. John Gibson, Major Rose, Major Varnum, Captain Benjamin Biggs [W1366], and Captain Samuel Brady, who commanded the spies.

[signed] Abraham Rodgers

[The following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from present West Virginia. For details see pension application S6111 of David W. Sleeth and the endnote.]

Abraham Rogers.

{Alleges in his original Declaration to have served in the Va. Militia one year three months and five days under Capt Ogle & Capt Cox, so say abstract for Brook Cty.

I the undersigned Abraham Rogers in pursuance of the requisition of the Secretary of War give the Following Re-Declaration of my Revolutionary Services for the purpose of testing my right to a Pension.

I was born Oct. 17, 1760. Am a native of St. Marys County Md. I settled on the Ohio River in 1776 and have lived there ever since.

In September 1776 I was drafted for one month. Served that length of time under Capt Cox at Hollidays cove on the Ohio River now in Brook County. one Steel was Lieutenant of the company. it consisted of over twenty or thirty men. we furnished our own arms, but drew rations and amunition. received no pay - dont know whether the officers were commissioned - thinks they were elected by the settlers in the vicinity of Holliday cove. - dont know by what authority they were stationed at the cove - the Indians was then committing no depredation in our settlement, but had commenced their depredations on Yellow creek, west of the Ohio River some sixteen or seventeen miles -

On the first day of April 1777 I entered the service as volunteer under Capt Ogle. his

company Rendezvoused at the Beach Bottoms on the Ohio River in now Brook cty - there was a sort of Fort there. we made our head quarters at the beach Bottoms from which place we scouted and ranged up down and cross the Ohio River, until the first of November next ensuing. on the first of September Capt. Ogle, myself & three others went from our station to Wheeling Fort for the purpose of drawing a fresh supply of amunition, ours being nearly exhausted - (the magazine was at wheeling.) Shortly after our arrival at Wheeling fort to wit on the said first day of September, the Fort was surrounded and attacked by five hundred Indian warriors under the command of Simeon Girty. - the attack was commenced in the morning and continued throughout the day. on the next succeeding morning cleared out. in this engagement we had sixteen killed and it was supposed that about the same number of Indians was also killed. - Col. David Shepherd (County Lieuftenant) Capt Ogle & his party of five including myself, returned to our station at the Beach Bottoms. Remained there until about the first of Nov. as before stated, when we dispersed and went home. there were at the Beach Bottoms all this time above stated about twenty families includeing my fathers, whilst there we had not only to range and scout as before stated, but had also to raise our bread stuff & carry on our little farming operation, to effect which, our operations were after this manner - the whole number at the Beach Bottoms, includeing Soldiers & Settlers, would turn out in a body, go through the settlement, and work each others place by turns, (all working together) whilst we were at work a guard was stationed hard by to watch for Indians and to give notice of their approach - the guard was called in after being on that duty for one day, went to work, and others were sent out to guard in their stead. So in this way, we all watched guarded and worked alternately, - in the seven months above mentioned in which I was at Hollidays cove I was in actual service rangeing & watching as aforesaid at least one half of my touer. - when we were in actual service we received rations - when at work & watching we furnished ourselves. - we also drew amunition - but furnished our own arms - I cant say how Ogle became Captain whether by election by the People of the settlement or by appointment by Col. Shepherd, Lieuftenant of the County - on the first day of April 1778 myself & five other of the settlers were ordered out by Capt Ogle. we went to the Beach Bottoms where under command of Lieuftenant Bigs we were scouting and rangeing in the vicinity of that station - up down and across the Ohio river, until the first of November succeeding - we would be out on some occasion as much as three days at a time then return to the station rest three days and state out again. and so on all through the summer & fall. in the fall we dispersed & went to our respective places of abode. There were no families at the Beach Bottoms this summer - those that had been there the previous season were at West liberty Fort some ten or fifteen miles distant. - All the families that were at the Beach Bottom in the Summer of 1777 had settlement rights in the neighbourhood of the Beach Bottoms and had made improvements on them - my Fathers was about two miles distant. - I was seven months in service in the way above mentioned and described.

In April 1779 I served one month at Wheeling Fort under Capt Mason. was drafted - after the month expired I returned to the Beach Bottoms where under the direction of Capt Ogle I served as a spy until I volunteered, and joined General Brodhead in his expedition up the alleghania River against the Munshee towns. was in this latter service something less than two months. I returned to the Beach Bottoms and remained there about two weeks when on or about the first of November I went home - in the year 1780, 1781 & 1782 I served at the Beach Bottoms under the direction of Captain Ogle, for seven months in each year, doin the same kind of service then which I done in the year 1778. in all my service I furnished my own arms and never drew or received any pay - nor was one offered me, nor did I expect to get any - Capt. McCluney wrote my Declaration. the quantum of service now detailed is much more than I detailed to him. I did not then recollect how much I had done. my memory has been refreshed on that subject by subsequent events. In Witness of all which I hereto subscribe my name. July 8, 1835

Witness W McCluney

Abraham Rogers

a copy

W. G Singleton

Memo - this is an Indian Fighter - his service, If indeed he done any, was wholly irregular - and unauthorized - I cant think that he brings himself within the intent and meaning of the Law of 1832 -

W. G Singleton

NOTES:

For other accounts of the Indian attack on Fort Wheeling see the pension applications of John Schoolcraft (S7468) and Benjamin Ogle (R7778), and A. S. Withers' *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 1831, pp. 160-166.

In the course of Singleton's investigation he convinced the Commissioner of Pensions to reverse its previous policy of awarding pensions for service against Indian on the Virginia frontier. Singleton's statement that all of Rodgers's service was irregular is clearly wrong in the case of Brodhead's expedition against the Munsee Towns. For his other service, see the discussion in my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth (S6111).