

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters

Pension Application of John Tucker S6274

VA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris. Revised 18 Mar 2015.

Virginia SS

Harrison County

On this 22^d day of Sept. 1832 personally appeared in open court before Benjamin Bayles[?], Benjamin Stout, Jacob Coplin, and Joseph Johnson The Court of Harrison County now sitting John Tucker of Harrison County and state aforesaid aged 89 years 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 7th 1832.

Early in the spring of 1777 he volunteered as a spy under Capt. James Booth of the County of Monongahalia [sic: Monongalia] State of Virginia That he was stationed in Coons Fort on the West Fork of the Monongahalia River [Koon's Fort, also called Booth's Fort, on the West Fork River, a tributary of Monongahela River, now in Marion County WV] That he was employed in traversing the country between the Monongahalia and Ohio Rivers particularly on the waters of Buffaloe Bingamin Tenmile and Middle Island Creeks [sic: Buffalo Creek, Bingamon Creek, Tenmile Creek, Middle Island Creek] during which time he was frequently successful in the discovery of Indian signs and as often gave notice to the forts and settlements of approaching danger Sometime in June of the same year when in company with Johnithan Boyers [Jonathan Boyers] who was also a spy they discovered an Indian trale near the mouth of Tenmile Creek which they followed up the River some distance where they found the body of Mrs Grigsby who had been murdered the preceding night [see endnote] Soon after a party of Indians appeared at Coons Fort and killed a Miss Coon when in vew of this deponent who with several others conveyed the Inteligence to the surrounding settlements he continued in s'd. service twelve months when he was discharged verbally by his officer In the spring of 1778 he again entered the service as a spy under Col. John Evans Was stationed at Kern's Fort upon the Monongahalia River where Morgantown now stands [Fort Kerns at present Westover opposite Morgantown] That he continued guard said Fort and to reconoiter the surrounding cuntry For the term of two years during which time he had frequent skirmishes with the Indians He was present when John Woodfield [John Woodfin, see endnote] and Mr.[Jacob] Miller was killed within a short distance of the Fort

At another time they were attacked by a large party of Indians near Cobern Fort [Fort Cobun built 1779 near Dorsey Knob on Cobun Creek 2 mi S of Morgantown] a Mr. Jackson Haycraft and Thomas were killed He was in various other skirmishes and had several very narrow escapes for his life he was discharged orally as before he is now old and infirm and in great need of his cuntry aid. He has no documentary and relies upon the evidence of his brother Henry Tucker [pension application S6278] who was in the service at the same time. He removed from Monongalia to Fayette Pa. thence to Harrison where he now resides. He hereby relinquishes every claim what ever 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

John hisXmark Tucker

Henry Tucker appeared in open court and made oath that he was employed in the sevice of his country as a Spy in the year 1777 & that his Brother John Tucker was a Spy at the same time under Capt James Booth. He further testafyes that his Brother John Tucker was employed to guard Kerns Fort under Col. John Evans but does not know how longs he served at the latter place

Sworn & subscribed to this 22 Sept. 1832

Henry hisXmark Tucker

[On 2 Feb 1833 John Tucker was issued a certificate for a pension of \$80 per year for at least two years service.]

[The following report is by US District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated hundreds of pension applications from present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On Tucker's report Singleton wrote "Indian." See endnote.]

John Tucker, draws \$80—

on the 18th July Mr. Tucker gave the following narrative of his Revolutionary Services. — he is in his 87th year of age. born in Maryland. when 20 yrs. old settled on Booths creek Harrison Cty. — that during the war of the Revolution he lived at Kerns Fort and Booths Fort. was appointed by Capt James Booth as Spy for the Fall, he served for the year & received one dollar a day. dont know whether the money was paid by the state or by the settlers. — this was a Fall [illegible word] before Booth was killed, that event took place in 1779 [sic: 16 June 1778]. — he was after this service at Camdan [sic] Fort near Morgantown under Col Zachariah Morgan [sic: Zackquil Morgan] for 3 years. whilst at this station was chiefly guarding whilst settlers[?] were working — sometimes worked himself but not often — a good many at the Fort they worked and guarded alternately.

Note — this Pensioner is exceedingly infirm in Body and Mind — he could not give particulars — from the Generalities given by him I am satisfied that what service he did perform was unauthorized by the State authorities — and wholly irregular — he got the settlement right

W. G. Singleton Nov. 21, 1834

[The following are from [digitalcollections of the Library of Virginia.](#)]

To the Hon'ble Legislature of Virginia

The Petition of John Tucker of the County of Harrison humbly sheweth that prior to the war of the Revolution your petitioner settled upon the Western waters of Virginia where he has resided untill the present period In all the various conflicts with the savage allies of England which ensued your petitioner rendered his constant personal services to the utmost of his abilities.

In the year — he enlisted in a company of Rangers Commanded by Capt James Booth for the term of three years was stationed at Prickets Fort on the Monongahelia River [now Fort Prickett State Park] from thence removed to Kerns Fort on s'd River was employed as a spy in traversing the wilderness between the aforesaid Monongahelia and Ohio Rivers untill the death of Capt Booth who fell by the hand of an Indian a short distance from the above mentioned Fort Your petitioner being near at the time assisted to carry the body of the aforesaid Capt Booth to the Fort after the death of Capt Booth which was two years after he entered the service your petitioner was place under the command of Col. John Evans & continued in said service untill the expiration of the time for which he entered for all of which servises your petitioner solemnly declares, that he never received one dollar altho he was assured by his officers from time to time that he would be paid at the expiration of his time of servises in good faith your petitioner further states that while employed as above stated he suffered many privations from fatigues hunger & cold having been compelled to subsist for several days in succession upon Roots Nuts &c with naught but the Heavens to shelter him from the pelting storm that he encountered many dangers from the insidious enemy, having been engaged in several skirmishes, & witnessed the murder of several white men, but he will not attempt a detail of his privations & suffery at this late period, as most (if not all) of his fellow sufferers have passed off the stage there remains no one to bear testimony to the truth of his statements & he has lived to long, & suffered to much, to implore pity from an after generation, But having understood that your honorable body did at the last session pass an act for the relief of some of the soldiers attached to the same corps, your petitioner prays that the same justice may be awarded to him which has been given to others, & as in duty bound will ever pray &c John hisOmark Tucker

I certify that I am well acquainted with the within petitioner John Tucker that it is understood & believed in the neighborhood where he resides that he was an Indian Spy under Capt James Booth & that he served as above stated. I further certify that the said Tucker is now drawing a pension of \$80 per annum

under the act of Congress of the 7th June 1832 & that the statement contained in his Declaration filed in the War Department is in substance the same with that contained in the above petition
Nov. 29th 1833 J. Johnson [Joseph Johnson]

[In different handwriting]

Dec'r 9th 1833 ref'd to C'ms [Claims]

1834 Jany 8th Laid on table

Feby 6th Reasonable that the petitioner be paid for 13 months services, the time for which other persons of that Company of Capt Booth have been allowed pay.

Feby 6th Reported

Mar 3 Bill drawn

Harrison County

Virginia

This day Henry Tucker personally appeared before me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for the county & state aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law saith that he is ninety years of age that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War & that he was commanded by Capt. James Booth & stationed at Koons Fort on the Monongahela River that when he entered the service he found his Brother John Tucker a soldier in Capt Booths company that he John Tucker continued to serve under the aforesaid Capt James Booth different tours amounting in all to upwards of two years. he further states that he never received any compensation for the service rendered under Capt. Booth & he at all times understood that his Brother John Tucker was not paid any thing for his services

Sworn and subscribed before me this 20th Jany 1834 Chas. Lewis JP

[In different handwriting] Feby 5th 1834 ref'd to Claims

NOTES:

Alexander S. Withers in *Chronicles of Border Warfare* states that the wife of Charles Grigsby was killed in June 1777, but a letter by Capt. James Booth in the pension application of John Hacker VAS1749 gives the date as 31 July 1777. Withers's account of the discovery of Mrs. Grigsby's body differs from that given by Tucker. The killing of Miss Coon and also of Woodfin and Miller are also described in Withers's book.

Although the pension act of 1832 clearly provided for "Indian spies" and volunteers of all kinds, Singleton decided that it was not actually military service. For discussion, see the appendix to David W. Sleeth S6111. On 22 July 1836 John Tucker was issued a new certificate with the pension reduced from \$80 to \$43.33 per year.

The pension application (W4166) of Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham, includes the following transcription of a law passed by the Virginia Legislature on 13 Mar 1834: "Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That David W. Sleeth, sole surviving heir of John Sleeth deceased, who was a Sergeant in the company commanded by Captain James Booth, in an expedition against the Indians during the Revolutionary War, be allowed the sum of One hundred and thirty dollars, for thirteen months services of his said father as Sergeant as aforesaid, and Joseph Parsons [S8942], John Tucker, James Brown [S6718], and Phebe Cunningham, widow of Thomas Cunningham deceased, shall be allowed the sum of One hundred and four dollars each, for their services as privates for the same time in said company; and the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized and required to issue a warrant on the treasury, in favor of the said Sleeth, Parsons, Tucker, Brown, and Cunningham, respectively, for the same to be paid to them or their representatives out of money therein not otherwise appropriated This act shall be in force from its passage"