

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Robert Pyeatt S8987

PA

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris.

State of Virginia        }

Ohio County Ass[?]    }

On this third day of August 1833 Personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in said County Robert Pyatt a Resident of said County and state of Virginia aged seventy nine years who being first duly sworn doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States by enlisting as a soldier in the Company of Captain [Robert] Cluggage for one year at least as far back as the first of May 1775 at Tomlinsons Tavern near the Pennsylvania line in Maryland in the Pennsylvania Rifflemen commanded by Col. [William] Thompson. He does not recollect the Majors name. A week afterwards he was taken to Bedford and there remained two or three days – drew arms and clothing and then marched to Boston and when sixty miles from thence heard the Cannonading at the battle of Bunker hill [17 Jun 1775]. After seige [ending 17 Mar 1776] he was marched to New York on Long Island and remained there untill three days before the Battle of Long Isleand [Battle of Long Island, 27 Aug 1776] when he was discharged by Colonel [Edward] Hand which brings his discharge down to at least the twenty third day of August 1776 which will amount (allowing nothing for his return home) to one year three months and twenty three days. These days are not made from memmory but from the history of the times in books furnished to him by friends for if it were not for these aids he would not swear whether it was in 1775 or 1776 he enlisted. He returned home to Somerset County (now Somerset) Pa. and shortly after crossed the mountains and on the first of March (as far back at least as that time) he enlisted in the the Company of Spies commanded by Captain Joseph Ogle at the Beach bottom Fort [sic: Beech Bottom Fort] on the south side of the Ohio River seventy or eighty miles below Pittsburgh by water and fifty by land as a private on the first day of March aforesaid in the year 1777 for one year and was actively engaged as a soldier in scouring the woods up and down and over the River untill the first of October [possibly 26 Sep 1777] following when as forty five of us were returning from a scout down the River at the Narrows of Grave Creek eleven miles below Wheeling we fell into an Ambuscade – we lost twenty one killed one taken prisoner and seven wounded of whom I was one at the first fire My arm badly broken and shattered we all broke and run in less than a minute I shouldered up Frank Boggs whose thigh was broken and carried him a while at lenth I found a tree top where I hid him and when he was found the second day after alive and lived ‘till within three years ago in this vicinity and died an old man. Three men had more prudent than the rest went over the hill [see endnote] and as soon as the firing began rushed down the hill shouting and yelling as loud as they could firing at the Indians believe them on the side of a very steep hill. The enemy alarmed at the attack in their rear retreated as well as we; and thus both parties left the ground in a hurry and thereby our wounded saved. I continued in the service from this time without doing duty untill the march following as I was unable from the wound in my arm to lift it to my head for more than a year and not fit for millitary duty for the remainder of the war Abram Rodgers [Abraham Rodgers S6026] of Brooke County Virginia now living and here present served with me part of this year in the same company and Richard Hardesty [S17468] now living in Belmont County Ohio served with me under Captain Cluggage in the Regulars in 1775 and 1776.

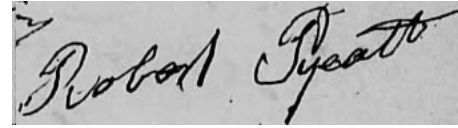
I was born in Rush[?] Valley Franklin County Pennsylvania the 15 August 1753 – came over the mountains in the fall of 1776 and lived in this neighborhood ever since

I had a discharge from Col. Hand but lost it and I have no documentary evidence of my service and know of no other living witnesses but those I have mentioned

I am now old infirm and very deaf and not able to work – About this time last year I applied for a pension which was returned for amendment and was amended but lost by the individual who had the care

of it after it was ready to send on to the pension office

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any agency in any state or Territory

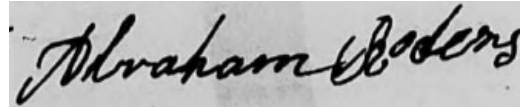


State of Virginia }  
Ohio County afs }

Personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said County Abram Rodgers a Citizen of Brook County Virginia and being duly sworn according to law saith that he enlisted the first day of May 1777 as a private in the Company of Captain Joseph Ogle at the Beach bottom fort on the Ohio River and found Robert Pyatt serving as a soldier in said Company The same Robert Pyatt now in my presence and swore to and subscribed the above declaration and that I know the said Robert was in the service two or three months before as he frequently came to my fathers house in his scouts from the fort which was three miles distant on the hill east and that the said Robert was wounded in the arm at the Narrows of Grave Creek the first day of October following and understood he carried a man and his gun whose thigh was broken and hid him in a tree top. And I further state that the said Robert staid at or about the fort untill the spring following and believes now and understood then he had enlisted for a year. My time expired the first of November as I only entered for six months – his arm was badly wounded which I saw frequently and I know he carried it in a sling for a long time

And I further state that the said Robert was considered a great pluck and the strongest man to be found in the part of the country he lived in

Sworn to and subscribed this third day of August 1833



State of Ohio Belmont County

Personally appeared before me Wm McMahan an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Richard Hardesty who being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is seventy eight years of age on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September AD 1833 That he is acquainted with Robert Pyatt but has not seen him for many years That he now understands he resides some where not far from & East of Wheeling That said Robert Pyatt to the knowledge of this affiant served one year as a soldier of the revolution under Capt Robert Cluggage or rather Cluggage was elected captain a few weeks after Pyatt entered the service That said service commenced about the first day of July AD 1775 and ended on the eighth of July AD 1776 to the best of this affiants recollection That this affiant and said Pyatt were mess-mates during said years service or so long as the company of Cluggage was formed into messes during that years service. That said Pyatt & this affiant entered the service together in Bedford County Pennsylvania and was discharged at Long Island That he this affiant then understood that said Cluggage received his commission as Capt. from the United States and that he belonged to the continental establishment That this affiant knows of no other service of said Pyatt during the war of the Revolution and further this affiant saith not

Richard hisXmark Hardestly

Swon to & subscribed before me this 10<sup>th</sup> of August AD 1833

[On 5 Nov 1833 Pyeatt 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 for present West Virginia. For details see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111.]

Robert Pyatt – Served 2 yrs.

I called at this old Gentleman House on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July found him nearly blind and totally deaf and with also his mind much impaired. it was with much difficulty that his family were enable to make him understand the object of my visit. I could only ascertain from him in general terms that shortly after the Battle of Bunker Hill, he enlisted in Pennsylvania for one year. that he was marched from Bedford in that State to Boston & Newyork and served out the year, his Captain name was Ogle. his Colonels Thompson – after the forgoing service he was in the Indian war on the Ohio under Gen Hand I was unable to ascertain how long he was in this latter service and in what year or years it was done.

So far as I could ascertain the old Gentleman sustains a fair character among his neighbors, I will add that I could hear of no one who knew any of his services. W. G. Singleton/ July 6 1835.

[The following is on a separate paper, not dated. See endnote.]

Supplemental Report in the case of Robert Pyatt of Ohio county – in the consideration of this case Mr. Edwards [James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions] will please refer to Report in the case of Abraham Rogers of Brook cty. W.G.S

Abraham Rogers of Brooke County says that Robert Pyatt of Ohio county and himself were at Hollidays cove in the summer of 1777. that they were in service about seven months in that year – (for this sort of service see Report in Rogers Case - WGS.) that Pyatt left the west for the east after the fall of 1777 and did not return until many years after the war. – that Pyatt was in the Indian war for one season only.

W G Singleton.

[The following letter to James L. Edwards, Commissioner of Pensions, is undated.]

I am requested by John Jacob Guardian of Robert Pyatt a US. Pensioner to state what I know of the services of said Pyatt. Of myself I know nothing except that I wrote his declaration and he proved a years service at and near Boston in 1775 & 1776 By Richard Hardesty of Belmont County Ohio and a years service in 1777 and 1778 under Captain Ogle on the banks of and near the Ohio River by Abram Rodgers of Brooke County Va. all which accompanied his declaration.

This statement is made at the request of Mr Jacob inasmuch as Mr. Singleton had told him that the first years service was proven satisfactorily but there was some difficulty about the last. I think the last was proven better than the first and there was not a man woman or child who lived in the county 35 years ago (to my knowledge) but would tell of the exploits of Robert Pyatt or Bob Pyatt as he was called at that time

Samuel McKeehan

I certify that 39 years ago last December Heny Baker [Henry Baker] then living then below the Round Bottom Ohio told me on a night I lodged at his house of the battle of Grave Creek of Bob Pyatt getting his arm broke and carrying a man off the ground who had his thigh broken and many other things some of which I recollect and others I do not. I have no doubt Pyatt served as a U.S. soldier in the Revo'y. War at least two years and from four to six months. I am led to believe this from the different conversations I have had with him during the last 25 years.

West Alexander Pa/ 2<sup>d</sup> June 1835

Samuel McKeehan

#### NOTES:

It is said that before the Grave Creek massacre guides had advised Capt. William Foreman to avoid the river bottom and keep to the ridge. From Pyeatt's account it appears that at least three men followed this advice.

In his report on Abraham Rodgers Singleton wrote, “ 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.” The pension act of 1832 and the regulations for administering it do, in fact, provide for Indian Spies and volunteers of all kinds. For further discussion see my appendix to the pension application of David W. Sleeth S6111. On 16 Sep 1835 Pyeatt's pension

was reduced to \$40 per year. Dozens of others who defended the frontier against Indians during the Revolutionary War were similarly deprived of all or part of the pension intended for them by Congress.