

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension Application of Moses Husstead S9600

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } (Copy) [By Pension Office]
Harrison County } SS.

On this 7th day of October in the year 1833 personally appeared before me the subscriber one of the Commonwealth Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Harrison Moses Husstead a resident of the said County of Harrison and State of Virginia, aged eighty five 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.

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated. In Monongalia County in the State of Virginia in March 1778 he volunteered as a private and Indian Spy under Capt. William Robinson [probably William Robertson] for a tour of six months and was stationed at Power's Fort on Simpson's Creek a branch of the West fork of Monongalia River [sic: Fort Powers on Simpson Creek, a tributary of West Fork River, a tributary of Monongahela River] now in Harrison County Virginia and immediately entered upon his duties of spying under his said Captain Robinson and spied through the country which now composes the Counties of Harrison, Monongalia, Ohio, Tyler and Wood on waters of the West fork of Monongalia River on Middle Island River [sic: Middle Island Creek], Hughes River, Fishing Creek, Bingamon Creek, Tenmile Creek, Lime Stone [Limestone] Creek &c. &c. vigilantly watching what was then familiarly called War paths, and returning from time to time to Power's and other Forts then erected in this County, and furnishing them with the results of each and every expedition which he in company of other spies made, appraising them of any sign of Indians discerned by them (the spies) or of any danger which threatened the Forts or frontier settlements from savage invasions and repelling invasions of the Indians, rescuing prisoners and stolen property taken by the savages. To particularize. About the middle of April in the year (1778) a party of Indians visited the house of William Morgan on Cheat River now Preston County Va. there killed a man by the name of Brain, Old Mrs. Morgan mother of Wm., her daughter Mrs. Dillon and some children, and took some prisoners. Inteligence of this bloody deed having been received at Power's Fort, Nutter's Fort &c. a company was immediately dispatched in pursuit & to protect the defenceless inhabitants. Declarant marched with the utmost speed with this company under command of Captain Robinson, across Booth's Creek to the Tigert's Valley River [sic: Booths Creek to Tygart Valley River], descended it, and soon found where the Savages had crossed it in their retreat, pursued their trails on to the head of Pricket's [Prickett] Creek, and when near to Pricket' Fort [now Pricketts Fort State Park] on last mentioned Creek found a fine mare which the savages had killed, followed the trail some short distance further and despairing of overtaking the foe, returned to the Fort. [See endnote.] Shortly after this occurrence, Declarant in Co. with 4 men was on a spying mission on Middle Island River and and fell on the sign of a company of Indians making their way to the West Fork settlements; they immediately hastened to Power's Fort and gave information, gave notice also to Nutter's Fort on Elk Creek near where the town of Clarksburg now stands, but this company of Indians bent their way to the upper settlements on the West Fork, and on Hackers Creek massacred a few whites, then descending the West Fork killed two or three men in the Lowther's Settlement, stole some horses and then fled in safety to their towns across the Ohio. Though the course of this Summer the Indians made many incursions into the frontier settlements, committed many murders, in the Simpson's creek and Booths Creek settlements, so much that declarant was not discharged until Dec'r. having served 9 months as a private Indian Spy.

Again in the Monongalia County of Virginia in March 1779 he volunteered as a private Indian Spy for another 6 months under his said Captain William Robinson, was again stationed at Powers Fort on Simpson's Creek again entered on his duties as an Indian Spy the same as in the preceding year, and through the same country. In this year (1779) as in the preceding year the savages notwithstanding the vigilance of the spies made many inroads, destroyed many lives, took some prisoners, stole and destroyed much property, so that the settlement on

Hacker's Creek was entirely broken up. Declarant did not come in personal conflict with any of the enemy, although he was frequently sent in pursuit of them and was often very near being surprised by them. The great danger to which the frontier settlements were exposed induced declarant again to continue his services of spying until cold weather gave to the Whites a temporary respite from Savage enmity, he was in Dec'r. 1779 discharged by his said Capt. Robinson having performed the additional service of 9 months as a private Indian Spy.

In the winter of 1779 & '80 a Fort was erected on Booth's Creek which empties into the West Fork of Monongalia now in Harrison County Va. [Fort Edwards, 5 mi S of Boothsville, now in Taylor County WV] and in April 1780 in County of Harrison Declarant again volunteered as a private Indian Spy for a tour of 6 months and was placed under command of Capt. Thomas and stationed at Edward's Fort, and immediately resumed his business of spying as in the two preceding years, through the same country as before. But so far as declarant was concerned this tour of spying was bare of incidents owing probably to the expeditions into the Indian Country of Cols. Broadhead [sic: Daniel Brodhead] & [George Rogers] Clark, the Indians were not in this year so troublesome as in the preceding year Declarant was in Oct'r. of this year (1780) discharged having served as a private Indian Spy 6 months the time for which he volunteered.

Again in April 1781 in the said County of Monongalia he volunteered for another term of six months under Capt. Thomas as a private Indian Spy was again stationed at Edward's Fort on Booths Creek, again resumed his duties of spying through the same Countris as before to wit, ten mile Lime Stone, Middle Island &c. &c. In this year the Indians made more frequent incursions than in the preceding year. Although the spies were on the alert constantly - yet (such was the waryness of the enemy) they often found their way into the frontier settlements, destroyed many lives, stole horses &c. and generally made good their retreat across the Ohio. In the Spring of this year a party of Indians came to Booths Creek and murdered the family of [John] Thomas & burnt his house. They were immediately pursued and overtaken by declarant & other spies under his Capt. & as they attempted to cross the West Fork were fired upon, two of them fell, some others were thought to be wounded, but escaped leaving some stolen horses which were retaken. this was the only conflict he had during his spying expeditions. Was in Oct'r. 1781 discharged having served 6 months the time for which he volunteered. He has no documentary evidence, and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure. He was born on the 15th May O. S. [Old Style] 1748 in Dutchess [sic: Duchess] County New York. 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) Moses hisXmark Husstead
The said Justice of the Peace then proceeded to propound the seven several interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, to which declarant made the following answers, viz. - to the first he answers and saith.

I was born in Dutchess County in the State of New York on the 15th day of May O. S. 1748.

Second. My age is recorded in my family Bible now in my possession.

Third. When called into service I was living in Monongalia County in the State of Virginia (now Harrison County) where I am still living.

Fourth. In all the tours of service which I performed I volunteered.

Fifth. From the nature of my service I had no opportunity of seeing any regular officers commanding or of organized regiments in actual service. But seen the following officers at the different Forts which I visited during my service. at Nutter's Fort seen Capt. William Lowther commanding at Power's Fort Capt. Robinson, Capt. Thomas at Edwards Fort, Capt. Springer at Prickett's Fort -

Sixth. I never received a written discharge. At the termination of each tour of Spying I was merely dismissed by my Captain -

Seventh. I am acquainted with Eli Martin & Jacob Riffie [pension application S9066], who reside in my neighborhood and can testify to my character &c. Moses hisXmark Husstead

[the following report is by District Attorney Washington G. Singleton who investigated many pensioners from Harrison, Lewis, and other counties of present West Virginia. For details see

